

EAST WEST BANCORP INC
Form SC 13G
January 12, 2009

OMB APPROVAL
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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

SCHEDULE 13G

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)**

EAST WEST BANCORP INC.

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK

(Title of Class of Securities)

27579R104

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2008

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be 'filed' for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('Act') or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 27579R104

Person 1

1. (a) Names of Reporting Persons.
Wells Fargo & Company
(b) Tax ID
41-0449260

-
2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)
(a)
(b)

-
3. SEC Use Only

-
4. Citizenship or Place of Organization Delaware

Number of
Shares
Beneficially
Owned by
Each Reporting
Person With

5. Sole Voting Power 5,781,242

6. Shared Voting Power 0

7. Sole Dispositive Power 9,347,552

8. Shared Dispositive Power 45,398

-
9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 9,458,357

-
10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)

-
11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 14.86 %

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

HC

Item 1.

- (a) Name of Issuer
EAST WEST BANCORP INC.
- (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices
135 N. Los Robles Avenue, 7th Floor Pasadena, CA 91101

Item 2.

- (a) Name of Person Filing
Wells Fargo & Company
- (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence
420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94163
- (c) Citizenship
Delaware
- (d) Title of Class of Securities
COMMON STOCK
- (e) CUSIP Number
27579R104

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c)
- (b) Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).
- (e) An investment adviser in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);

- (h) A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j) Group, in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

Item 4. Ownership.

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 9,458,357
- (b) Percent of class: 14.86%
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote 5,781,242
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 9,347,552
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 45,398

Person 2

- 1. (a) Names of Reporting Persons.
METROPOLITAN WEST CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
(b) Tax ID
95-4766779

-
- 2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)
 - (a)
 - (b)

-
- 3. SEC Use Only

-
- 4. Citizenship or Place of Organization CALIFORNIA

Number of
Shares
Beneficially
Owned by
Each Reporting
Person With

5. Sole Voting Power 4,833,811

6. Shared Voting Power 0

7. Sole Dispositive Power 8,295,111

8. Shared Dispositive Power 0

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 8,295,111

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 13.03 %

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

IA

Item 1.

- (a) Name of Issuer
EAST WEST BANCORP INC.
- (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices
135 N. Los Robles Avenue, 7th Floor Pasadena, CA 91101

Item 2.

- (a) Name of Person Filing
METROPOLITAN WEST CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
- (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence
610 NEWPORT CTR DR, #1000, NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92660
- (c) Citizenship
CALIFORNIA

- (d) Title of Class of Securities
COMMON STOCK
- (e) CUSIP Number
27579R104

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c)
- (b) Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).
- (e) An investment adviser in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j) Group, in accordance with 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

Item 4. Ownership.

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 8,295,111
- (b) Percent of class: 13.03%
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote 4,833,811
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 8,295,111
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 0

Item Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

5.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following.[]

Item Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

6.

Not applicable

Item Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being
7. Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

See Exhibit B

Item Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

8.

Not applicable.

Item Notice of Dissolution of Group

9.

Not applicable.

Item Certification

10.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

January 09, 2009

Date

/s/ Jane E. Washington

Signature

Jane E. Washington, VP Trust Operations

Name/Title

Exhibit A

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Schedule 13G is filed by Wells Fargo & Company on its own behalf and on behalf of any subsidiaries listed in Exhibit B. Aggregate beneficial ownership reported by Wells Fargo & Company under Item 9 on page 2 is on a

SIGNATURE

consolidated basis and includes any beneficial ownership separately reported herein by a subsidiary.

Exhibit B

The Schedule 13G to which this attachment is appended is filed by Wells Fargo & Company on behalf of the following subsidiaries:

Wells Capital Management Incorporated (1)
Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC (1)
Peregrine Capital Management, Inc. (1)
Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (2)
Wells Fargo Investments, LLC (3)

Wachovia Securities, LLC. (1)
Calibre Advisory Services, Inc (1)
Metropolitan West Capital Management, LLC (1)
Wachovia Bank, National Association (2)
Delaware Trust Company, National Association (2)
Wachovia Securities Financial Network, LLC (3)

(1) Classified as a registered investment advisor in accordance with Regulation 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E).

(2) Classified as a bank in accordance with Regulation 13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(B).

(3) Classified as a broker dealer in accordance with Regulation 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(A).

Exhibit C

AGREEMENT

The undersigned hereby agree that the statement on Schedule 13G to which this Agreement is attached shall be filed by Wells Fargo & Company on its own behalf and on behalf of Metropolitan West Capital Management.

Date: January 9, 2009

WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

By: /s/Jane E. Washington, VP Trust Operations

METROPOLITAN WEST CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

By: /s/Mingming Jang, Vice President

SIGNATURE

**Attention: Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute Federal criminal violations
(See 18 U.S.C. 1001)**

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