3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Fukumura Karen			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement(Month/Day/Year)	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol EAST WEST BANCORP INC [EWBC]				
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	03/11/2009	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	
135 N. LOS ROBLES AVE. 7TH FLOOR			(Check all appli			ble)		
	(Street)	1101		Director10% Owner XOfficerOther (give title below) (specify below) Executive Vice President			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person	
PASADENA, CA 91101						Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - I	Non-Derivat	ive Securiti	es Be	neficially Owned	
1.Title of Secur (Instr. 4)	ity		2. Amount of Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nat Owne (Instr.	1	
Common Stock			1,771		D	Â		
Restricted Common Stock (1)			24,351		D	Â		
Reminder: Repo	-	te line for ea	ch class of securities benefic	ially S	EC 1473 (7-02)		

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative	2. Date Exercisable and	3. Title and Amount of	4.	5.	6. Nature of Indirect
Security	Expiration Date	Securities Underlying	Conversion	Ownership	Beneficial
(Instr. 4)	(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security	or Exercise	Form of	Ownership
		(Instr. 4)	Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)

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	Date Exercisable	Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	04/07/2010(2)	04/07/2015	Common Stock	83,011	\$ 18.07	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Fukumura Karen 135 N. LOS ROBLES AVE. 7TH FLOOR PASADENA, CA 91101	Â	Â	Executive Vice President	Â		

Signatures

Douglas P. Krause, 03/11/2009 Attorney-in-Fact

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Restricted Stock vests 14.2% in year 2012, 50% in year 2013 and 35.8% in year 2014. (1)

(2) The options vest in three annual installments beginning on April 7, 2010.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.