

NEWS RELEASE

FOR INVESTOR INQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Irene Oh	Julianna Balicka
Chief Financial Officer	Director of Strategy and Corporate Development
T: (626) 768-6360	T: (626) 768-6985
E: irene.oh@eastwestbank.com	E: julianna.balicka@eastwestbank.com

**EAST WEST BANCORP INCREASES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND BY 15%
TO \$0.23 PER SHARE**

Pasadena, California – May 29, 2018 – East West Bancorp, Inc. (“East West”) (Nasdaq: EWBC), parent company of East West Bank, the financial bridge between the United States and Greater China, today announced that its Board of Directors plans to increase its quarterly common stock dividend by 15 percent to \$0.23 per share, beginning in the third quarter of 2018. The declaration of the dividend and timing are expected to be announced in July consistent with our past practice. The planned cash dividend of \$0.23 per common share represents an increase of \$0.03 from the prior quarterly dividend of \$0.20. At the new rate, the indicated dividend on an annual basis is \$0.92 per share compared to the previous rate of \$0.80 per share.

“East West’s track record of strong balance sheet growth and profitability supports the 15 percent increase to our quarterly dividend. We are committed to active capital management, utilizing our capital to support organic growth while also providing a strong return to our shareholders,” stated Dominic Ng, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of East West.

About East West

East West Bancorp, Inc. is a publicly owned company with total assets of \$37.7 billion and is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “EWBC”. The Company’s wholly-owned subsidiary, East West Bank, is one of the largest independent banks headquartered in California. East West is a premier bank focused exclusively on the United States and Greater China markets and operates over 130 locations worldwide, including in the United States markets of California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Texas and Washington. In Greater China, East West’s presence includes full service branches in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Shantou and Shenzhen, and representative offices in Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Taipei and Xiamen. For more information on East West, visit the Company’s website at www.eastwestbank.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain matters set forth herein (including any exhibits hereto) constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including forward-looking statements relating to the Company’s current business plans and expectations regarding future operating results. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, the use of forward-looking language, such as “likely result in,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” “forecasts,” “projects,” “intends to,” or may include other similar words or phrases, such as “believes,” “plans,” “trend,” “objective,” “continues,” “remains,” or similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs, such as “will,” “would,” “should,” “could,” “may,” “might,” “can,” or similar verbs. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those projected. These risks and uncertainties, some of which are beyond our control, include, but are not limited to, our ability to compete effectively against other financial institutions in our banking markets; changes in the commercial and consumer real estate markets; changes in our costs of operation, compliance and expansion; changes in the United States (“U.S.”) economy, including inflation, employment levels, rate of growth and general business conditions; changes in government interest rate policies; changes in laws or the regulatory environment including regulatory reform initiatives and policies of the U.S. Department of Treasury, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the California Department of Business Oversight — Division of Financial Institutions; heightened regulatory and governmental oversight and scrutiny of the Company’s business practices, including dealings with consumers; changes in the economy of and monetary policy in the People’s Republic of China; changes in income tax laws and regulations and the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act; impact of other potential federal tax changes and spending cuts; changes in accounting standards as may be required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or other regulatory agencies and their impact on critical accounting policies and assumptions; changes in the equity and debt securities markets; future credit quality and performance, including our expectations regarding future credit losses and allowance levels; fluctuations of our stock price; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; success and timing of our business strategies; our ability to adopt and successfully integrate new technologies into our business in a strategic manner; impact of reputational risk from negative publicity, fines and penalties and other negative consequences from regulatory violations and legal actions; impact of adverse judgments or settlements in litigation; impact of regulatory enforcement actions; changes in our ability to receive dividends from our subsidiaries; impact of political developments, wars or other hostilities that may disrupt or increase volatility in securities or otherwise affect economic conditions; impact of natural or man-made disasters or calamities or conflicts or other events that may directly or indirectly result in a negative impact on the Company’s financial performance; continuing consolidation in the financial services industry; our capital requirements and our ability to generate capital internally or raise capital on favorable terms; impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act on our business, business practices and cost of operations; impact of adverse changes to our credit ratings from the major credit rating agencies; impact of failure in, or breach of, our operational or security systems or infrastructure, or those of third parties with whom we do business, including as a result of cyber attacks; and other similar matters which could result in, among other things, confidential and/or proprietary information being disclosed or misused; adequacy of our risk management framework, disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting; changes in interest rates on our net interest income and net interest margin; the effect of changes in the level of checking or savings account deposits on our funding costs and net interest margin; a recurrence of significant turbulence or disruption in the capital or financial markets, which could result in, among other things, a reduction in the availability of funding or increased funding costs, reduced investor demand for mortgage loans and declines in asset values and/or recognition of other-than-temporary impairment on securities held in our available-for-sale investment securities portfolio; the Company’s ability to retain key officers and employees; any future strategic acquisitions or divestitures; and other factors set forth in the Company’s public reports including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, and particularly the discussion of risk factors within that document. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes or if any of the assumptions underlying such forward-looking statements proves to be incorrect, the Company’s results could differ materially from those expressed in, implied or projected by such forward-looking statements. The Company assumes no obligation to update such forward-looking statements.