

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE  
AUTHORITY,

Plaintiff,

v.

METROPOLITAN WEST  
SECURITIES, LLC; WACHOVIA  
BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION;  
and DOES 1-25,

Defendants.

No. 2:10-cv-00291-MCE-CMK

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

Through this action, Plaintiff California Earthquake Authority (the "CEA") seeks relief from Defendants Metropolitan West Securities, LLC ("MetWest") and Wells Fargo, N.A., successor by merger to Wachovia Bank, N.A. ("Wachovia") (collectively, "Defendants") for the alleged loss of some \$47 million resulting from Defendants' investment on behalf of the CEA in commercial paper issued by Mainsail II LLC ("Mainsail") and that investment's subsequent collapse. Based on this loss, the CEA asserts claims against Defendants for: (1) breach of contract; (2) breach of fiduciary duty; (3) constructive fraud; and (4) unfair business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq.

///

1 Presently before the Court is the CEA's motion for summary judgment on the  
2 issue of the amount of damages which it will be entitled to, should it prevail on its breach  
3 of contract claim and/or its breach of fiduciary duty claim. CEA Mot., ECF No. 186.  
4 Defendants timely opposed the motion. Def. Opp'n., ECF No. 193. Defendants also  
5 filed a cross-motion on the same issue, Def. Mot., ECF No. 194, to which the CEA filed a  
6 timely reply. CEA Opp'n, ECF No. 194.

## 7

### 8 **BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

9

10 The CEA was created by the California Legislature in the wake of the 1994  
11 Northridge earthquake and the ensuing homeowners insurance crisis. The legislation  
12 creating the CEA was passed in 1995, 1995 Cal. Legis. Serv. Ch. 944 (A.B. 13)  
13 (approved by Governor October 16, 1995), and the CEA formally commenced  
14 operations in 1996. The CEA operates as a public instrumentality on a not-for-profit  
15 basis and issues earthquake insurance policies for California homes.

16 The CEA initially received capital from participating insurance companies in the  
17 form of earthquake insurance premiums and invested that money according to the  
18 CEA's investment philosophy, which prioritized portfolio safety, liquidity and yield. These  
19 priorities were intended to allow CEA's assets to be quickly liquidated and therefore  
20 available in the event of an earthquake. CEA later received additional contributions from  
21 insurance companies that were added as participants. The CEA also receives revenue  
22 through premiums paid on the earthquake insurance policies it issues, as well as  
23 through income earned on its invested capital.

24 It is undisputed that in October 1996, the CEA Governing Board, comprised of  
25 California's Governor, Treasurer, and Insurance Commissioner as its three voting  
26 members, approved a document entitled "Investment Policies." This document set forth

27

---

28 <sup>1</sup> These facts are taken from the CEA's Motion for Summary Adjudication, ECF No. 186, and Defendants' Cross-Motion for Summary Adjudication, ECF No. 194.

1 specific limitations on CEA investments, including commercial paper investments. The  
2 restrictions for commercial paper investments contained therein are as follows:

3 1) Maximum maturity:

4 Statutory: 180 days

5 Policy: 180 days

6 2) Maximum par value, total portfolio:

7 Statutory: 30% of current portfolio

8 Policy: 25%

9 a) If over 15% of the portfolio is invested in commercial  
10 paper, the dollar-weighted average maturity of the entire  
11 portfolio cannot exceed 31 days. Dollar-weighted average  
12 maturity means the sum of the amount of each outstanding  
commercial paper investment multiplied by the days to  
maturity, divided by the total amount of outstanding  
commercial paper.

13 3) Maximum par value per name:

14 Statutory: 10% of outstanding

15 Policy: 5%

16 4) Maximum par value per maturity

17 None

18 5) Credit

19 a) Rated A1/P1 or equivalent quality as defined by a  
20 nationally recognized organization that rates such securities.

21 b) Organized and operating with the United States.

22 c) Have total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars  
(\$500,000,000).

23 CEA investments are also governed by California Government Code section 16430. As  
24 set forth in the California Insurance Code, “[t]he board [of the CEA] may cause moneys  
25 in the fund to be invested and reinvested, from time to time, . . . subject to subdivision (b)  
26 of Section 10089.6.” Cal. Ins. Code § 10089.22. Section 10089.6 in turn states that  
27 “[t]he investments of the authority shall be limited to those securities eligible under  
28 Section 16430 of the Government Code.” Cal. Ins. Code § 10089.6(b)(1). California

1 Government Code section 16430 provides guidelines as to “[e]ligible securities for the  
2 investment of surplus moneys,” and contains certain requirements for investments in  
3 commercial paper. Cal. Gov’t Code §16430(f)(1). Specifically, section 16430(f)  
4 provides:

5 Eligible securities for the investment of surplus moneys shall  
6 be any of the following:

7 (f)(1) Commercial paper of “prime” quality as defined by a  
8 nationally recognized organization that rates these securities,  
9 if the commercial paper is issued by a corporation, trust, or  
10 limited liability company that is approved by the Pooled  
11 Money Investment Board [(“PMB”)] as meeting the conditions  
12 specified in either subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B):

13 (A) Both of the following conditions:

14 (i) Organized and operating within the United States.

15 (ii) Having total assets in excess of five hundred million  
16 dollars (\$500,000,000).

17 (B) Both of the following conditions:

18 (i) Organized within the United States as a special  
19 purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company.

20 (ii) Having programwide credit enhancements  
21 including, but not limited to, overcollateralization,  
22 letters of credit, or surety bond.

23 (2) A purchase of eligible commercial paper may not do any  
24 of the following:

25 (A) Exceed 180 days' maturity.

26 (B) Represent more than 10 percent of the outstanding paper  
27 of an issuing corporation, trust, or limited liability company.

28 (C) Exceed 30 percent of the resources of an investment  
program.

(3) At the request of the Pooled Money Investment Board, an  
investment made pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
secured by the issuer by depositing with the Treasurer  
securities authorized by Section 53651 of a market value at  
least 10 percent in excess of the amount of the state's  
investment.

Cal. Gov't Code § 16430.

///

1 The parties dispute to what extent the guidelines covering commercial paper  
2 investments contained within the “Investment Policies” adopt the requirements of  
3 California Government Code section 16430, and to what extent the Investment Policies  
4 reference section 16430.

5 Prior to the Mainsail transaction at issue, MetWest made thousands of  
6 investments for the CEA, including multiple commercial paper investments that were not  
7 on the Pooled Money Investment Board’s approved list. All of the investments prior to  
8 the Mainsail transaction earned a profit for the CEA. On August 8, 2007, MetWest  
9 invested \$63,251,184.84 of the CEA’s funds in commercial paper issued by Mainsail.  
10 However, following a freeze of Mainsail’s assets on August 20, 2007, Mainsail failed to  
11 meet its payment obligations to the CEA. The CEA received several distribution  
12 payments on its Mainsail holdings in September 2008 and November 2012, totaling  
13 \$16,054,132.55. Thus, the total lost principal amount is \$46,197,052.29.

14  
15 **STANDARD**  
16

17 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide for summary judgment when “the  
18 movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is  
19 entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see also Celotex Corp. v.  
20 Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). One of the principal purposes of Rule 56 is to  
21 dispose of factually unsupported claims or defenses. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 325.

22 Rule 56 also allows a court to grant summary judgment on part of a claim or  
23 defense, known as partial summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a) (“A party may  
24 move for summary judgment, identifying each claim or defense—or the part of each  
25 claim or defense—on which summary judgment is sought.”); see also Allstate Ins. Co. v.  
26 Madan, 889 F. Supp. 374, 378-79 (C.D. Cal. 1995). The standard that applies to a  
27 motion for partial summary judgment is the same as that which applies to a motion for  
28 summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); State of Cal. ex rel. Cal. Dep’t of Toxic

1 Substances Control v. Campbell, 138 F.3d 772, 780 (9th Cir. 1998) (applying summary  
2 judgment standard to motion for summary adjudication).

3 In a summary judgment motion, the moving party always bears the initial  
4 responsibility of informing the court of the basis for the motion and identifying the  
5 portions in the record “which it believes demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of  
6 material fact.” Celotex, 477 U.S. at 323. If the moving party meets its initial  
7 responsibility, the burden then shifts to the opposing party to establish that a genuine  
8 issue as to any material fact actually does exist. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith  
9 Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986); First Nat’l Bank v. Cities Serv. Co., 391 U.S.  
10 253, 288-89 (1968).

11 In attempting to establish the existence or non-existence of a genuine factual  
12 dispute, the party must support its assertion by “citing to particular parts of materials in  
13 the record, including depositions, documents, electronically stored information,  
14 affidavits[,] or declarations . . . or other materials; or showing that the materials cited do  
15 not establish the absence or presence of a genuine dispute, or that an adverse party  
16 cannot produce admissible evidence to support the fact.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1). The  
17 opposing party must demonstrate that the fact in contention is material, i.e., a fact that  
18 might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby,  
19 Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248, 251-52 (1986); Owens v. Local No. 169, Assoc. of W. Pulp and  
20 Paper Workers, 971 F.2d 347, 355 (9th Cir. 1987). The opposing party must also  
21 demonstrate that the dispute about a material fact “is ‘genuine,’ that is, if the evidence is  
22 such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the nonmoving party.” Anderson,  
23 477 U.S. at 248. In other words, the judge needs to answer the preliminary question  
24 before the evidence is left to the jury of “not whether there is literally no evidence, but  
25 whether there is any upon which a jury could properly proceed to find a verdict for the  
26 party producing it, upon whom the onus of proof is imposed.” Anderson, 477 U.S. at 251  
27 (quoting Improvement Co. v. Munson, 81 U.S. 442, 448 (1871)) (emphasis in original).  
28 As the Supreme Court explained, “[w]hen the moving party has carried its burden under

1 Rule [56(a)], its opponent must do more than simply show that there is some  
2 metaphysical doubt as to the material facts.” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 586. Therefore,  
3 “[w]here the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the  
4 nonmoving party, there is no ‘genuine issue for trial.’” Id. 87.

5 In resolving a summary judgment motion, the evidence of the opposing party is to  
6 be believed, and all reasonable inferences that may be drawn from the facts placed  
7 before the court must be drawn in favor of the opposing party. Anderson, 477 U.S. at  
8 255. Nevertheless, inferences are not drawn out of the air, and it is the opposing party’s  
9 obligation to produce a factual predicate from which the inference may be drawn.  
10 Richards v. Nielsen Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff’d,  
11 810 F.2d 898 (9th Cir. 1987).

## 13 ANALYSIS

### 14 A. The CEA’s Motion

#### 15 1. Amount of Damages

16 The CEA states that “[i]f liability is established under either CEA’s breach of  
17 contract claim or its breach of fiduciary duty claim, the CEA will be entitled under the law  
18 to compensatory damages for the lost principal suffered as a result of the Mainsail  
19 investment.” CEA Mot. at 9. In support of this proposition, the CEA cites to California  
20 Civil Code section 3300, which provides:

21 [f]or the breach of an obligation arising from contract, the  
22 measure of damages, except where otherwise expressly  
23 provided by this code, is the amount which will compensate  
24 the party aggrieved for all the detriment proximately caused  
thereby, or which, in the ordinary course of things, would be  
likely to result therefrom.

25 Cal. Civ. Code § 3300. The CEA also cites to California Civil Code section 3333, which  
26 provides: “[f]or the breach of an obligation not arising from contract, the measure of  
27 damages, except where otherwise expressly provided by this code, is the amount which  
28 will compensate for all the detriment proximately caused thereby, whether it could have

1 been anticipated or not.” Id. § 3333. The CEA then cites to the indemnity provision in  
2 the contract, which, according to the CEA, requires Defendants to indemnify the CEA for  
3 any losses or damages, including interest or attorneys’ fees, which arise out of a breach  
4 of the Agreement by Wachovia, or which are caused by any negligent acts of omissions  
5 by Wachovia relating to its duties under the agreement. The CEA thus contends that,  
6 should it prevail on either its breach of contract claim or its breach of fiduciary duty claim,  
7 it is entitled to compensatory damages in the amount of \$46,197,052.29. According to  
8 the CEA, while Defendants may seek to dispute the legality or prudence of the  
9 investment at issue, Defendants cannot dispute the amount of the lost principal.

10 Assuming, without deciding, that there is no dispute as to the amount of the loss,  
11 the Court declines to grant summary judgment on this issue. The Court is not required  
12 to grant summary judgment even when it appears that there is no genuine issue of  
13 material fact. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 advisory committee’s note on 2007 amendments  
14 (citing Kennedy v. Silas Mason Co., 334 U.S. 249, 256–57 (1948)) (“It is established that  
15 although there is no discretion to enter summary judgment when there is a genuine  
16 issue of material fact, there is discretion to deny summary judgment when it appears that  
17 there is no genuine issue as to any material fact.”). As the Second Circuit stated in  
18 American Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Co. v. American Broadcasting-Paramount  
19 Theaters, Inc., this Court is

20 persuaded that a decision after trial will be the more desirable  
21 procedure in the matter. It will serve to bring into sharper  
22 focus certain issues of importance which have been obscured  
23 by the voluminous affidavits with their statements, counter-  
statements and alternative positions, and the conflicting  
conclusions which the parties contend are to be drawn from  
the multitude of facts and statistics presented.

24 Under all the circumstances the application of the summary  
25 judgment rule is questionable and the Court deems it sound  
26 judicial administration to permit a trial for such additional  
evidence and clarification as may be relevant.

27 388 F.2d 272, 280 (2d Cir. 1967). Similarly, the Eleventh Circuit has noted that “even in  
28 the absence of a factual dispute, a district court has the power to deny summary



1 judgment in a case where there is reason to believe that the better course would be to  
2 proceed to a full trial.” Lind v. United Parcel Serv., Inc., 254 F.3d 1281, 1285-86 (11th  
3 Cir. 2001). Here, the CEA moves for summary judgment as to the damages element of  
4 two of their four claims. “Piecemeal adjudication of a portion of [the CEA’s] claims  
5 without a fully developed record” and without the benefit of the presentation of evidence  
6 at trial, “may complicate rather than simplify the ultimate resolution of the dispute  
7 between the parties.” Helios Int’l S.A.R.L. v. Cantamessa USA, Inc., 12 CIV. 8205, 2014  
8 WL 2119841 (S.D.N.Y. May 21, 2014) (citing Zamoyski v. Fifty–Six Hope Rd. Music Ltd.,  
9 718 F. Supp .2d 128, 140 (D. Mass. 2010) (denying motion for summary judgment  
10 where underlying legal questions “must be resolved at a later time upon a more fully-  
11 developed record”); N. Am. Roofing Servs. v. Nat’l Trust Ins. Co., 2009 WL 5062080, \*1  
12 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 16, 2009) (citing Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 255  
13 (1986)) (denying summary judgment motion on discretionary grounds; although “[i]t may  
14 well turn out that the Court is simply postponing the inevitable interpretation of the  
15 documents, however, testimony in this non-jury trial may be helpful to the Court by  
16 shedding some additional light on these issues. Moreover, granting [defendant’s] Motion  
17 at this time would not resolve [plaintiff’s] other claims so as to avoid the upcoming trial”);  
18 see also Garner-Bare Co. v. Munsingwear, Inc., 650 F.2d 975, 982 (9th Cir. 1980).

19 It would be unwise to enter summary judgment as to the damages issue alone for  
20 the CEA’s breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims. The factual issues  
21 going to the amount of damages are closely intertwined with claims and factual issues  
22 that remain to be litigated. Thus, the Court exercises its discretion to decline to enter  
23 partial judgment under Rule 54(b). The CEA’s motion for adjudication of damages is  
24 therefore denied.

## 25 2. Prejudgment Interest

26 The CEA also contends that it is entitled to prejudgment interest on the \$46  
27 million loss amount, on two grounds. First, the CEA argues that under the contract,  
28 Defendants must indemnify CEA for “any and all losses, costs, liabilities, damages or

1 deficiencies, including interest.” CEA Mot. at 10-11. Second, the CEA points to the  
2 California Civil Code, which provides the right to recover interest on damages. See Cal.  
3 Civ. Code § 3287.

4 “In diversity cases, state law governs the award of prejudgment interest.” Davis &  
5 Cox v. Summa Corp., 751 F.2d 1507, 1522 (9th Cir. 1985). “Under California law,  
6 prejudgment interest is governed by Civil Code section 3287 and is recoverable in any  
7 action in which damages are certain or ‘capable of being made certain by calculation’  
8 and the right to recover such damages is vested in the plaintiff on a particular day.”  
9 Cataphora Inc. v. Parker, 848 F. Supp. 2d 1064, 1072 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (citing Cal. Civ.  
10 Code § 3287(a); Cortez v. Purolator Air Filtration Prods. Co., 23 Cal.4th 163, 174-75  
11 (2000)). Under this code section, “the court has no discretion, but must award  
12 prejudgment interest upon request, from the first day there exists both a breach and a  
13 liquidated claim.” Howard v. Am. Nat. Fire Ins. Co., 187 Cal. App. 4th 498, 535 (2010)  
14 (quoting N. Oakland Med. Clinic v. Rogers, 65 Cal. App. 4th 824, 828 (1998)). Courts  
15 generally apply a liberal construction in determining whether a claim is certain or  
16 liquidated. Id. (citing Chesapeake Indus., Inc. v. Togova Enter., Inc., 149 Cal. App. 3d  
17 901, 907 (1983)). The test for determining certainty under section 3287(a) is whether  
18 the defendant knew the amount of damages owed to the claimant or could have  
19 computed that amount from reasonably available information. Id. (citing Chesapeake  
20 Indus., Inc., 149 Cal. App. 3d at 907). Uncertainty as to the defendant's liability is  
21 irrelevant to the determination. Boehm & Assocs. v. Workers' Comp. Appeals Bd.,  
22 76 Cal. App. 4th 513, 517 (1999). “The certainty required by section 3287(a) is not lost  
23 when the existence of liability turns on disputed facts but only when the amount of  
24 damages turns on disputed facts.” Howard, 187 Cal. App. 4th at 536 (citing Olson v.  
25 Cory, 35 Cal. 3d 390, 402 (1983)).

26 “The rationale behind the rule is that where a defendant does not know what  
27 amount he owes and cannot ascertain it except by accord or judicial process, he cannot  
28 be in default for not paying it.” Cataphora, Inc., 848 F. Supp. 2d at 1072

1 (citing Conderback, Inc. v. Standard Oil Co., 239 Cal. App. 2d 664, 689-690 (1966)).  
2 “Thus, where the amount of damages cannot be resolved except by verdict or  
3 judgment, section 3287(a) prejudgment interest is not appropriate.” Id. (citing Wisper  
4 Corp. v. Cal. Commerce Bank, 49 Cal. App. 4th 948, 960-61 (1996) (prejudgment  
5 interest not awardable on bank’s liability for customer damages because portion of  
6 damages attributable to bank’s negligence not subject to calculation until after trial and  
7 determination of relative fault)). However, “[a] defendant’s denial of liability does not  
8 make damages uncertain for purposes of Civil Code section 3287.” Id. (citing Stein v.  
9 S. Cal. Edison Co., 7 Cal. App. 4th 565, 572 (1992); Marine Terminals Corp. v. Paceco,  
10 Inc., 145 Cal. App. 3d 991, 995 (1983)).

11 Thus, the CEA contends that the amount of damages is certain, and Defendants  
12 owe the CEA prejudgment interest on the initial loss of \$62 million, at a rate of ten  
13 percent per annum, from the date the loss was incurred until the date the CEA received  
14 workout proceeds. In support of this ten percent figure, the CEA cites to California Civil  
15 Code section 3287, which states: “If a contract entered into after January 1, 1986, does  
16 not stipulate a legal rate of interest, the obligation shall bear interest at a rate of 10  
17 percent per annum after a breach.” Cal. Civ. Code § 3287.

18 However, California Civil Code section 3288, titled “Interest on damages;  
19 noncontractual obligation; discretion of jury,” states: “In an action for the breach of an  
20 obligation not arising from contract, and in every case of oppression, fraud, or malice,  
21 interest may be given, in the discretion of the jury.” Cal. Civ. Code § 3288. This code  
22 section applies to determining prejudgment interest for damages for breach of fiduciary  
23 duty. See, e.g., Michelson v. Hamada, 29 Cal. App. 4th 1566, 1586-87 (1994).

24 Because the Court cannot determine what amount of damages, if any, stem from  
25 the breach of contract claim, and what amount of damages, if any, stem from the breach  
26 of fiduciary duty claim, the Court cannot determine the amount of prejudgment interest, if  
27 any, which may be awarded. Should damages stem from the breach of fiduciary duty  
28 claim, the trier of fact, not the Court, is entitled to determine the amount of prejudgment

1 interest for a breach of fiduciary duty claim. Accordingly, because the Court finds that a  
2 trial on the issue of damages is more appropriate, and because the amount of interest is  
3 contingent upon the outcome of the trial, the CEA's motion for summary adjudication as  
4 to the prejudgment interest is also denied.

5 **B. Defendants' Motion**

6 **A. Damages**

7 Defendants contend that they are entitled to summary judgment on the issue of  
8 damages because the CEA has failed to prove with reasonable certainty that it has  
9 suffered damages. Def. Mot. at 10. Specifically, Defendants argue that the CEA's claim  
10 for compensatory damages should be evaluated on a portfolio-wide basis under Modern  
11 Portfolio Theory ("MPT"), which reveals that the CEA did not actually suffer a loss, as the  
12 portfolio as a whole was profitable.

13 MPT "focuses on the risk characteristics of each asset not separately, but as it  
14 interacts in the portfolio." Nauzer Balsara, Trust Your Broker?: Suitability, Modern  
15 Portfolio Theory, and Expert Witnesses, 17 St. Thomas L. Rev. 173, 176 (2004). ERISA  
16 cases apply MPT, pursuant to regulations that require that "the fiduciary shall be  
17 required to act as a prudent investment manager under the modern portfolio theory  
18 rather than under the common law of trusts standard, which examined each investment  
19 with an eye toward its individual riskiness." Laborers Nat. Pension Fund v. N. Trust  
20 Quantitative Advisors, Inc., 173 F.3d 313, 317 (5th Cir. 1999) (citing 29 C.F.R.  
21 § 2550.404a-1). Additionally, several district courts and circuit courts have applied MPT  
22 to state and federal substantive law, requiring the aggregation of portfolio-wide gains  
23 and losses to judge the overall return of an investment. See Leigh v. Engle, 858 F.2d  
24 361, 368 (7th Cir. 1988); Gulf Grp. Holdings, Inc. v. Coast Asset Mgmt. Corp.,  
25 516 F. Supp. 2d 1253, 1260-61 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 13, 2007).

26 However, the Court is aware of no California or Ninth Circuit case applying MPT  
27 to assess an investment in a non-ERISA case, and Defendants cite to none. Without

28 ///

1 guidance from the Ninth Circuit, the Court will not apply MPT to the assessment of  
2 damages for breach of contract or breach of fiduciary duty claims.

3 Defendants also contend that “California contract law supports measuring  
4 damages on a portfolio wide basis.” Def. Mot. at 20. California Civil Code section 3358,  
5 titled ‘Limitation of damages; exception,’ provides that, “[e]xcept as expressly provided  
6 by statute, no person can recover a greater amount in damages for the breach of an  
7 obligation, than he could have gained by the full performance thereof on both sides.”  
8 Cal. Civ. Code § 3358. California contract law requires as much, in that “[t]he damages  
9 recoverable may be subject to deductions for benefits received.” 1 B. Witkin Contracts  
10 § 922.

11 However, the promise between Wachovia and the CEA was continuing and the  
12 transactions are divisible, and thus each of Defendants’ failures to perform under the  
13 contract results in a new breach, giving rise to a new cause of action. See, e.g., Trs. for  
14 Alaska Laborers-Constr. Indus. Health & Sec. Fund v. Ferrell, 812 F.2d 512 (9th Cir.  
15 1987) (stating that under contract requiring continuing performance, plaintiff may sue for  
16 partial breaches as they occur and failure to make monthly payments in contract  
17 requiring continuing performance results in new breach each month). Thus, unlike in  
18 Smith v. Mady, 146 Cal. App. 3d 129 (1983), which Defendants cite in support of its  
19 contention that damages must be offset by benefits received as a result of the breach, in  
20 this case there is not a single and unitary breach at issue in which benefits were  
21 received and losses sustained—that is, the CEA did not lose money on the Mainsail  
22 investment but somehow also profit from the Mainsail investment. While the CEA’s  
23 contract with Wachovia does not necessarily break down in daily or monthly installments,  
24 it is ongoing and contains discrete transactions, each of which may constitute a partial  
25 breach which is measurable on its own. The benefits received by other non-compliant  
26 investments made by Wachovia are separate transactions, which may not be used to  
27 offset the losses sustained in the Mainsail transaction.

28 ///

1 Defendants finally point to California fiduciary law as grounds for its entitlement to  
2 summary adjudication. Under California fiduciary law, “[t]he primary object of an award  
3 of damages in a civil action, and the fundamental principle or theory on which it is based,  
4 is just compensation or indemnity for the loss or injury sustained by complainant, and no  
5 more. It follows that if the wrongful act of the defendant at once confers a benefit and  
6 inflicts an injury, the loss actually caused will be the net result of the act to the plaintiff;  
7 and this net result will be the measure of damages.” In re De Laveaga’s Estate, 50 Cal.  
8 2d 480, 488 (1958). “An allowance for such benefits is not in the nature of recoupment  
9 or set-off, but a method of determining the actual damages sustained.” Id. at 488-89.  
10 These principles, according to Defendants, entitle Defendants to offset the CEA’s  
11 damages with the gains that the CEA enjoyed under the contract.

12 However, the Restatement (Third) of Trusts provides: “a trustee who is liable for a  
13 loss caused by a breach of trust may not reduce the amount of the liability by deducting  
14 the amount of a profit that accrued through another and distinct breach of trust; but if the  
15 breaches of trust are not separate and distinct, the trustee is accountable only for the net  
16 gain or chargeable only with the net loss resulting therefrom.” Restatement (Third) of  
17 Trusts § 213. “In other words, a fiduciary is liable for the total aggregate loss of all  
18 breaches of trust and may reduce liability for the net loss of multiple breaches only when  
19 such multiple breaches are so related that they do not constitute separate and distinct  
20 breaches.” Cal. Ironworkers Field Pension Trust v. Loomis Sayles & Co., 259 F.3d  
21 1036, 1047 (9th Cir. 2001). Moreover, “[n]otwithstanding the possibility that a fiduciary  
22 may be permitted to balance losses and gains attributable to multiple breaches of trust,  
23 the comments to § 213 make clear that a fiduciary may not balance losses attributable to  
24 a breach of trust against gains attributable to actions which do not involve a breach of  
25 trust.” Id. at 1047-48 (emphasis in original). In Cal. Ironworkers Field Pension Trust, the  
26 Ninth Circuit held that “even if losses attributable to the breach are more than balanced  
27 by gains resulting from appropriate investments, the plan beneficiaries are entitled to ‘the

28 ///

1 greater profits the Plan might have earned if the Trustees had invested in other Plan  
2 assets' rather than the impermissible assets." Id.

3 Multitudinous issues of material fact exist which preclude a grant of summary  
4 adjudication on this issue. These issues include whether Defendants acted as a trustee  
5 for the CEA, whether the breaches are related such that they do not constitute separate  
6 and distinct breaches, the amount of damages from the Mainsail transaction, the  
7 amount of damages from other breaches (should they be found to be not separate and  
8 related transactions), and the greater profits that the CEA might have earned had  
9 Defendants invested in permissible assets rather than in Mainsail (should it be found that  
10 Mainsail was an impermissible investment). Moreover, for the reasons stated above,  
11 even if there were not genuine issues of material fact, the Court would nonetheless find  
12 that summary adjudication of the issue of damages is inappropriate in this case.

13 Accordingly, Defendants' motion for summary adjudication on the issue of  
14 damages is denied.


15  
16 **CONCLUSION**  
17

18 For the reasons set forth above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 19 1. The CEA's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Compensatory  
20 Damages, ECF No. 186, is DENIED; and  
21 2. Defendants' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Compensatory  
22 Damages, ECF No. 194, is DENIED.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: July 2, 2014  
25

26   
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR., CHIEF JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT