

## Connective Capital Management, LLC

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Connective Capital Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at the telephone number and/or e-mail address above. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority. Our e-mail for regulatory compliance is [compliance@connectcap.com](mailto:compliance@connectcap.com).

Connective Capital Management, LLC is a registered investment advisor. Registration of an investment advisor does not imply any level of skill or training. The verbal and written communications of an investment advisor provide you with information you need to determine whether to hire or retain the advisor.

Additional information about Connective Capital Management, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The Firm's CRD # is 161099.

## Connective Capital Management, LLC

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The previous annual update was dated March 7, 2023. Following is a summary of the material changes made to Part 2 since that amendment.

Item 4: As of December 31, 2023, the Firm managed assets of \$102.9 million on a discretionary basis.

Item 8: Added disclosures:

After specific security analysis, the Firm attempts to reduce the volatility inherent by constructing a relatively balanced portfolio so that stock selection is the main driver of alpha and not prediction of market direction.

We assign a target price to each investment and adjust it based on market movements and the stock's beta. We evaluate an investment's performance by comparing its expected profits to its risk level. The decision on the position size is made by the Portfolio Manager, focusing on the investment's risk and its effect on the sector's and the overall portfolio's balance of risk and returns.

**Holding Period.** Firm typically researches core investment positions with a target holding period of 12 to 24 months, with additional trading around short-term catalysts. The holding period may be shorter for trading positions.

Please contact us at (650) 321-4545 or <a href="mailto:investor@connectcap.com">investor@connectcap.com</a> if you would like a copy of our updated Part 2. Additional information about us is also available on the SEC's website at <a href="http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> .
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## ITEM 3

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## **ITEM 4: ADVISORY BUSINESS**

### **Who we are**

Connective Capital Management, LLC (the “Firm”) is a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) registered investment adviser. The Firm has been in business since 2004. The principal owner of the Firm is Robert Romero.

### **Services we offer**

The Firm provides investment management services to, and has discretionary investment authority over the assets of pooled investment vehicles including the following:

- Connective Capital I QP, LP
- Connective Capital Emerging Energy QP, LP

(altogether, the “Funds”)

The Funds were formed to pool investment funds of investors. The Firm also serves as general partner to the Funds. The Principal owner of the Firm is an investor in the Funds. The Firm does not hold itself out as specializing in a particular type of advisory service. Please review the Firm’s investment guidelines, specified below under “Client Investment Guidelines and Parameters.”

The Firm may also provide investment management services to Separately Managed Accounts (“Managed Accounts”). Collectively, Managed Accounts and Funds may be referred to as “Clients” herein.

All discussions of Clients in this brochure, including but not limited to their investments, the strategies used in managing their assets, the fees and other costs associated with investments and conflicts of interest faced by the Firm and its affiliates in connection with management of the Client accounts are also qualified by reference to each Fund’s respective confidential offering memorandum and governing documents (collectively referred to herein as “Offering Documents”) or the relevant investment management agreements for Managed Accounts.

The Firm’s investment objective is to seek to identify and capitalize on equity market pricing discrepancies to generate returns in excess of risk-free returns, with an emphasis on capital preservation. Advisory services include, among other things, providing advice regarding the selection of investments. Specifically, the Firm provides advisory services to Funds that operate as pooled investment vehicles and seeks to provide diversification, management expertise and other advantages to investors. Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

Regarding an investment in the Funds, each investor’s investment will be allocated in the same manner as each of the other investors who made investments in the Funds, consistent with the Offering Documents. With respect to the Managed Accounts, the Firm tailors its advisory services to the individual needs of its investors in such Managed Accounts, subject to the terms of an investment management agreement.

The Firm does not participate in or provide portfolio management services to wrap fee programs.

## Assets under management

As of December 31, 2023, the Firm managed assets of \$102.9 million on a discretionary basis. The Firm does not manage assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## ITEM 5: FEES AND COMPENSATION

### Fees and Billing

All fees are individually negotiated at the Firm's discretion. Fees for Managed Accounts generally include an asset-based fee ranging from 0% - 2% and a performance fee of 20%. Circumstances considered when negotiating fees may include, without limitation, customary market rates, specialized guidelines, and other performance/incentive fee/allocation arrangements.

Management fees for Managed Accounts or the Funds are calculated based on a periodic percentage of the value of the assets under management (the "Management Fee").

In consideration for its services to the Funds, the Firm will receive a Management Fee, normally calculated at 2% annually of the net assets of the Funds. In addition, the Firm collects incentive allocations based on the performance of investments. Please refer to Item 6, below, for a more detailed description of incentive allocations, and related conflicts of interest.

Management Fees are generally billed monthly or quarterly in advance as specified in the relevant investment management agreement or applicable pooled vehicle transaction document. The Firm also receives a performance based fee or incentive fee/allocation (the "Performance Allocation") as defined below. The Performance Allocation is tied to the capital appreciation within the client account as evaluated at the end of each calendar quarter and is payable quarterly, in arrears.

Managed Accounts must provide 30 days written notice in order to terminate the advisory relationship. Upon termination, an invoice will be generated reflecting any amounts due to/from the Firm.

### Additional Fees and Expenses

#### Organizational Expenses

The Funds may, at the Firm's discretion, pay or reimburse the Firm and/or its affiliates for all expenses related to the organization and initial offering expenses of each pooled investment vehicle in the Funds, including, but not limited to, legal and accounting fees, printing and mailing expenses and government filing fees (including blue sky filing fees). The Funds may elect to capitalize and amortize organizational expenses over a period of 60 months from the date the Funds commences operations.

#### Operating Expenses

The Funds shall pay or reimburse the Firm and/or its respective affiliates for operating expenses, such as: (i) all expenses incurred in connection with the ongoing offer and sale of interests in the Funds ("Interests"), including, but not limited to, marketing expenses, documentation of performance and the admission of investors, (ii) all operating expenses of the Funds such as tax preparation fees, governmental fees and taxes, administrator fees, communications with investors, and ongoing legal, accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, consulting and other professional fees and expenses (e.g., fees and expenses of

Funds appointed-directors serving on Boards of Directors of various portfolio companies), (iii) all Funds trading and investment related costs and expenses (e.g., brokerage commissions, margin interest, expenses related to short sales, custodial fees, clearing and settlement charges), (iv) fees and expenses associated with regulatory filings, including, but not limited to, 13D, 13G, Form 3, Form 4 and Form 5; and (v) all fees and other expenses incurred in connection with the investigation, prosecution or defense of any claims, assertion of rights or pursuit of remedies, by or against the Funds, including, without limitation, professional and other advisory and consulting expenses and travel expenses, and whether or not pursuant to bankruptcy or other legal proceedings, or participation in informal committees of creditors or other security holders of an issuer. The Firm or its respective affiliates may elect to be reimbursed for such expenses, or to waive their right to reimbursement for any such expenses, as well as terminate any such voluntary payment or waiver of reimbursement.

Any Managed Account clients will also bear investment related costs and expenses (e.g., brokerage commissions, margin interest, expenses related to short sales, custodial fees, clearing and settlement charges), as well as any additional agreed upon expenses as set forth in the relevant investment management agreement.

## Conflicts of Interest

No supervised person accepts compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or services fees from the sale of mutual funds.

## **ITEM 6: PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

### Pooled Investment Vehicles

In addition to the Management Fee, the Firm is generally compensated for its investment management services through the Performance Allocation. As consideration for services provided pursuant to the partnership agreement between the Funds and the Firm, the Firm's Performance Allocation is determined at the close of each fiscal quarter and is normally equal to 20% of the Funds' quarterly net income (including realized and unrealized gains and net of the Management Fee) attributable to each investor's capital account in excess of the Loss Carryforward (defined below).

The Performance Allocation shall not apply to any change in the value of a security or other financial instrument held in a side pocket account, until such security or other financial instrument (or the proceeds thereof) is reallocated to the capital accounts of participating partners.

Upon any withdrawal by an investor, whether voluntary or involuntary, the Performance Allocation shall be charged with respect to the amounts withdrawn. The Performance Allocation shall also be charged upon dissolution of the Funds. The Performance Allocation shall be allocated in addition to, and separately from, the proportionate allocations of income and profits, or losses, to the Firm and/or its affiliates based upon their capital accounts relative to the capital accounts of all Partners. The Firm, in its sole discretion, may waive or reduce its Performance Allocation with respect to any investor for any period of time, or agree to modify any such Performance Allocation for that investor. The Firm, in its sole discretion, may reallocate a portion of its Performance Allocation to certain investors.

## Managed Accounts

The Firm receives from clients a mutually agreed upon annual performance fee, which typically is 20% of such clients' net income for the agreed upon period in excess of any previously recovered net losses, although the Firm reserves the right to modify such fees on a case by case basis.

## Loss Carryforward

The Performance Allocation for the Funds and Performance Fee for Managed Accounts is subject to what is commonly known as a "high water mark" provision. That is, if an investor's capital account has a net loss in any fiscal quarter after subtracting any applicable Hurdle Rate, this loss will be recorded and carried forward as to such investor to future fiscal years (such amount is referred to as the "Loss Carryforward"). No Performance Allocation will be charged to such investor in any future fiscal year (or other applicable period) until the Loss Carryforward amount for such investor has been recovered (i.e., when the Loss Carryforward amount has been exceeded by the cumulative profits allocable to such investor for the fiscal years (or other applicable periods) following the Loss Carryforward). Once the Loss Carryforward has been recovered, the Performance Allocation shall be based on the excess profits (over the Loss Carryforward amount and the Hurdle Rate) as to such investor, rather than on all profits. When an investor withdraws capital, any Loss Carryforward will be adjusted downward in proportion to the withdrawal. The Firm may agree with any investor to apply a different Loss Carryforward provision for such investor. The "high water mark" provision prevents the Firm from receiving the Performance Allocation as to profits that simply restore previous losses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Firm does not favor accounts that pay Performance Allocations.

## Conflicts of Interest

Performance allocation and performance fee arrangements could create an incentive for the Firm to make investments that are riskier or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of the arrangement. In some circumstances, the Firm may receive increased compensation as a result of unrealized appreciation as well as realized gains.

## **ITEM 7: TYPES OF CLIENTS**

The Firm provides investment advice to pooled investment vehicles and Managed Accounts. The minimum initial investment in the Funds is \$500,000, although the Firm has discretion to accept lesser amounts. The Firm typically requires a minimum investment amount of \$15,000,000 to open or maintain a Managed Account, but has the discretion to accept lesser amounts.

## **ITEM 8: METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS**

### Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that investors in the Funds and Managed Accounts should be prepared to bear. The Firm believes that the construction of the Funds' portfolio is as critical as individual security selection. The Firm anticipates that the core characteristics of the Funds' portfolio will include:

- (i) Risk of capital loss managed through portfolio construction;
- (ii) Concentration of long and short investments;
- (iii) Fundamental and event driven short positions;

- (iv) No market capitalization constraints; and
- (v) Up to 10% of assets in illiquid securities.

**Idea Generation & Investment Analysis:** The Firm attempts to identify mispriced stocks or under-covered companies in dynamic high growth sectors before other investors do. Themes that we look for include: Emergence of a dominant player in a high barrier of entry growing sector, Under-appreciated and growing markets, Technology-disruption plays and Undervalued/Turnaround growth companies.

**Idea Generation.** Unlike many funds located away from Silicon Valley technology market, we do not rely primarily on sell-side reports or company management meetings for information. Investment ideas are sourced from the extensive contact base of the investment team derived from their decades of experience in the technology, clean energy and industrials sectors. Our investment team has extensive personal contacts with financial, technological, operational personnel, venture capitalists in the technology, alternative energy and industrials markets. A Client portfolio typically holds a blend of thematic, single stock, and event-driven ideas. For event-driven ideas, we look for catalyst events (earnings, product announcement, trade shows, policy change) in advance and identify stocks that may react to the upcoming event.

**Fundamental Analysis.** Because of the team's industry background, the Firm believes that it understands the science, engineering, and business model better than many other investors, so are uniquely positioned to analyze a company's disruptive potential and advantages of a business model. We perform value-chain/competitive analyses, understand capital intensity/structure and, where possible, create a forecast model with detailed unit economics. We seek to identify the inflection point of a company before other investors do.

**Valuation Model.** The Firm attempts to look at the valuation of all stocks in each sub-sector based on consensus P/E, P/S, P/CF, EV/EBITDA and differentiate them based on gross margin, operating margin, free cash flow, return on equity... etc. over at least one whole economic cycle. We seek to profit from investments where we believe the market consensus is off or wrong. We establish price targets and exit strategies for each stock position. When we believe that the stock has become well-known and efficiently priced, we seek to exit our position.

**Technical & Sentiment Analysis.** We analyze technical factors (alpha performance chart, liquidity, short interest etc.), as well as Wall Street sentiment, and industry and general press emerging enthusiasm or disappointment.

**Long/Short within a Sector.** Given the significant amount of new companies and existing names in the technology, clean energy and industrials sectors, there are generally many opportunities to profit on both the long and short sides of the portfolio. There is a large amount of hype, promotion and momentum in the technology, clean energy and industrials sectors but only a few companies emerge as dominant players in their respective spaces. Thus, there are eventually many companies that fail and are phased out, creating an abundance of ideas on the short side. The Firm attempts to exploit these opportunities on the short side while at the same time trying to identify the few winners in each specific sub-sector.

**Longs.** We invest in undervalued or fairly-valued stocks with strong fundamentals. We also invest in cheap stocks with stable or improving fundamentals, with an investor sentiment catalyst expected within 3-6 months.



**Shorts.** We look for companies with deteriorating fundamentals and high valuations and companies with extremely high valuations and stable fundamentals, with an investor sentiment catalyst expected within 3-6 months.

After specific security analysis, the Firm attempts to reduce the volatility inherent by constructing a relatively balanced portfolio so that stock selection is the main driver of alpha and not prediction of market direction.

We assign a target price to each investment and adjust it based on market movements and the stock's beta. We evaluate an investment's performance by comparing its expected profits to its risk level. The decision on the position size is made by the Portfolio Manager, focusing on the investment's risk and its effect on the sector's and the overall portfolio's balance of risk and returns.

**Risk Management and Portfolio Construction:** The Firm believes that risk is best defined as long term loss of capital, and generally can be assessed at the security selection level and managed at the portfolio level. The Firm attempts to manage risk and construct the portfolio by taking into consideration: (i) the correlation between risk and return, (ii) profile and range of possible returns, and (iii) time for realization of value. The Firm believes that “diversification” is more sophisticated than delineations by industry or sector. The Funds’ diversification strategy will focus on economic, industry, sector, competitive and secular/individual company actions that will drive each scenario within a range of possible returns. The Firm believes that cross correlations among industries frequently occur and, as a result, the Firm will strive to address this phenomenon by having portfolio companies that draw from a variety of economic drivers. The Firm intends to use the range of possible outcomes determined in its investment process to create and structure the portfolio with companies that have a variety of risk and reward profiles. The Firm also intends to layer the Funds’ portfolios to allow values to be realized at different times. There will, therefore, be investments in various stages of pricing efficiency.

**Risk Management System:** The Firm has a proprietary risk management system to monitor real-time exposure to risk parameters in this section, as well as to other key market factors (e.g. US & international equities, key commodities like energy prices, interest rates, market-cap skew, short interest ratio). This system is built on Bloomberg & other commercial data providers as well as proprietary, in-house developed algorithms & a centralized SQL database.

**Risk Manager.** The Risk Manager is responsible for implementing the risk controls set forth in this section, on the timeframe given, by reducing position sizes or implementing hedges, and evaluating the need to change those risk parameters in response to market or portfolio conditions.

**Hedging Techniques.** Hedging techniques include establishing long-short pair and group trades among securities in the same sub-sector. In addition Firm may use options to hedge some risk as well as ETFs and index products to attempt to reduce market or factor exposure.

**Holding Period.** Firm typically researches core investment positions with a target holding period of 12 to 24 months, with additional trading around short-term catalysts. The holding period may be shorter for trading positions.

**Illiquid Investments.** The Firm may identify opportunities, from time to time, in private placements in public securities. This is not, however, a primary objective of the Funds. The Firm anticipates that illiquid securities will represent less than 10% of each of the Funds' portfolios.

**Investing in securities involves risk of loss that potential investors should be prepared to bear.**

Managed Accounts are subject to substantially similar methods of analysis as those described in above.

## Risks Associated with the Firm's Investment Strategies

**Risks Associated with Investing in Options and Derivatives:** The Firm may invest, from time to time, in options and derivative instruments, including buying and writing puts and calls on some of the securities held by client accounts in an attempt to supplement income derived from those securities. The prices of many derivative instruments, including many options and swaps, are highly volatile. The value of options and swap agreements depend primarily upon the price of the securities, indexes, commodities, currencies or other instruments underlying them. Price movements of options contracts and payments pursuant to swap agreements are also influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies. The cost of options is related, in part, to the degree of volatility of the underlying securities, currencies or other assets. Accordingly, options on highly volatile securities, currencies or other assets may be more expensive than options on other investments.

Put options and call options typically have similar structural characteristics and operational mechanics regardless of the underlying instrument or asset on which they are purchased or sold. A put option gives the purchaser of the option, upon payment of a premium, the right to sell, and the writer the obligation to buy, the underlying security, commodity, index, currency or other instrument or asset at the exercise price. A call option, upon payment of a premium, gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the seller the obligation to sell, the underlying instrument at the exercise price.

If a put or call option purchased on behalf of a client account by the Firm were permitted to expire without being sold or exercised, the client account would lose the entire premium it paid for the option. The risk involved in writing a put option is that there could be a decrease in the market value of the underlying instrument or asset caused by rising interest rates or other factors. If this occurred, the option could be exercised and the underlying instrument or asset would then be sold to the Firm on behalf of the client account at a higher price than its current market value. The risk involved in writing a call option is that there could be an increase in the market value of the underlying instrument or asset caused by declining interest rates or other factors. If this occurred, the option could be exercised and the underlying instrument or asset would then be sold by the Firm on behalf of the client account at a lower price than its current market value.

Purchasing and writing put and call options and, in particular, writing "uncovered" options are highly specialized activities and entail greater than ordinary investment risks. In particular, the writer of an uncovered call option assumes the risk of a theoretically unlimited increase in the market price of the underlying instrument or asset above the exercise price of the option. This risk is enhanced if the instrument or asset being sold short is highly volatile and there is a significant outstanding short interest. These conditions exist in the stocks of many companies. The instrument or asset necessary to satisfy the exercise of the call option may be unavailable for purchase except at much higher prices. Purchasing instruments or assets to satisfy the exercise of the call option can itself cause the price of the instruments

or assets to rise further, sometimes by a significant amount, thereby exacerbating the loss. Accordingly, the sale of an uncovered call option could result in a loss by the client account of all or a substantial portion of its assets.

Swaps and certain options and other custom instruments are subject to the risk of non-performance by the counterparty, including risks relating to the financial soundness and creditworthiness of the counterparty.

**Short Selling:** When deemed appropriate by the Firm, it will sell securities short on behalf of client accounts. Short selling involves the sale of a security that the client account does not own and must borrow in order to make delivery in the hope of purchasing the same security at a later date at a lower price. In order to make delivery to its purchaser, the client account must borrow securities from a third party lender. The client account subsequently returns the borrowed securities to the lender by delivering to the lender the securities it receives in the transaction or by purchasing securities in the open market. The client account must generally pledge cash with the lender equal to the market price of the borrowed securities. This deposit may be increased or decreased in accordance with changes in the market price of the borrowed securities. During the period in which the securities are borrowed, the lender typically retains its right to receive interest and dividends accruing to the securities.

**Risks Associated with Leverage:** Generally, the Firm does not use leverage. However, in the event that the Firm determines that leverage is appropriate in its investment program, the Firm may use borrowed funds and/or investments in certain types of options, such as puts, calls and warrants, which may be purchased for a fraction of the price of the underlying securities while giving the purchaser the full benefit of movement in the market of those underlying securities. While such strategies and techniques increase the opportunity to achieve higher returns on the amounts invested, they also increase the risk of loss. To the extent the Firm purchases securities for a client account with borrowed funds, its net assets will tend to increase or decrease at a greater rate than if borrowed funds are not used. The level of interest rates generally, and the rates at which such funds may be borrowed in particular, could affect the operating results of an account. If the interest expense on borrowings were to exceed the net return on the investments made with borrowed funds, the Firm's use of leverage would result in a lower rate of return than if an account was not leveraged.

If the amount of borrowings outstanding for a client account at any one time is large in relation to such account's capital, fluctuations in the market value of the account will have disproportionately large effects in relation to the account's capital and the possibilities for profit and the risk of loss will therefore be increased. Any investment gains made with the additional monies borrowed will generally cause the net asset value of a client account to rise more rapidly than would otherwise be the case. Conversely, if the investment performance of the additional monies borrowed fails to cover their cost to a client account, the net asset value of the account will generally decline faster than would otherwise be the case.

Certain of the Firm's trading and investment activities may be subject to U.S. Federal Reserve Board (the "FRB") margin requirements, which are computed daily by a self-clearing broker-dealer. At present, the FRB's Regulation T permits a broker to lend no more than 50% of the purchase price of "margin stock" bought by a client. When the market value of a particular open position changes to a point where the margin on deposit does not satisfy maintenance margin requirements, a "margin call" on the client is made. If the client does not deposit additional funds with the broker to meet the margin call within a reasonable time, the client's position may be closed out. In the event of a precipitous drop in the value of the assets managed by the Firm, the Firm might not be able to liquidate assets quickly enough to pay off the margin debt and might suffer mandatory liquidation of positions in a declining market at relatively

low prices, incurring substantial losses. With respect to the Firm's trading activities on behalf of a client account, the account, and not the Firm, will be subject to margin calls.

Overall, the use of leverage, while providing the opportunity for a higher return on investments, also increases the volatility of such investments and the risk of loss. Clients should be aware that an investment program utilizing leverage is inherently more speculative, with a greater potential for losses, than a program that does not utilize leverage.

**General Economic Conditions.** The success of any investment activity is affected by general economic conditions, which may affect the level and volatility of interest rates, currencies, commodities and equities. Unexpected volatility or illiquidity in the markets could impair the Funds' ability to carry out its business or cause it to incur losses.

**New Issues.** The Funds will not allocate gains or losses attributable to "new issues," as such term is defined in FINRA Rules 5130 and 5131, to investors who are deemed to be "Restricted Persons" under such rules. Such "Restricted Persons" may have an economic disadvantage as compared to those investors who do participate in "new issues" since some of the relevant assets will be used to fund the purchase of "new issues" as to which the "Restricted Persons" will derive no benefit.

**Risks Associated with Non-Diversification:** The Firm intends to hold diversified positions and has internal exposure thresholds which may change from time to time, however, the Firm is not subject to any formal policies regarding diversification. The Firm may sometimes concentrate holdings in industries, geographic regions or companies which, in light of investment considerations, market risks and other factors, the Firm believes will provide the best opportunity for attractive risk-adjusted returns. The concentration of assets in a small number of issuers, in any one industry or a small number of industries, or in a single industry would subject clients to a greater degree of risk with respect to the failure of one or a few investments or with respect to economic variations in relation to such industry or industries.

Managed Account clients are subject to substantially similar risks as those described above.

## **ITEM 9: DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

Neither the Firm nor the Firm's members, partners, officers or employees have been involved in any legal or regulatory action, or other disciplinary event that is material to an investor's or prospective investor's evaluation of the Firm's advisory business or management.

## **ITEM 10: OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

As a registered investment advisor, the Firm is required to disclose when it or any of its principals, have any other financial industry affiliations. Neither the Firm nor its affiliated persons have material outside business affiliations, arrangements or registrations, pending or otherwise, with other companies, regulatory organizations or persons.

## **ITEM 11: CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING**

### **Code of Ethics**

A copy of the code of ethics ("Code of Ethics") is available upon request to the Funds' investors/prospective investors or the Firm's clients/prospective clients (collectively in Item 11, "Clients")

The Code of Ethics is based upon the premise that all the Firm personnel have a fiduciary responsibility to render professional, continuous and unbiased investment advisory service. The Code of Ethics requires all personnel to (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations; (2) observe all fiduciary duties and put Client interests ahead of those of the Firm; (3) observe the Firm's personal trading policies so as to avoid conflicts of interests between the Firm and its Clients; (4) ensure that all personnel have read the Code of Ethics, agreed to adhere to the Code of Ethics, and are aware that a record of all violations of the Code of Ethics will be maintained by the Firm's chief compliance officer and that personnel who violate the Code of Ethics are subject to sanctions by the Firm, up to and including termination.

### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

The Firm recognizes that the personal securities transactions of its employees demand the application of a high code of ethics, and the Firm requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any Client. At the same time, the Firm believes that if investment goals are similar for Clients and for employees of the Firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities. In order to address conflicts of interest, the Firm has adopted a set of procedures, included in its Code of Ethics, with respect to transactions effected by its officers, directors, partners, members and employees (hereafter in this section, "Employees") for their personal accounts. In order to monitor compliance with its personal trading policy, the Firm has adopted a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of its Employees. For purposes of the policy, an Employee's "personal account" generally includes any account (a) in the name of the Employee, jointly-owned with his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which the Employee is a trustee or executor, or (c) which the Employee controls, including the Firm's Client accounts which the Employee controls and in which the Employee or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest.

Associated persons of the Firm may recommend to Clients the purchase or sale of investment products in which it or a related person may have some financial interest, including but not limited to, the receipt of compensation by the Firm. Records will be maintained of all securities bought and sold by associated persons and related persons.

Additionally, the Code of Ethics sets forth the Firm's policies and procedures with respect to material, non-public information and other confidential information, and the fiduciary duties that the Firm and each of its Employees has to each of its Clients. The Code of Ethics is circulated at least annually to all Employees, and each Employee, at least annually, must certify in writing that he or she has received and followed the Code of Ethics and any amendments thereto.

The Firm and its related persons also invest their personal funds in the Funds, and have a majority interest in Connective Capital Emerging Energy QP, LP ("CCEE"). This provides an incentive to allocate investments more favorably to CCEE. The Funds typically hold the same securities; the proportion held of each security varies. The Firm aggregates trades for the Funds, as described in Item 12 below. In the

event of a partial fill, the shares are allocated on a pro-rata basis based on the shares intended to be purchased for each Fund.

## Trade Error Policy

The Firm has internal controls in place to prevent trade errors from occurring. On those occasions when such an error nonetheless occurs, the Firm will use reasonable efforts to correct the error. If the error cannot be corrected, the Firm will use reasonable efforts to make an adjustment in a manner it considers reasonable under the circumstances in its sole discretion. The Firm will maintain a record of each trade error, including information about the trade and how such error was corrected or attempted to be corrected.

## ITEM 12: BROKERAGE PRACTICES

### Factors Considered in Selecting or Recommending Broker-Dealers

Securities transactions for investors are executed through brokers selected by the Firm in its sole discretion and without the consent of investors. In placing portfolio transactions, the Firm will seek to obtain best execution, taking into account the following factors: the ability to effect prompt and reliable executions at favorable prices (including the applicable dealer spread or commission, if any); the operational efficiency with which transactions are effected and the efficiency of error resolution, taking into account the size of order and difficulty of execution; the financial strength, integrity and stability of the broker; special execution capabilities; clearance; settlement; reputation; on-line pricing; block trading and block positioning capabilities; willingness to execute related or unrelated difficult transactions in the future; order of call; on-line access to computerized data regarding clients' accounts; performance measurement data; the quality, comprehensiveness and frequency of available research and related services considered to be of value; the availability of stocks to borrow for short trades; and the competitiveness of commission rates in comparison with other brokers satisfying the Firm's other selection criteria. Any Managed Account clients shall bear brokerage costs as set forth in the relevant investment management agreement.

### "Soft Dollar" Policy

The term "soft dollars" refers to the receipt by an investment manager of products and services provided by brokers, without any cash payment by the investment manager, based on the volume of brokerage commission revenues generated from securities transactions executed through those brokers on behalf of the investment manager's clients. Soft dollars accumulated by the broker for the investment manager's use may then be used to pay for various products and services, including research and brokerage services. The availability of soft dollars from certain brokers presents investment managers with significant conflicts of interest, and may give incentives for investment managers to disregard their obligations to clients (including, without limitation, their best execution obligations) when directing orders.

The Firm intends to use "soft dollars" generated by the Funds' securities transactions only to pay for research, products and services that fall within the Section 28(e) safe harbor, or with respect to services the expenses of which would otherwise be required to be paid by the Fund pursuant to the Partnership Agreement. Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Section 28(e)") provides a "safe harbor" to those investment managers who use soft dollars to obtain investment research and brokerage services. In order to qualify for the safe harbor, the research must provide assistance to the investment manager in its performance of its investment decision-making responsibilities. Brokerage services must

relate to the execution, clearance and settlement of securities transactions in order to fall within the safe harbor provided by Section 28(e).

Products and services provided by broker-dealers with soft dollars may be utilized by the Firm and its affiliates in connection with the services they offer for other clients. Likewise, products and services provided by broker-dealers with soft dollars generated by other clients may be utilized by the Firm in performing its services for the Funds. The Firm's receipt of information, products or services paid for with soft dollars are in addition to, and not in lieu of, the Management Fee and Performance Allocation, and such fees are not reduced as a consequence of the receipt of such products or services purchased with soft dollars.

The Firm reserves the right to pay a fee or commission, in its sole discretion, to brokers or other persons who introduce clients to the Firm, provided that any such fee or commission will be paid solely by the Firm or its affiliates and no portion thereof will be paid by clients.

## Aggregation of Orders

Transactions implemented by the Firm for accounts may be effected independently or on an aggregated basis. The Firm anticipates that frequently it will decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Firm will aggregate orders when it believes aggregation may prove advantageous to clients. When the Firm aggregates client orders, the allocation of securities among client accounts will be done on a fair and equitable basis. Typically, the process of aggregating client orders is done in order to achieve better execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate orders among clients on a more equitable basis in order to avoid differences in prices and transaction fees or other transaction costs that might be obtained when orders are placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among the Firm's clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. When the Firm aggregates client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which its associated person(s) may invest, the Firm will do so in a fair and equitable manner. It should be noted that the Firm does not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of aggregation.

**Allocation of Trades:** The Firm may at times determine that certain securities will be suitable for acquisition by clients and by other accounts managed by the Firm, possibly including the Firm's own accounts or accounts of an affiliate. If that occurs, and the Firm is not able to acquire the desired aggregate amount of such securities on terms and conditions which the Firm deems advisable, the Firm will endeavor in good faith to allocate the limited amount of such securities acquired among the various accounts for which the Firm considers them to be suitable. The Firm may make such allocations among the accounts in any manner which it considers to be fair under the circumstances, including but not limited to allocations based on relative account sizes, the degree of risk involved in the securities acquired, and the extent to which a position in such securities is consistent with the investment policies and strategies of the various accounts involved.

**Rebalancing Cross Trades:** A cross trade is a trade in which securities are sold or purchased directly between two of the Firm's advisory clients, as opposed to the clients purchasing the securities on the open market. The benefits of a cross trade to the clients are the reduction of brokerage costs. Also, clients may save on market impact costs or adverse movements in the stock due to the trade if it is a large block trade. Custody costs and transfer taxes may also be saved.

Periodically, the Firm may seek to adjust or rebalance investment accounts or portfolios in a manner consistent with investment objectives and strategy by effecting cross trades between or among investment accounts. Rebalancing of an account is usually necessary as a result of cash inflows or outflows but can be necessitated by other factors, including but not limited to when two clients use the same trading strategy. In such cases, the Firm may use an omnibus account structure to implement the trading. The executions are allocated to the two-sub accounts based on a predetermined fixed ratio in a “pari passu” (i.e. average price) fashion. This predetermined ratio changes in proportion to the cash inflows and outflows from both accounts respectively. When the fixed ratio changes, the Firm rebalances positions in the two sub-accounts so that the new position amounts are consistent with the new allocation ratio.

In effecting such cross trades, the Firm seeks to reduce the transaction costs to its clients of such account adjustments. All such cross trades will be consistent with the investment objectives and policies of each investment account involved in the trades, and will be effected at the closing market price for the security for the day upon which the cross trade is executed. Investment accounts involved in such cross trades will not pay any brokerage commissions or mark ups in connection with the trades, but may pay customary transfer fees (i.e., aggregate ticket charges) that are assessed through any unaffiliated broker dealers through which the trades are affected.

The Firm does not receive any compensation, other than its advisory fees as a result of engaging in a cross trade. The Firm does not sell securities to clients nor does it purchase securities from clients.

## Directed Brokerage

Managed Account clients may instruct the Firm to execute any or all securities transactions for their account with or through one or more broker/dealers designated by the client. In these cases, the client is responsible for negotiating the terms and conditions (including, but not limited to, commission rates) relating to all services to be provided by the broker/dealers and the client is satisfied with the terms and conditions. The Firm has no responsibility for obtaining the best prices or any particular commission rates for transactions with or through the broker/dealer in these situations. The client recognizes that rates obtained may not be as low as the client might otherwise obtain if the Firm had discretion to select broker/dealers other than those chosen by the client. The client must notify the Firm in writing to cease executing transactions with or through the designated broker/dealer.

## ITEM 13: REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

All Funds and Managed Accounts are reviewed on a periodic basis by Robert Romero, portfolio manager, to assure conformity with client objectives and guidelines. In addition, all accounts are reviewed in light of emerging trends and developments as well as market volatility. Managed Account clients are responsible for keeping the Firm informed as to any changes in their personal financial condition. The Firm cannot make any material changes to a client’s portfolio if it is not informed of the client’s particular developments.

The calendar is the main triggering factor of a review of an account, although more frequent reviews may be also be triggered by changes in a client’s circumstances, client request, or unusual market activity. Clients (or investors) may be contacted periodically by the Firm to discuss the management and performance of their account or their investment in the Funds.

Managed Accounts receive reports showing daily transactions (on days trades are executed) by the Firm and statements by the qualified custodian holding the assets of the Managed Accounts.



Each investor in the Funds also will receive the following: (i) within 120 days of the calendar year-end of the Funds, investors shall receive GAAP-compliant audited financial statements; (ii) in the discretion of the Firm or an affiliate of the Firm, a periodic letter and/or report discussing the results of the accounts; (iii) copies of such investor's Schedule K-1 to the Funds' tax returns; and (iv) other reports as determined by the Firm or an affiliate of the Firm in its sole discretion.

#### **ITEM 14: CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION**

Except as set forth in Item 12 above, the Firm does not receive, from any non-client, any economic benefit associated with advising clients.

The Firm may use independent third party solicitors to refer clients and/or investors to the Funds and pay a portion of its advisory fees to such solicitors, in accordance with the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Firm may engage underwriters, brokers, dealers or finders to assist in the offering of interests in the Funds. Except for commissions on brokerage transactions (which will be paid by clients), the Firm will pay (and will not charge clients) fees and commissions that may be payable to any such brokers or finders for assisting in the offering or sale of interests. The Firm intends to comply with SEC Rule 206(4)-3 or similar state rules regarding client solicitation arrangements and/or state rules requiring registration of investment adviser representatives. Additionally, if the Firm hires a solicitor(s), they will be properly licensed.

#### **ITEM 15: CUSTODY**

The Firm maintains Client funds and securities at a qualified custodian. At no time does the Firm accept physical custody of assets of the Funds or Managed Accounts except for private investments & private paper warrants; however due to the nature of the Firm's relationship with the Funds, it is deemed by the regulators to have custody of Fund assets. As stated above in Item 13, Review of Accounts, the Firm's qualified custodian will send monthly account statements directly to Managed Accounts which should be carefully reviewed. Managed Accounts are urged to compare statements that are received from the qualified custodian to statements received directly from the Firm. Regarding the Funds, the Funds' auditor(s) (or the Firm) sends annual audited financial statement, prepared in accordance with GAAP, to investors in the Funds within 120 days after the Funds' calendar year end.

#### **ITEM 16: INVESTMENT DISCRETION**

The Firm has discretionary investment authority over client assets managed by the Firm.

Investors provide the Firm with discretionary authority as part of the subscription documents provided prior to the initial investment. Managed Account clients provide a limited power of attorney to the Firm when signing the investment advisory agreement.

All accounts are managed using the investment strategy described in the "Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss" section above. Managed Account clients may place reasonable restrictions on our investments upon prior agreement by the Firm.

## **ITEM 17: VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES**

The Firm monitors corporate actions of those securities it has purchased on behalf of its clients. Receipt of proxy materials is logged into a proxy control sheet. Proxy votes will generally be submitted electronically but may be submitted by mail. A record of the proxy votes cast will be made and retained by the Firm. Clients can obtain information on how the proxies were voted and a detailed description of the Firm's policies and procedures regarding proxy voting by requesting such information from the chief compliance officer.

The Firm understands and appreciates the importance of proxy voting. To the extent that the Firm has discretion to vote the proxies of its advisory clients, including the Funds, the Firm will vote any such proxies in the best interests of clients and the procedures outlined below. Managed Accounts do retain the right to direct a vote at their discretion on any and all solicitations. Managed Accounts also retain the option to receive all proxies directly from the custodian and vote directly; in these cases the Firm will provide guidance related to voting of a specific proxy upon client request.

In evaluating how to vote a proxy, the Firm will first determine whether there is a conflict of interest related to the proxy in question between the Firm and its clients. This examination will include (but will not be limited to) an evaluation of whether the Firm (or any affiliate of the Firm) has any relationship with the company (or an affiliate of the company) to which the proxy relates outside an investment in such company by a client of the Firm. If a conflict is identified and deemed "material" by the Firm, or a Proxy Voting Committee organized by the Firm, the Firm will determine whether voting in accordance with these proxy voting guidelines is in the best interests of affected clients (which may include utilizing an independent third party to vote such proxies). With respect to material conflicts, the Firm will determine whether it is appropriate to disclose the conflict to affected clients and give clients the opportunity to vote the proxies in question themselves, if applicable.

## **ITEM 18: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

We do not charge or solicit pre-payment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client six months or more in advance. We have never filed for bankruptcy and are not aware of any financial conditions that are reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations to clients.