

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2000
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) MERUELO GROUP LLC 9550 FIRESTONE BLVD SUITE 105 DOWNEY, CA 90241
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 90-1017707
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 562-745-2300
2d	Business code (see instructions) 551112

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/09/2024	CYNTHIA MARTINICA
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor		3b Administrator's EIN	
		3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name MERUELO GROUP LLC c Plan Name MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST		4b EIN 33-0877730 4d PN 001	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5	4315
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested			
		6a(1)	3047
		6a(2)	6026
		6b	62
		6c	3349
		6d	9437
		6e	12
		6f	9449
		6g(1)	3783
		6g(2)	3867
		6h	164
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....		7	
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2K 3H 2E 2J 2F 2G 2S 2T 3D b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:			
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)			
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (4) ☐ DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____ (5) ☐ MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☒ A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>1</u> (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☐ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500. ► Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERUELO GROUP LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 90-1017707	

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY					
(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
04-1590850	65935	777605-01	1697	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid 902	(b) Total amount of fees paid 0
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid	
CAPITAL SYNERGY PARTNERS	2860 MICHELLE DR STE 150 IRVINE, CA 92606

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
902			3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	10123335
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
 (3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ **GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**

b Balance at the end of the previous year**7b**

10303338

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

609384

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

0

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

290000

(4) Transferred from separate account.....

7c(4)

1011213

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

79507

▶ **LOAN PAYMENTS, FORFEITURES**

(6) Total additions.....

7c(6)

1990104

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)**7d**

12293442

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year

7e(1)

1621856

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

30828

(3) Transferred to separate account.....

7e(3)

517424

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

(5) Total deductions.....

7e(5)

2170108

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f**

10123334

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
 b ☐ Dental
 c ☐ Vision
 d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
 f ☐ Long-term disability
 g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
 h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
 j ☐ HMO contract
 k ☐ PPO contract
 l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	0
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERUELO GROUP LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 90-1017707	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64	RECORDKEEPER	118772	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MARILYN RYDING

PO BOX 6071
LAQUINTA, CA 92248

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
99	OTHER	54000	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

WINDES INC

111 W OCEAN BLVD 22ND FL
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
10	CONTRACT ADMIN	29000	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

TRUOG-RYDING COMPANY INC

2659 TOWNSGATE ROAD, STE 101
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16	CONSULTING	9000	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

CAPITAL SYNERGY PARTNERS

4400 MACARTHUR BLVD STE 850
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
55	BROKER/ADVISER	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	8675	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28	INVESTMENT MGMT	206	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
CAPITAL SYNERGY PARTNERS	55	8675
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY O 8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111	, OTHER COMMISSIONS	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	WINDES, INC.	b EIN:	95-3001179
c Position:	AUDIT FIRM		
d Address:	3780 KILROY AIRPORT WAY SUITE 600 LONG BEACH, CA 90806	e Telephone:	562-304-1343

Explanation: A COMPARABLE AUDIT FIRM PROVIDES SERVICES AT A LOWER COST

a Name:	BAKER TILLY US, LLP	b EIN:	39-0859910
c Position:	AUDITOR		
d Address:	11150 SANTA MONICA BLVD. SUITE 600 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025	e Telephone:	310-826-4474

Explanation: BAKER TILLY US, LLP COMPLETED A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ON JUNE 3, 2024, AND AS A RESULT HAS APPLIED FOR AND OBTAINED A NEW EIN. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN AUDIT FIRM.

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERUELO GROUP LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 90-1017707	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	1286794	1725333
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	76317698	97391771
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	10303338	10123334
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	87907830	109240438
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	87907830	109240438

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	2498096	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	12251562	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	238974	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		14988632
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	90401	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	290000	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		380401
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	6168689	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		6168689
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		8476903
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		30014625

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	8376273	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		8376273
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		1101
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		93665
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	29000	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	118772	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	206	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	0	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)	0	
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)	0	
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	63000	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		210978
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		8682017

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		21332608
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **BAKER TILLY US, LLP**

(2) EIN: **30-1413443**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	☒	☐	239675
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan MERUELO GROUP 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 MERUELO GROUP LLC		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 90-1017707
Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....		1 0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 84-1455663		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year		3
Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)	
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.		
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)		6a
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year		6b
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)		6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
Part III	Amendments	
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No		
Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ☐ Yes ☐ No		
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707		

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☒ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 11 / 14 / 2022 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702518A.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Financial Statements and
Supplementary Information

December 31, 2023 and 2022

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Plan Administrator of
Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 6 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP and Baker Tilly US, LLP, trading as Baker Tilly, are members of the global network of Baker Tilly International Ltd., the members of which are separate and independent legal entities. Baker Tilly US, LLP is a licensed CPA firm that provides assurance services to its clients. Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP and its subsidiary entities provide tax and consulting services to their clients and are not licensed CPA firms.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for at least one year following the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter — 2022 Financial Statement

Predecessor auditors performed an audit of the 2022 financial statements of Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust. In accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the prior year audit did not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan that were certified by a qualified institution. Their report dated indicated that (a) the amounts and disclosures in the 2022 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with financial reporting framework, and (b) the information in the 2022 financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C). Their report also indicated that the form and content of the 2022 supplemental schedules, other than the information in the 2022 supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, were presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA; and the information in the 2022 supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determines meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Other Matter — Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules, Schedule H, Line 4(a) - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023, and Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year), as of December 31, 2023, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Baker Tilly US, LLP

Los Angeles, California
October 4, 2024

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments		
Investments at fair value	\$ 97,391,771	\$ 76,317,698
Investments at contract value	10,123,334	10,303,338
Total investments	107,515,105	86,621,036
Receivables		
Participant contributions	1,656	139,648
Employer contributions	566,029	261,076
Notes receivable from participants	1,829,452	1,286,794
Total receivables	2,397,137	1,687,518
Total assets	109,912,242	88,308,554
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 109,912,242	\$ 88,308,554

See notes to financial statements

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions

Investment income

Interest and dividends	\$ 6,458,689
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	8,476,903

Total investment income	14,935,592
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Contributions

Participant contributions	12,113,570
Employer contributions	2,803,049
Rollovers	238,974

Total contributions	15,155,593
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Interest income on notes receivable from participants	90,401
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Total additions	30,181,586
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Deductions

Benefits paid to participants	8,366,920
Administrative expenses	210,978

Total deductions	8,577,898
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Net increase	21,603,688
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Net assets available for benefits Beginning of year	88,308,554
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End of year	\$ 109,912,242
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See notes to financial statements

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established effective January 1, 2000, as restated April 1, 2022. The Plan covers all employees, excluding collective bargaining (union) employees, non-resident aliens, and residents of Puerto Rico, of Meruelo Group, LLC (the Company and adopting affiliated employers) who have completed six months of service and are age 21 or older. The Plan requires a participant to be employed as of quarter-end in the quarter in which they receive the employer match contribution. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). The Plan Administrative Committee is responsible for oversight of the Plan. The Plan's Investment Advisors determine the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings, monitor investment performance, and report to the Plan Administrative Committee.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute a percentage of pretax annual compensation, as defined in the plan document, up to the maximum limits of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Participants also may designate all or a portion of their deferral contributions as after-tax contributions into a Roth account. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants also may contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans (rollover). Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan includes an automatic enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 3% of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a designated balanced fund until changed by the participant. Automatically enrolled participants will have their deferral rate increase by 1% on the anniversary of their enrollment date until their deferral rate reaches 6%. The Company and adopting affiliated employers may make discretionary matching contributions of 25%, up to \$5,625 maximum, of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan. Additional discretionary amounts may be contributed by the Company and adopting affiliated employers at the option of the Plan Administrative Committee. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company and adopting affiliated employers approved a \$2,781,548 discretionary contribution to the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Company and adopting affiliated employers' discretionary contributions and an allocation of the Plan's earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company and adopting affiliated employers' contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 20% vested after one year of credited service and continues to vest in increments of 20% until 100% vested after five years of credited service.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Notes Receivable From Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The interest rate for new loans, determined daily, is set at 1% above the prime rate, as defined. Principal and interest are paid ratably through bi-weekly payroll deductions. Terms range from one to five years.

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant may elect to receive either a lump sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or installment payments as provided in the plan document. For termination of service due to other reasons, a participant may receive the value of the vested interest in his or her account as a lump sum distribution. If a terminated participant's vested balance is less than or equal to \$5,000, the amount may be automatically distributed in the form of lump sum cash payment. In addition, the Plan allows for hardship distributions if certain criteria are met.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$344,204 and \$58,352, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce future employer contributions or to pay plan administrative expenses. During 2023, employer contributions were reduced by \$28,597, from forfeited nonvested accounts, in accordance with plan provisions.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Investment Advisors determine the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians and insurance company, as applicable. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

The Plan's investment in fully benefit-responsive investment contract are reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for the portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable From Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed as incurred.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Company and adopting affiliated employers. Expenses that are paid by the Company and adopting affiliated employers are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants and distributions are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in the fair value of investments.

Recent Regulatory Updates

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) 2.0 Act of 2022 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. This legislation includes a vast array of provisional changes to retirement plans, becoming effective in 2023 and beyond. Plan management adopted mandatory provisions effective for the year ended December 31, 2023. Plan management is evaluating the impact of SECURE 2.0 and awaiting additional regulatory guidance from the IRS and the Department of Labor. The application of SECURE 2.0 Act did not have a material effect on the Plan's financial statements. The Plan will be amended to reflect any changes made in response to SECURE 2.0 prior to the deadline set by law or applicable regulations.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events were evaluated through October 4, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under authoritative guidance are described as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observables and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total
Mutual funds	\$ 97,391,771	\$	-	\$	-	\$	\$ 97,391,771
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	97,391,771		-		-		97,391,771
Total investments at fair value	\$ 97,391,771	\$	-	\$	-	\$	\$ 97,391,771

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total
Mutual funds	\$ 76,317,698	\$	-	\$	-	\$	\$ 76,317,698
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	76,317,698		-		-		76,317,698
Total investments at fair value	\$ 76,317,698	\$	-	\$	-	\$	\$ 76,317,698

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

4. Concentrations

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan had investments of \$39,975,870 and \$44,407,775, respectively, concentrated in three and four funds, respectively, which individually exceeded 10% of net assets available for benefits.

5. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts

The Plan holds a traditional fully benefit-responsive guaranteed investment contract with Empower through a Stable Value Account Guaranteed Investment Contract (SAGIC) investment option. The SAGIC is a collective bond fund reported as a fully benefit-responsive contract that is managed by Empower and holds as its principal investment the Empower Diversified Bond II. The objective of the SAGIC is to provide a stated rate of return, generated from investment in a diversified portfolio of primary investment-grade fixed income securities. Empower serves as the trustee and custodian for the SAGIC. Great West Capital Management serves as the investment advisor. There are no restrictions on redemptions for the SAGIC, but transfers to competing fixed income investments are not allowed.

This contract meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value, as reported to the Plan by the sponsoring trustee, represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals, and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

The traditional investment contract held by the Plan is a guaranteed investment contract. The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and interest at the specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting rate is based on a formula established by the contract issuer but may not be less than 0%. The crediting rate is reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting. The contract cannot be terminated before the scheduled maturity date.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due is dependent on the issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. These events may be different under each contract. Such events include (1) amendments to the plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA, or (5) premature termination of the contract.

No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

In addition, certain events allow the issuer to terminate the contract with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value. These events may be different under each contract. Such events include (1) an uncured violation of the Plan's investment guidelines, (2) a breach of material obligation under the contract, (3) a material misrepresentation, or (4) a material amendment to the agreement without the consent of the issuer.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

6. Information Certified by Trustee

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA for 2023 and 2022. Accordingly, Empower Trust Company, LLC, the Trustee of the Plan, has certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments and notes receivable from participants reported in the accompanying Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the supplemental Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023, and the related investment activities and interest income on notes receivable from participants reported in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023.

7. Related-Party and Party in Interest Transactions

Certain plan investments are managed by Empower Trust Company, LLC, the Trustee, and therefore, these transactions qualify as party in interest transactions.

Additionally, the Plan issues loans to participants, which are secured by the participant's account balances. These transactions qualify as party in interest transactions.

Certain administrative functions of the Plan are performed by officers or employees of the Company and adopting affiliated employers. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

8. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company and adopting affiliated employers have the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

9. Tax Status

The Plan adopted a pre-approved plan offered by Empower Retirement, LLC. The pre-approved plan received an IRS Opinion Letter dated November 14, 2022, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the IRS Opinion Letter, the Plan Administrator believes that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and, therefore believes that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax exempt.

Plan management is required to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

10. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

11. Delinquent Participant Contributions

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company and adopting affiliated employers did not remit certain participant contributions to the Plan on a timely basis as defined by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Untimely remittances identified on the Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions totaled \$239,675. The Plan will be compensating participants for lost earnings resulting from the delay in contributions.

Additionally, during the year ended December 31, 2022, certain employee contributions to the Plan were also not remitted on a timely basis. The total amount of these late remittances was \$933,475, and were corrected in 2023.

12. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022, to Form 5500:

Description	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 109,912,242	\$ 88,308,554
Less: current year employee contributions receivable	(1,656)	(139,648)
Less: current year employer contributions receivable	(566,029)	(261,076)
Less: current year deemed distributions	(104,119)	-
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ 109,240,438	\$ 87,907,830

The following is a reconciliation of the increase in net assets per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, to Form 5500:

Increase in net assets per the financial statements	\$ 21,603,688
Plus prior year employer contributions receivable	261,076
Less current year employer contributions receivable	(566,029)
Plus prior year employee contributions receivable	139,648
Less current year employee contributions receivable	(1,656)
Less current year deemed distributions	(104,119)
Increase in net assets per Form 5500	\$ 21,332,608

The following is a reconciliation of the notes receivable from participants per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 to Form 5500:

Notes receivable from participants per the financial statements	\$ 1,829,452
Less adjustment for deemed loans	(104,119)
Notes receivable from participants per Form 5500	\$ 1,725,333

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Deemed distributions occur when payment schedules do not meet the time of payment requirements or go into default when payments are not made; each of these failures, and other issues, will cause the loan (or a portion of the loan) to become a deemed distribution for tax purposes. On the Form 5500, the Plan Administrator presents delinquent participant loans that have been deemed distributed during the Plan year as an expense if, as of the Plan year, the participant is not continuing to make payments under the loan. In the financial statements, however, the Plan reports delinquent loans for active participant loans since no distributable event occurred in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Schedule H, Line 4(a) - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

EIN: 90-1017707 Plan Number: 001

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total That Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions						
Input	Participant Contributions Transferred Late to the Plan (1)	Contributions not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside of VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51	
2023	\$ 239,675	\$ 239,675	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
2022	933,475	-	933,475	-		-
	\$ 1,173,150	\$ 239,675	\$ 933,475	\$ -	\$	-

(1) Amount includes participant loan repayments.

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 90-1017707 Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
Mutual Funds				
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2025	N/R	\$ 14,442,009
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2030	N/R	13,316,264
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2035	N/R	12,217,597
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2040	N/R	8,661,881
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2020	N/R	7,039,673
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2045	N/R	6,415,889
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2050	N/R	5,968,778
	BlackRock	iShares S&P 500 Index K	N/R	5,069,035
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2055	N/R	3,899,273
	Vanguard	Vanguard Growth Index Admiral	N/R	3,037,167
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2060	N/R	2,815,343
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2015	N/R	2,468,789
	Vanguard	Vanguard Value Index Admiral	N/R	936,926
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2010	N/R	924,243
	Vanguard	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Admiral	N/R	919,473
	JP Morgan	JPMorgan US Equity R6	N/R	731,196
	Vanguard	Vanguard Balanced Index Admiral	N/R	680,566
	MassMutual	MassMutual Blue Chip Growth	N/R	616,195
	Vanguard	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Admiral	N/R	613,750
	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid-Cap Value Index Admiral	N/R	472,214
	Fidelity	Fidelity Inflation Protected Bond Index	N/R	394,715
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Value Index Admiral	N/R	392,811
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Admiral	N/R	389,252
	Hartford	Hartford Schroders International Stock	N/R	358,032
	American Funds	American Funds Europacific Growth R6	N/R	339,151
	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid-Cap Growth Index Admiral	N/R	321,335
	American Funds	American Funds Bond Fund of America R6	N/R	295,102
	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral	N/R	287,141
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Growth Index Admiral	N/R	263,175
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement 2005	N/R	247,367
	Thornburg	Thornburg Strategic Income R6	N/R	242,451
	JP Morgan	JPMorgan Small-Cap Growth R6	N/R	229,213
	DFA Global	DFA Global Real Estate Securities	N/R	226,869
	American Funds	American Funds New World R6	N/R	211,914
	American Funds	American Funds Capital World Bond R6	N/R	209,858
	PGIM	PGIM High-Yield R6	N/R	205,326
	American Funds	American Funds Washington Mutual R6	N/R	201,306

Meruelo Group 401(k) Plan and Trust

Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 90-1017707 Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	MassMutual	MassMutual Mid-Cap Growth	N/R	\$ 152,552
	Vanguard	Vanguard Lifestrategy Growth Inv	N/R	145,779
	American Funds	American Funds Small-Cap World R6	N/R	131,291
	Vanguard	Vanguard Lifestrategy Moderate Growth	N/R	129,161
	MassMutual	MassMutual US Government Money Market Fd	N/R	127,136
	American Funds	American Funds Preservation Port R6	N/R	126,819
	MassMutual	MassMutual Small-Cap Opportunity	N/R	120,026
	MassMutual	MassMutual Select Trp Retirement Balanced	N/R	114,906
	Invesco	Invesco Main Street Mid-Cap R6	N/R	81,781
	Vanguard	Vanguard Lifestrategy Conservative Growth Inv	N/R	81,221
	MFS	MFS Mid-Cap Value R6	N/R	79,671
	Franklin	Franklin Small-Cap Value R6	N/R	37,393
	Vanguard	Vanguard Lifestrategy Income Inv	N/R	2,756
		Total mutual funds		97,391,771
Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts				
*	SAGIC Diversified Bond II	Guaranteed Interest Contract	N/R	10,123,334
Participant Loans				
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates: 4.25% - 8.25%	\$0	1,725,333
				\$ 109,240,438

*A party in interest as defined by ERISA

N/R - cost omitted for participant directed investments

INVESTMENT OPTION	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	COST OF ASSETS	CURRENT VALUE
1MMFBX			242,486.51	247,367.47
1MMXBX			927,072.74	924,242.81
1MMFHX			2,486,826.78	2,468,789.26
1MMTWX			7,197,730.89	7,039,673.41
1MMTFX			14,851,244.84	14,442,009.13
1MMTRX			13,683,987.31	13,316,264.38
1MMTJX			12,335,802.45	12,217,597.08
1MMFOX			8,719,146.39	8,661,881.29
1MMFTX			6,377,278.62	6,415,889.08
1MMDDX			5,932,524.84	5,968,777.63
1MMDJX			3,827,573.08	3,899,272.93
1MMSKX			2,701,787.79	2,815,342.66
1MMBVX			113,803.11	114,906.22
1RERGX			299,870.54	339,150.50
1RNWGX			185,442.66	211,913.67
1RLLGX			113,272.95	131,290.72
1SCIJX			315,334.86	358,031.77
1VTIAX			812,333.03	919,473.52
1DFGEX			215,423.30	226,868.92
1FRCSX			35,338.66	37,392.65
1JGSNX			208,704.83	229,212.80
1MSOOX			109,834.94	120,026.49
1VSGAX			230,751.77	263,175.30
1VSMAX			353,220.86	389,251.57
1VSIAX			356,201.79	392,810.52
1MEFZX			148,175.51	152,552.37
1MVCKX			75,003.50	79,671.00
1OPMIX			74,152.61	81,781.45
1VMGMX			273,059.20	321,334.61
1VIMAX			262,329.55	287,141.40
1VMVAX			438,048.07	472,213.85
1RWMGX			185,569.38	201,306.43
1WFSPX			4,346,224.06	5,069,034.86
1JUEMX			631,415.41	731,195.80
1MBCZX			626,744.84	616,194.90
1VIGAX			2,319,285.57	3,037,167.40
1VASGX			130,360.05	145,778.69
1VVIAX			875,498.43	936,926.33
1VBIAX			638,763.35	680,566.21
1VSCGX			76,059.27	81,221.30
1VSMGX			120,693.77	129,161.07
1VASIX			2,633.78	2,755.60
1RFBGX			285,106.11	295,101.62
1RCWGX			196,461.31	209,858.21
1RPPGX			125,382.17	126,818.57
1FIPDX			408,920.12	394,715.36
1PHYQX			196,878.91	205,325.79
1TSRSX			235,421.38	242,451.01
1VBT LX			595,173.82	613,749.90
1SGVNQ0		3.300	9,589,515.43	9,906,266.23
			105,489,871.14	107,170,901.74

INVESTMENT OPTION	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	COST OF ASSETS	CURRENT VALUE
PARTICIPANT LOANS	VARIOUS	4.250-9.500	1,724,281.58	1,725,332.15
FORFEITURES			341,200.10	344,203.93

Attachment to Form 5500, Schedule H, Part 4, Item I
EIN # 901017707

LEGEND

INVESTMENT OPTION:

IMMFBX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2005 I
IMMFHX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2015 I
IMMTFX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2025 I
IMMTJX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2035 I
IMMFTX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2045 I
IMMDJX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2055 I
IMMBVX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement Bal I
IRNWGX	American Funds New World R6
ISCIUX	Hartford Schroders International Stk SDR
IDFGEX	DFA Global Real Estate Securities
IJGSMX	JPMorgan Small Cap Growth R6
IVSGAX	Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index Admiral
IVSIAX	Vanguard Small Cap Value Index Admiral
IMVCKX	MFS Mid Cap Value R6
IVMGMX	Vanguard Mid-Cap Growth Index Admiral
IVMVAX	Vanguard Mid-Cap Value Index Admiral
IWFSPX	iShares S&P 500 Index K
IMBCZX	MassMutual Blue Chip Growth I
IVASGX	Vanguard LifeStrategy Growth Inv
IVBIAX	Vanguard Balanced Index Adm
IVSMGX	Vanguard LifeStrategy Moderate Growth
IRBFGX	American Funds Bond Fund of Amer R6
IRPPGX	American Funds Preservation Port R-6
IPHYQX	PGIM High-Yield R6
IVBTIX	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Admiral

IMMXXBX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2010 I
IMMTWX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2020 I
IMMTRX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2030 I
IMMFOX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2040 I
IMMDDX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2050 I
IMMSKX	MassMutual Select TRP Retirement 2060 I
IRERGX	American Funds EuroPacific Gr R6
IRLLGX	American Funds SMALLCAP World R6
IVTIAX	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Admiral
IFRCSX	Franklin Small Cap Value R6
IMSOOX	MassMutual Small Cap Opportun I
IVSMAX	Vanguard Small Cap Index Adm
IMEFZX	MassMutual Mid Cap Growth I
IOPMIX	Invesco Main Street Mid Cap R6
IVIMAX	Vanguard Mid Cap Index Fund - Admiral
IRWMGX	American Funds Washington Mutual R6
IJUEMX	JPMorgan US Equity R6
IVIGAX	Vanguard Growth Index Adm
IVVIAX	Vanguard Value Index Adm
IVSCGX	Vanguard LifeStrategy Cnsrv Gr Inv
IVASIX	Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Inv
IRCWGX	American Funds Capital World Bond R6
IFIPDX	Fidelity Inflation Protected Bond Index
ITSRSX	Thornburg Strategic Income R6
ISGVNQ0	SAGIC Diversified Bond II

COST OF ASSETS: The original cost of the assets in each investment option as of the last day of the plan year
CURRENT VALUE: The value of all assets in each investment option as of the last day of the plan year