

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2023 and ending 09/30/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan... [X] a single-employer plan [] a DFE (specify)
B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report [] an amended return/report [] a short plan year return/report...
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here... []
D Check box if filing under: [X] Form 5558 [] automatic extension [] the DFVC program [] special extension...
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: PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 10/01/2017
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 94-1424927
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 510-839-0150
2d Business code (see instructions): 424400

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2023) v. 230707

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	133
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)	54
	6a(2)	49
	6b	17
	6c	74
	6d	140
	6e	0
	6f	140
	6g(1)	146
6g(2)	140	
6h	2	
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:
2E 2I 2P 2Q 3I

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)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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 0
 - (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 H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2023 and ending 09/30/2024	
A Name of plan PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 94-1424927

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.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	261
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	171511	140999
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	408330	582283
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	12123140	12865800
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	12702981	13589343
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	4059
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	4995068	4739968
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	4995068	4744027
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	7707913	8845316

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)	1115794	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1115794
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	7999	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		7999
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	16287	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)		16287
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(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)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	742660	
(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)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		55844
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		1938584

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	648915	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		648915
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		152266
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances.....	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		801181

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1137403
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: **COMYNS, SMITH, MCCLEARY & DEEVER LL**

(2) EIN: **68-0307221**

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.)		X	
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.).....		X	
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.)		X	
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.).....		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?.....	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
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?		X	
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?.....		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.).....	X		
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.).....		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.).....		X	
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) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2023 and ending 09/30/2024

A Name of plan <u>PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>94-1424927</u>	

Part I	Distributions
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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	<u>0</u>
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): <u>75-3182674</u>		
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.)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Part III	Amendments
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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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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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.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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

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 ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

**PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**Financial Statements and
Supplemental Schedule
as of and for the Year Ended
September 30, 2024
and
Independent Auditor's Report**

Audited by:
Comyns, Smith, McCleary & Deaver LLP
Certified Public Accountants
1777 Botelho Drive, Suite 350
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Telephone (925) 299-1040

**PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP
PLAN**

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Partners:
John R. Comyns
Steven P. Smith
Dan K. Deaver
James B. Wolf
Brent M. Baxter
Andrew M. Porter
David C. Christy
Mark A. Trammell
Miriam J. Chiappetta
Stefan M. Foushée
David B. McCleary (1954-1996)



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustee of the
Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Oakland, California

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), which comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of September 30, 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our 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.

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 the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

(continued)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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 auditor's 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 Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership 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 Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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.

(continued)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held At End Of Year) as of September 30, 2024 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor'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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit 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.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

CSMD, LLP

July 7, 2025

Financial Statements

PARMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS:			
Investments, at fair value:			
Mutual funds	\$ 582,283	\$ -	\$ 582,283
Money market fund	140,999	-	140,999
Paramount Export Company common stock	<u>8,527,457</u>	<u>4,338,343</u>	<u>12,865,800</u>
Total investments, at fair value	9,250,739	4,338,343	13,589,082
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>261</u>
Total assets	<u>9,251,000</u>	<u>4,338,343</u>	<u>13,589,343</u>
LIABILITIES:			
Distributions payable	4,059	-	4,059
Note payable	<u>-</u>	<u>4,739,968</u>	<u>4,739,968</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,059</u>	<u>4,739,968</u>	<u>4,744,027</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 9,246,941</u>	<u>\$ (401,625)</u>	<u>\$ 8,845,316</u>

See notes to financial statements.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:			
Investment income:			
Interest and dividend income	\$ 24,286	\$ -	\$ 24,286
Net appreciation in fair value of mutual fund and money market fund investments	55,844	-	55,844
Net appreciation in fair value of Paramount Export Company common stock	427,575	315,085	742,660
Allocation of 23,353.6027 shares of Paramount Export Company common stock, at fair value	<u>287,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>287,249</u>
Total investment income	794,954	315,085	1,110,039
Employer contributions	<u>1,115,794</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,115,794</u>
Total additions	<u>1,910,748</u>	<u>315,085</u>	<u>2,225,833</u>
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:			
Allocation of 23,353.6027 shares of Paramount Export Company common stock, at fair value	-	287,249	287,249
Benefits paid to participants	648,915	-	648,915
Interest expense	<u>-</u>	<u>152,266</u>	<u>152,266</u>
Total deductions	<u>648,915</u>	<u>439,515</u>	<u>1,088,430</u>
NET INCREASE	1,261,833	(124,430)	1,137,403
Transfer for debt service	(407,366)	407,366	-
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:			
Beginning of the year	<u>8,392,474</u>	<u>(684,561)</u>	<u>7,707,913</u>
End of the year	<u>\$ 9,246,941</u>	<u>\$ (401,625)</u>	<u>\$ 8,845,316</u>

See notes to financial statements.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following description of the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Paramount Export Company (the "Company") adopted the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") effective October 1, 2017. Certain assets were transferred from the Company's prior defined contribution plan, which was restated October 1, 2017, and is now known as the Paramount Export Company Profit Sharing and 401(k) Plan, formerly the Paramount Export Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan, that was either invested in the common stock of the Company or consisted of employer contributions that were not subject to investment direction by the participants. The Plan is a stock bonus plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") and is intended to qualify as an employee stock ownership plan ("ESOP") as defined in Section 4975(e)(7) of the IRC, subject to the Section 407(d)(6) and other provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended.

On January 28, 2020, the Plan executed amendments to conform to requested modifications by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") as a condition to the issuance of a determination letter. The adoption of these modifications did not have an impact on the Plan's financial statements and are effective beginning October 1, 2017. The Plan was also amended in 2020 to conform to certain tax law changes.

Non-union employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate in the Plan provided they have attained the age of eighteen and have satisfied a minimum of one year of service, during which they complete at least 1,000 hours of service during the 12-month period, starting from the employment date. Entry dates are October 1 and April 1 coinciding with or immediately subsequent to satisfaction of age and service eligibility requirements.

On April 30, 2018, the Plan purchased 562,500 shares of Company's common stock from existing shareholders using proceeds from a loan from Paramount Export Company and holds the common stock in a trust established under the Plan. The common stock was purchased at a price of \$12.50 per share for a purchase price of \$7,031,250. The Plan used existing cash assets in the amount of \$653,750 to purchase 52,300 shares and a loan from the Company to the trust in the amount of \$6,377,500 to purchase the remaining shares. The loan is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock. The lender has no rights against the shares of common stock once they are allocated to participants in accordance with the terms of the Plan. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

- the accounts of employees with rights in allocated common stock (allocated), and
- common stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Basis of Accounting – The accounting records of the Plan are maintained on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”).

Administration – The Company is the Plan Administrator and an independent third party acts as Trustee of the Plan. The Plan is administered by a Plan Trustee (“Trustee”) and an administrative committee comprising certain members of management appointed by the Company’s Board of Directors. The trust department of an independent third-party bank acts as plan custodian.

Payment of Benefits – Benefits, which include rollover transfers to other plans, are recorded when authorized by the Plan. Upon termination of employment, benefits are paid as follows:

If a participant terminates service due to retirement, death or disability, the participant’s vested account balance, if consisting of accounts other than Company stock, will be paid to the participant as soon as administratively practical following the close of the Plan year in which such termination occurs. If a participant terminates service due to retirement, death or disability, the participant’s vested account balance, if consisting of Company stock, will be paid to the participant at the time and in the manner determined by the Company and will be distributable in cash, unless the participant elects, within a reasonable period following notice by the Company, to have all or any portion of the account balance distributed in a direct rollover to an eligible retirement plan specified by the participant.

If a participant terminates service due to reasons other than retirement, death or disability, the participant’s vested account balance, if consisting of accounts other than Company stock, will be paid to the participant as soon as administratively practical following the later of (a) the participant’s, or beneficiary’s, as applicable, election to receive a distribution and (b) the date on which the participant reaches age 62, unless the participant elects, within a reasonable period following notice by the Company, to have the account balance distributed in a direct rollover to an eligible retirement plan specified by the participant. If a participant terminates service due to reasons other than retirement, death or disability, the participant’s vested account balance, if consisting of Company stock, will be paid to the participant at the time and in the manner determined by the Company and will be distributable, until the participant reaches age 62, in cash, unless the participant elects, within a reasonable period following notice by the Company, to have all or any portion distributed in a direct rollover to an eligible retirement plan specified by the participant.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

If a participant terminates service for any reason and has a vested account balance of \$1,000 or less, benefits will be paid in a single lump sum as soon as administratively practicable. If a participant terminates service due to any reason and has a vested account balance greater than \$1,000 and less than \$5,000, benefits will be paid in the form of an automatic rollover to an individual retirement account designated by the Company, unless the participant elects to have benefits paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the participant.

For as long as the Company's charter or bylaws restrict ownership of substantially all outstanding Company stock to employees or to a trust under 401(a), or the Company has elected to be treated as an S Corporation as defined in 1361(a)(1), distribution of participant account balances may be made entirely in cash and participants may not demand distribution of their account balances in the form of Company stock. Company stock may be distributed by the Trustee subject to the requirement that such Company stock will be immediately resold to the Company or to the trust. Any distributions made in the form of Company stock will be made in the form of whole shares of Company stock with the value of any fractional shares paid in cash.

Investments – Mutual fund and money market fund investments of the Plan are held by the Plan's custodian and are invested based solely upon instructions from the Trustee. Mutual fund and money market fund investments are valued at fair market value based on quoted market prices on an established exchange as of the last day of the Plan year. The Plan's investment in Paramount Export Company common stock is held in custody by an institutional custodian and is valued at fair value as of September 30 each year as determined by an independent third-party appraisal.

The Plan follows the guidance of U.S. GAAP for measuring fair value of investments. Those principles establish a framework for measurement of fair value and provide 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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

The three Levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

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.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include 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; and 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 two 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's 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 used should maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The Plan's method of valuing investments may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values.

The Plan's investments in mutual funds and a money market fund are classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy of U.S. GAAP.

The Plan's investment in Paramount Export Company common stock is classified as Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy of U.S. GAAP and is determined based on an independent appraisal, relying on: (1) the pertinent regulations and principles promulgated by the IRS; (2) a thorough analysis of the Company's financial statements, forecasts and other information; (3) thorough discussions with management; (4) analysis of the relevant industry conditions; and other factors. While the Plan's management believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

The following table sets forth, within the fair value hierarchy of U.S. GAAP, the Plan's assets at fair value as of September 30, 2024:

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Level 1:</u>			
Mutual funds	\$ 582,283	\$ -	\$ 582,283
Money market fund	140,999	-	140,999
	<u>723,282</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>723,282</u>
<u>Level 3:</u>			
Investment in Paramount Export Company common stock, at fair value:			
Number of shares	693,289	352,711	1,046,000
Value per share	<u>\$ 12.30</u>	<u>\$ 12.30</u>	<u>\$ 12.30</u>
Market value	<u>8,527,457</u>	<u>4,338,343</u>	<u>12,865,800</u>
Total investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 9,250,739</u>	<u>\$ 4,338,343</u>	<u>\$ 13,589,082</u>

Investment Income – Realized gains or losses on investment transactions are recorded as the difference between the proceeds received and the fair value of the investment at the beginning of the Plan year, or cost if acquired during the Plan year. In accordance with the Plan's policy of stating investments at fair value, net unrealized appreciation or depreciation is included in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits in the period in which the market change occurs. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest and dividend income is recorded when received.

Voting Rights – Shares of the Company common stock in trust shall be voted by the Trustee in accordance with instructions from the Plan's administrative committee. With respect to any corporate matter which involves the voting of Company common stock held in trust at a stockholder meeting and which constitutes a merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, liquidation, dissolution, sale of substantially all assets of a trade or business or a similar transaction specified in regulations under Section 409(e)(3) of the IRC, participants and beneficiaries are entitled to give the Trustee confidential instructions as to the voting of shares of Company stock attributable to the shares allocated to the participant account. If voting instructions have not been given, participant stock accounts will be voted by the Trustee. The Trustee shall also vote any unallocated shares on behalf of and in the collective best interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries.

Participant Contributions – No participants contributions are permitted.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Employer Contributions – The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest on its acquisition note payable (Note 4). In addition, the Company may make contributions as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. For the Plan year ending September 30, 2024, the fair value of the shares released from suspense exceeded the safe harbor contribution, therefore, no cash contribution from the Plan Sponsor was required, however, the Plan Sponsor made an additional contribution of \$708,428 to the Plan during the Plan year ended September 30, 2024, to satisfy cash needed for liquidity purposes.

Participant Accounts – Under the terms of the Plan, a Company Stock Account and Other Investments Accounts shall be maintained to reflect the plan interest of each participant. Participants are eligible to receive an employer contribution consisting of an annual allocation of shares of Company stock, if they have completed at least 1,000 hours of service and are employed on the last day of the plan year. Participants are also eligible to receive an employer contribution consisting of a safe harbor contribution equal to 3% of covered compensation, if participating in the Plan during the Plan year, regardless of hours worked during the Plan year or employed on the last day of such Plan year.

Each eligible participant's Company Stock Account will be credited annually with allocations of employer contributions in the form of the Company's stock, forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested Company Stock Account balances, and stock dividends on Company stock. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company (or on Approved Absence) as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation of shares of Company stock. Qualified participants, participants having at least six years of participation, may elect to diversify a portion of their Company Stock Account.

Each participant's Other Investments Account will be credited annually with allocations of any non-Company stock employer contributions, forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested Other Investments Account balances, cash dividends received on Company stock, other investment earnings and reduced by allocations of cash purchases of Company stock, acquisition loan repayments and administrative expenses.

Plan earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's beginning account balance as of the immediately prior valuation date to the beginning account balances of all participants as of the immediately prior valuation date.

The benefit to which a participant is entitled is limited to the benefit that may be provided from the participant's vested account balances.

Administrative Expenses – All reasonable expenses of administering the Plan may be paid out of the Plan assets or directly by the Company. During the year ended September 30, 2024, Plan expenses were paid by the Company.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Forfeited Accounts – Non-vested portions of participant accounts, if any, are forfeited upon a one-year break in service following the participant's termination of employment and are reallocated to the accounts of the remaining participants at that time. There were no unallocated forfeitures at September 30, 2024. During the year ended September 30, 2024, \$4,532 of forfeitures were allocated to Plan participants.

Vesting – Participants are fully vested at all times in their safe harbor contributions and related earnings thereon. Upon termination of employment for reasons other than retirement, disability or death, employer contributions vest based on years of service. Participants do not become vested in employer contributions until they have completed two years of service and contributed at least 1,000 hours of service during each of the two plan years and become fully vested in employer contributions ratably over a six-year period.

Plan Termination and Modification – The Company intends to continue the Plan indefinitely for the benefit of its employees. However, it reserves the right to terminate or modify the Plan at any time by resolution of its Board of Directors and subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event the Plan is terminated in the future, participants would become fully vested in their accounts and the Plan's administrative committee would direct the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the Plan and to sell the shares of financed common stock held as collateral to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to prepay the acquisition note payable. Subsequently, the interest of each participant in the trust fund would be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the terms of the Plan and ERISA.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Subsequent Events – The Company evaluates events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date but before the financial statements are available to be issued for potential recognition or disclosure. The financial statements include all subsequent events considered necessary for a fair presentation. For the purposes of the accompanying financial statements, subsequent events have been evaluated through July 7, 2025, which represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

2. INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan's determination letter from the IRS is pending as of September 30, 2024. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and operated in compliance with all applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

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

3. INVESTMENT IN COMPANY COMMON STOCK

The Plan's investment in the Company's common stock is valued at fair value as determined by an independent third-party appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques. Observable inputs related to market valuation techniques included revenue and Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization ("EBITDA") multiples and discounts for lack of marketability and control (minority interest). Observable inputs for income techniques included EBITDA, net income, weighted average cost of capital, and discount rates. The valuation methodologies used to value the Plan's investment in Company stock were consistent during the year.

The valuation process involves the selection of an independent appraiser. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from historical and projected financial information of the Company. The appraiser prepares a report of estimated per share value that a participant will receive upon distribution. Prior to approval and acceptance, the Plan's administrative committee reviews the appraiser's report in sufficient detail for accuracy and reasonableness and enlists the assistance of independent experienced professionals when deemed necessary.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan's management believes the valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

4. NOTE PAYABLE

On April 30, 2018, the Plan borrowed \$6,377,500 for the purchase of its investment in the Company common stock from Paramount Export Company in exchange for a promissory note payable. The Plan used existing cash assets of \$653,750 from the transaction to purchase 52,300 shares of Company common stock and financed the remaining \$6,377,500 to purchase the remaining 510,200 shares of Company common stock. The note is payable in annual principal installments of \$255,100 with interest accruing at an annual rate of 3.04% through maturity on September 30, 2043.

Unallocated shares of Company common stock held by the Plan serve as collateral for the acquisition loan and is guaranteed by the Company. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of principal and interest are made. The number of shares released in any year is the number of shares held as collateral, times the ratio of current year principal and interest payments divided by the total amount of principal and interest payments made in the current and future years. 23,353.6027 shares were released and allocated during the year ended September 30, 2024.

Future minimum principal payments on the acquisition note payable at September 30, 2024, are as follows:

2025	\$	255,100
2026		255,100
2027		255,100
2028		255,100
2029		255,100
thereafter		3,464,468
	\$	<u>4,739,968</u>

5. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan's investment in the common stock of the Company is exposed to various risks, such as marketability, market fluctuations and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with the Company's common stock, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in circumstances in the near term would materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Plan holds an investment in the common stock of the Company and Plan Sponsor. Any purchases and sales of these shares are made at estimated fair market value as determined by the most recent independent appraisal of the Company's common stock. Such transactions, while considered party-in-interest transactions under ERISA regulations, are permitted under the provisions of the Plan and are specifically exempt from the prohibition of party-in-interest transactions under ERISA. The Plan made principal and interest payments to the Company during the year ended September 30, 2024, totaling \$407,366.

FORM 5500

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

PARMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
(EIN: 94-1424927, PLAN #002)

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

a	b	c	d	e
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of investment, including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, and par or maturity value	Cost	Current Value
Mutual Funds				
	American Funds New Perspective R6	4,890 shares	\$ 305,810	\$ 323,232
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Inv	6,804 shares	205,282	200,170
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Inv	19 shares	361	380
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Inv	336 shares	7,963	8,440
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Inv	90 shares	3,816	4,053
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Inv	1,010 shares	25,604	31,134
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Inv	93 shares	3,807	4,793
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Inv	175 shares	8,005	10,081
	Total Mutual Funds			<u>582,283</u>
Money Market Fund				
	Vanguard Money Market Fund	140,999 shares	140,999	140,999
Common Stock				
*	Paramount Export Company common stock	1,046,000 shares	12,489,617	<u>12,865,800</u>
	Total			<u>\$ 13,589,082</u>

* Party-in-Interest

See independent auditor's report.

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

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).

2023

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2023 and ending 09/30/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan... [x] a single-employer plan [] a DFE... B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report... C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here... D Check box if filing under: [x] Form 5558 [] automatic extension [] the DFVC program... 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: PARAMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 10/01/2017
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): Paramount Export Company
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 94-1424927
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 510-839-0150
2d Business code (see instructions): 424400

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature, Date, and Name. Row 1: Thomas Selfridge, 7/14/2025. Row 2: Empty. Row 3: Empty.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2023) v. 2300728

PARMOUNT EXPORT COMPANY EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
(EIN: 94-1424927, PLAN #002)

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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* Party-in-Interest

See independent auditor's report.