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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

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.)
- [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 (less than 12 months)

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 (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
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

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)
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

3535 HARBOR BLVD., SUITE 100
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
714-599-5112

2d Business code (see instructions)
722511

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.	10/15/2026	TARA EVANS, FOR TAG RESOURCES
	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

ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP, LLC DBA TAG RESOURCES

6501 DEANE HILL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

3b Administrator's EIN: 42-1484983

3c Administrator's telephone number: 865-670-1844

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**	2582
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	**6a(1)**	2582
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	2754
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	9
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	153
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	2916
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	2916
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	478
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	510
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	0
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2J 2F 2G 3D 2K 2T

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) [X] Insurance
- (2) [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) [X] Trust
- (4) [ ] General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) [X] Insurance
- (2) [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) [X] 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) [X] **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) [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 2
- (4) [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) [X] **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 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

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.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
TRANSAMERICA 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
39-0989781	86231	990442-00000	0	01/01/2025	05/28/2025

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	(b) Total amount of fees paid
28160	0

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

SEAN C. KELLY

LPL FINANCIAL CORPORATION
4707 EXECUTIVE DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
28160	0	N/A	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	
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	0
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 ▶ STABLE VALUE OPTION

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	2047976
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	30971		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	22044		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	256731		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	5783		
	▶ FORFEITURE CREDITS, LOAN INTEREST / PRINCIPAL				
	(6)Total additions			7c(6)	315529
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**).			7d	2363505
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	184927		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	949		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	2158642		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	18987		
	▶ FEES & WITHDRAWALS				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	2363505
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	0

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 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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

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.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
TRANSAMERICA 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
39-0989781	86231	514573-00000	510	05/29/2025	12/31/2025

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	(b) Total amount of fees paid

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

(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	

(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	
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	0
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 ▶ STABLE VALUE OPTION

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	0
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	37553		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	38794		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	2146218		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	17953		
	▶ FORF. CREDITS, LOAN INTEREST				
	(6)Total additions			7c(6)	2240518
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**).			7d	2240518
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	314383		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	163		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	13858		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	31466		
	▶ ADMIN FEE, DISTRIBUTION, & LOAN FEES				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	359870
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	1880648

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)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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).. . . . . [X] 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

TRANSAMERICA RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS

13-3689044

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE CO.

39-0989781

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(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)

TRANSAMERICA RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS

13-3689044

(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?
15 37 52 62 64 67	RECORD KEEPER	54509	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [ ] No [X]

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

GLOBAL RETIREMENT PARTNERS LLC

47-1411118

(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?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISORY-PLAN	21222	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE CO.

39-0989781

(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?
15 37 52 62 64 67	RECORD KEEPER	20621	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [ ] No [X]

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)

ADMIN. GROUP, LLC DBA TAG RESOURCES

42-1484983

(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?
15 37 64	RECORD KEEPER	9030	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [ ] No [X]

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

MESIROW FINANCIAL, INC.

36-3194849

(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?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISORY-PLAN	2270	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

(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?
			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
(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.	

(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

(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

(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

(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:

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:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan 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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STATE STREET TARGET RET 2020 RET AC

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
36-6071399-076	P	0

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

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a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)	1308	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	14544
(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)	551960	556838
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	25323435	0
(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)	0	26614323
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	2047976	1880648
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	27924679	29066353
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g		
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j	0	18349
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	18349
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	27924679	29048004

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)	924391	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1831052	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	79513	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		2834956
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(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)	27729	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	38794	
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		66523
(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)	621325	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		621325
(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)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(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)		3229994
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		6752798
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	5521821	
(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)		5521821
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	9030	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	75130	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	23492	
(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)		107652
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		5629473
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		1123325
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) [X] 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) [X] 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: BDO USA, P.C. **(2)** EIN: 13-5381590

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.)	**4a**	X		75080
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.)	**4b**		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.)	**4c**		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.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		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?	**4f**		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?	**4g**		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?	**4h**		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.)	**4i**	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.)	**4j**		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?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		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.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] 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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
EL POLLO LOCO, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EL POLLO LOCO, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0377527

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): 39-0989781 13-3689044

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**

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

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 08 / 17 / 2021 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q704633A .

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Financial Statements and ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules
As of December 31, 2025 and 2024 and for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

The report accompanying these financial statements was issued by BDO USA, P.C., a Virginia professional corporation, and the U.S. member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee.

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Financial Statements and ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules
As of December 31, 2025 and 2024 and for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

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ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules

Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4a – Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions for the Year Ended December 31, 2025 19

Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2025 20

Note: Other schedules required by Section 2520.103.10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.

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600 Anton Boulevard
Suite 500
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator
El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan
Costa Mesa, California

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan (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). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan'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 (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits 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 (qualified institution), provided that the investment information is prepared and certified to by the qualified institution in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and for the year ended December 31, 2025, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 5 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report

- 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 (GAAP); and
- The certified investment information in the accompanying financial statements agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by a qualified institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

BDO USA, P.C., a Virginia professional corporation, is the U.S. member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

BDO is the brand name for the BDO network and for each of the BDO Member Firms.



Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits 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 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 GAAP, 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments. Management is also responsible for 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

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 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 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 audits 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 GAAP.

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 GAAP.

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 —Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The ERISA-required Supplemental Schedule H, line 4i- Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2025 and the ERISA-required Supplemental Schedule H, line 4a- Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions for the year ended December 31, 2025, 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 certified investment information in the supplemental schedules agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by a qualified institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

BDO USA, P.C.

October 15, 2026

Financial Statements

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

December 31,	**2025**	2024
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	**$ 26,628,867**	$ 27,371,411
Investments, at contract value	**1,880,648**	-
Notes receivable from participants	**556,838**	551,960
Other receivables	**-**	1,308
Total assets	**29,066,353**	27,924,679
Liabilities		
Excess Contributions Payable	**18,349**	-
Net Assets Available for Benefits	**$ 29,048,004**	$ 27,924,679

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Year ended December 31, 2025		
Additions		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	$	3,229,994
Interest and dividend income		660,119
Total Investment Income		3,890,113
Interest income on notes receivable from participants		27,729
Contributions:		
Participant		1,831,052
Employer		924,391
Rollover		79,513
Total Contributions		2,834,956
Total Additions		6,752,798
Deductions		
Benefits paid to participants		(5,521,821)
Administrative expenses		(107,652)
Total Deductions		(5,629,473)
Net Increase		1,123,325
Net Assets Available for Benefits, beginning of year		27,924,679
Net Assets Available for Benefits, end of year	$	29,048,004

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement, as amended, for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a qualified defined contribution plan which provides for retirement benefits and covers all non-union employees who are at least 21 years of age and have completed at least 3 consecutive months with 250 hours of service from the date of employment with El Pollo Loco, Inc. (the Company or the Plan Sponsor). Plan entry dates fall on the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date of achieving eligibility. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Plan Administration

The Company and certain members of management who are the trustees also act as the Plan administrator. The Plan administrator has been given all powers necessary to carry out its duties including, but not limited to, the power to administer and interpret the Plan, to answer all questions affecting eligibility of participants in the Plan and to authorize disbursements for the payment of the Plan's benefits. Transamerica Life Insurance Company (Transamerica) serves as the recordkeeper and holds and executes investment transactions, makes payments as directed by the Plan participants, provides recordkeeping and other functions as defined.

Effective March 14, 2025, the Plan changed its investment options and transferred its assets from a group annuity contract with Transamerica, under which Plan investments were held primarily in pooled separate accounts, to a new custodial contract with Transamerica, under which Plan investments are held in mutual funds and a stable value general account. In connection with the transfer, investments of $27,416,673, notes receivable from participants of $627,376 and forfeitures of $11,956 were transferred to the new contract. Transamerica Life Insurance Company serves as custodian of the Plan's mutual fund investments under the new contract.

Contributions

Each participant may elect to make pre-tax and after-tax deferred contributions (Deferred Contributions) of a prescribed percentage or a fixed amount of his or her eligible compensation to the Plan. For employees who elect to participate, such percentage shall not be less than 1% or exceed 25% of compensation as defined under the Plan, subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limitations. Participants that are 50 years of age or older who have met the annual IRC deferral limit or the specified Plan limits for deferral, may contribute a catch-up contribution. Participants may also rollover amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans which are reflected as rollover contributions in the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits. All contributions to each participant's account are self-directed by the participant in one or more of the investments offered under the Plan. Contributions received in excess of IRC limits or on behalf of participants who were not eligible to participate in the Plan are refunded to the applicable participants. As a result of compliance testing for the 2025 Plan year, contributions of $17,578, plus related earnings, totaling $18,349 were refunded to participants in 2026 and are included in excess contributions payable in the statements of net assets available for plan benefits as of December 31, 2025. Contributions in the statement of changes in net assets available for plan

benefits are reported net of these refunds.

The Plan provides for a safe harbor matching contribution (Safe Harbor Matching Contribution) in which the Company, in order to satisfy the safe harbor requirements of the IRC, contributes a matching contribution on behalf of the participant based upon each participant's Deferred Contributions. The Safe Harbor Matching Contribution for 2025 was equal to 100% of the participant's Deferred Contributions up to 3% of the participant's eligible compensation, plus 50% of the Deferred Contributions between 3% and 5% of the participant's compensation. The Safe Harbor Matching Contributions are determined each pay period. For the year ended December 31, 2025, Safe Harbor Matching Contributions totaled $924,391 which are included in the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits. The Company may make additional contributions to the Plan, however, there were no such contributions made during the year ended December 31, 2025.

Vesting

Participants are fully vested in their Rollover Contributions, the Safe Harbor Matching Contributions and the earnings thereon. Vesting of employer contributions other than Safe Harbor Matching Contributions is based upon the following schedule:

Years of Service	Vested Percentage (%)
Less than 1	0
1	33
2	66
3 or more	100

Forfeited Amounts

Participants who terminate their employment prior to the completion of the minimum number of applicable years of service forfeit their unvested employer contributions, other than Safe Harbor Matching Contributions, under the Plan. Forfeitures shall be used to pay Plan expenses or reduce employer matching contributions. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, forfeitures included in Plan assets totaled $7,826 and $12,435, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2025, the amount of forfeitures used to pay administrative expenses of the Plan was $479.

Participant Accounts

Individual accounts are maintained for each of the Plan's participants to reflect each participant's Deferred Contributions and related employer contributions, as well as the participant's share of the Plan's earnings and any related administrative expenses. 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.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination of service including death, disability or retirement, a participant may elect to receive an amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. These payments are paid in a single lump sum payment.

Upon termination of service, participants with account balances not in excess of $1,000 will receive an automatic lump-sum payout. Participants with account balances in excess of $1,000 but not in excess of $5,000, may elect to receive a lump sum payment or rollover the account to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or another qualified plan. If the participant does not make an election, the amount will be rolled over into an IRA selected by the plan administrator on behalf of the participant. For participants with account balances in excess of $5,000, no distribution will occur until a withdrawal request is completed. A participant may elect to leave his or her account balance in the Plan, receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or rollover the account to another qualified plan or an IRA.

In-service withdrawals from the Plan may also be made upon circumstances of financial hardship or attainment of age 59 ½, in accordance with provisions specified in the Plan agreement. However, participants cannot receive hardship withdrawals from Safe Harbor Matching Contributions and earnings thereon.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants consist of participant loans that are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Participants may borrow from their accounts in any amount greater than $1,000, but not to exceed the lesser of $50,000 reduced by the highest outstanding loan balance during the previous 12 months or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans bear commercially reasonable rates of interest, which the plan administrator has determined to be the prime rate plus one percent. Interest rates on outstanding loans as of December 31, 2025, ranged from 4.25% to 9.5%, maturing on various dates through 2039. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Participants may only have one loan outstanding at any time. Loans must be repaid within five years, unless the loan was for the purchase of a principal residence, which repayment may be longer, up to 30 years. Initial loan fees of $75 and annual fees of $50 are deducted from participant accounts for each loan. These loans are available to all participants on a nondiscriminatory basis.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for various investment options. Investment securities, in general are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of

investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the various risk factors in the near term could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for plan benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value with the exception of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. 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 administrator determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the Plan's investment advisors and Transamerica. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

The Plan's fully benefit-responsive investment contract (see Note 4) is valued at contract value.

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Net appreciation in fair value of investments 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 when they are incurred.

Management determines the collectability of notes receivable from participants on a periodic basis. This determination is made based on the terms of the Plan document and the related Plan policies and procedures. If notes receivable from participants are deemed to be uncollectible, they are written off and included as benefits paid to participants in the financial statements and deemed distributions in the Form 5500 for financial reporting purposes in the year the determination is made. Amounts recovered on notes receivable from participants previously deemed uncollectible are reported as a reduction of benefits paid to participants in the financial statements and the Form 5500 for financial reporting purposes in the year the recovery is made. During the year ended December 31, 2025, $2,876 was recovered on notes receivable from participants previously deemed uncollectible. During the year ended December 31, 2025, $21,972 of defaulted loans were recorded as benefits paid to participants in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid for by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. The Plan's participants absorb certain transaction specific and administration expenses as permitted by the Plan. Such administrative expenses paid by the Plan totaled $107,652 for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In connection with the Plan's change in investment options in March 2025, certain mutual funds offered under the Plan remit revenue-sharing payments, which are deposited into an unallocated expense budget account held by the Plan. Amounts in the expense budget account may be used to pay qualifying Plan administrative expenses. During the year ended December 31, 2025, $19,472 was paid from the expense budget account for Plan administrative expenses. As of December 31, 2025, the balance in the expense budget account was $14,544, which is included in investments in the statements of net assets available for plan benefits.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded on the date distributions are made.

3. Fair Value Measurements

FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, *Fair Value Measurement* (ASC 820), provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 ASC 820, 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.

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;
- 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 observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments measured at fair value. Other than the addition of mutual funds following the Plan's change in investment options during 2025, there have been no changes in the methodologies used as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.

Pooled Separate Accounts - Pooled separate accounts invest mainly in mutual funds, domestic equity securities, and fixed maturity securities. Units held in pooled separate accounts are stated at fair value using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient as reported by Transamerica, based on pricing inputs, including quoted market prices for similar assets in active or inactive markets. While the underlying asset values are based on quoted prices, the net asset values of the separate accounts are not publicly quoted. The pooled separate accounts are direct filing entities. The Plan's investments in pooled separate accounts were transferred to mutual funds in March 2025 in connection with the change in investment options. As of December 31, 2024, the Plan had no unfunded commitments related to the pooled separate accounts. The pooled separate accounts have a daily redemption frequency and a daily redemption notice period.

Stable value general account: The stable value investment is offered through an indirect investment in a fully benefit-responsive group annuity contract and consists of an investment in the general account of Transamerica. The stable value investment is a depository liability with no formal underlying maturities and is considered fairly valued at contract value, as a proxy for fair value, because of this specific distinction. The value of the stable value investment is guaranteed by Transamerica. The guaranteed rate of interest is determined on a semi-annual basis, and there is no stated minimum or maximum interest rate. The account is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investments at contract value. Currently, management believes that the occurrence of an event that would cause the Plan to transact contract distributions at less than contract value is not probable. The Plan had no unfunded commitments related to the stable value investment. The stable value investment has a daily redemption frequency and redemption notice period. There are no other restrictions on the timing of redemption; however, participant redemptions may be subject to certain redemption fees.

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 Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

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 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.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2025 and 2024:

December 31, 2025

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	$ 26,628,867	$ -	$ -	$ 26,628,867
Total Assets, at fair value	$ 26,628,867	$ -	$ -	$ 26,628,867

December 31, 2024

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Stable value general account	$ -	$ 2,047,976	$ -	$ 2,047,976
Pooled separate accounts measured at net asset value	-	-	-	25,323,435
Total Assets, at fair value	$ -	$ 2,047,976	$ -	$27,371,411

4. Investment in Transamerica Stable Value Beacon Option

In 2025, the Plan entered into a group annuity contract with Transamerica under which participants may invest in the Transamerica Stable Value Beacon Option (Beacon Option), a fully benefit-responsive investment contract. Contributions are held in Transamerica's general account, and repayment of principal and credited interest is a financial obligation of Transamerica. Transamerica declares the interest crediting rate semi-annually and guarantees it for that period; there is no minimum rate and no set maturity.

The Beacon Option is reported at contract value, which represents contributions, plus credited interest, less withdrawals and expenses. Participants ordinarily may direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with Transamerica, including employer-initiated events such as layoffs or the sale of a division, employer-directed transfers out of the Beacon Option, discontinuance of the contract by the Plan, and termination of the Plan. A Plan-directed transfer to another investment option may be deferred up to 270 days, and Transamerica may delay Plan-level discontinuances and transfers up to 12 months if aggregate withdrawals from its stable value accounts reach specified thresholds. The Plan administrator believes these events are probable of not occurring.

Transamerica may discontinue the contract upon certain events, including termination of the Plan; any such discontinuance would be settled at contract value.

5. Information Certified by Transamerica

Certain information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2025, related to investments and notes receivable from participants held as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income on notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2025, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Transamerica, a qualified institution.

6. Tax Status

The Plan has adopted the Non-Standardized Pre-Approved Defined Contribution Plan prepared by Transamerica Retirement Solutions LLC, which received a favorable opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated June 30, 2020, which stated that the pre-approved plan was designed in accordance with applicable IRC requirements as of that date. Although the Plan has been

amended since the date of the opinion letter, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and, therefore, believes the Plan is qualified and tax exempt. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been included in the accompanying financial statements.

GAAP requires plan management 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.

7. Related Party and Parties-In-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments, including the stable value general account, are managed by Transamerica or its subsidiaries and affiliates. Third party administrator fees are paid by the Plan, and participant loan and distribution processing fees are paid to Transamerica by participants. The Plan also issues loans to participants which are secured by the vested balance of the participants' accounts. Certain management fees in the form of an expense ratio charged to each investment option are paid by the Plan and deducted from earnings on investments. The Plan also receives revenue-sharing payments from certain mutual funds, which are deposited into the expense budget account and used, along with forfeitures, to pay Plan administrative expenses. These transactions are party-in-interest transactions, which are exempt from prohibited transaction rules.

8. Plan Termination

While the Company has not expressed any intent to terminate the Plan, it is free to do so at any time, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of such termination, the Plan provides that each participant's interest shall become fully vested. The net assets of the Plan, after deducting estimated expenses for liquidation and distribution, shall be allocated among the participants and beneficiaries of the Plan based upon their vested interest on the date of termination.

9. Delinquent Participant Contributions

During the 2021 Plan year, the Company failed to remit contributions totaling $75,080 within the time period prescribed by DOL. These transactions constitute prohibited transactions as defined by ERISA. These contributions were remitted to the Plan during 2021 and the related lost earnings remitted during 2023. The Plan is currently in process of filing under the Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.

10. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through October 15, 2026, the date the financial statements were available to be issued and has determined that there were no material events requiring recognition or disclosure.

ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4a –
Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

EIN: 33-0377527 **Plan Number: 002**

Year ended December 31, 2025

	Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total That Constitutes Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP* and PTE** 2002-51
		Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP*	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP*	
Check here if late participant loan repayments are included: ☒					
2021	$ 75,080	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

** Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (DOL)*

*** Prohibited Transaction Exemption (DOL)*

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 33-0377527 **Plan Number: 002**

December 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, 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
	Stable Value General Account			
*	Transamerica Life Insurance Company		**	$ 1,880,648
	Mutual Funds			
	Allspring	Allspring Real Return R6	**	282,089
	BlackRock	BlackRock High Yield Portfolio K	**	857,939
	Fidelity	Fidelity 500 Index	**	1,712,221
	Fidelity	Fidelity Advisor Worldwide Z	**	413,287
	Fidelity	Fidelity Growth Strategies K6	**	486,076
	Fidelity	Fidelity Mid Cap Index	**	66,877
	iShares	iShares MSCI EAFE International Index K	**	110,450
	JPMorgan	JPMorgan Large Cap Growth R6	**	2,794,235
	JPMorgan	JPMorgan US Equity R6	**	2,185,521
	Loomis Sayles	Loomis Sayles Investment Grade Bond Y	**	707,729
	MFS	MFS Mid Cap Value R6	**	166,031
	Neuberger Berman	Neuberger Berman Genesis Inv	**	448,568
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2015 R6	**	1,099
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2025 R6	**	3,500
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2030 R6	**	1,790,088
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2035 R6	**	3,734,792
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2040 R6	**	1,522,632
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2045 R6	**	1,664,330
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2050 R6	**	1,725,244
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2055 R6	**	2,022,920
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2060 R6	**	898,331
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2065 R6	**	18,258
	Nuveen	Nuveen Lifecycle Index Ret Income R6	**	750,515
	Pioneer	Pioneer Balanced ESG K	**	915,662
	Thornburg	Thornburg International Equity R6	**	247,226
	Vanguard	Vanguard Real Estate Index Admiral	**	94,932
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small Cap Index Adm	**	177,648
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Value Index Admiral	**	121,268
	Vanguard	Vanguard Windsor II Adm	**	694,855
*	Transamerica	Transamerica EBA	**	14,544
	Total Mutual Funds			26,628,867
	Total Investments			28,509,515
*	**Notes Receivable from Participants**	Interest rates range from 4.25% to 9.5%, maturing through 2039		556,838
	Total			$ 29,066,353

* Represents a party-in-interest to the Plan, as defined by ERISA.

** All investments are participant directed. The cost of participant-directed investments is not required to be disclosed.

El Pollo Loco, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Form 5500 - Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 33-0377527 **Plan Number: 002**

December 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, 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
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