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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 8, 2021**

Commission File Number: 001-36556

**El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter.)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

20-3563182  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3535 Harbor Blvd Suite 100, Costa Mesa, California 92626  
(Address of principal executive offices)

714-599-5000  
(Registrant's Telephone number)

Not Applicable  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	LOCO	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR 230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.12b-2)

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On December 8, 2021, the Board of Directors of El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”), upon the recommendation of the Company’s Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, elected Deborah Gonzalez as a Class I independent director of the Company and Nancy Faginas-Cody as a Class II independent director of the Company, effective December 9, 2021.

Ms. Gonzalez is expected to serve for an initial term expiring at the 2024 Annual Meeting and Ms. Faginas-Cody is expected to serve for an initial term expiring at the 2022 Annual Meeting, where each may be included as one of the director nominees for election at the respective Annual Meetings, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The election of Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Faginas-Cody fills two vacancies on the Company’s Board of Directors that were created as a result of an increase in the size of the Board from nine (9) to eleven (11) directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee intends to consider and make recommendations to the Board regarding the appointment of both Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Faginas-Cody to one or more committees of the Board, to be determined at a future Board meeting.

Ms. Gonzalez is currently Senior Vice President, Global Marketing & Communications for Concentrix Corporation and brings nearly thirty years of valuable marketing experience to the Board. Ms. Faginas-Cody is an accomplished senior IT executive with nearly forty-three years of experience in corporate enterprise business systems. Ms. Faginas-Cody recently retired from Walt Disney Company as its former Senior Vice President, Information Technology Enterprise Business Systems.

Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Faginas-Cody will receive the same compensation as is paid to other non-employee directors of the Company.

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure**

On December 13, 2021, the Company issued a press release entitled “El Pollo Loco Appoints Deborah Gonzalez and Nancy Faginas-Cody to the Board of Directors,” a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 hereto.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

**Exhibit**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	<a href="#">Press release dated December 13, 2021</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc.**

Date: *December 13, 2021*

By: */s/ Anne Jollay*

*Name: Anne Jollay*

*Title: Corporate Secretary*

## El Pollo Loco Appoints Deborah Gonzalez and Nancy Faginas-Cody to its Board of Directors

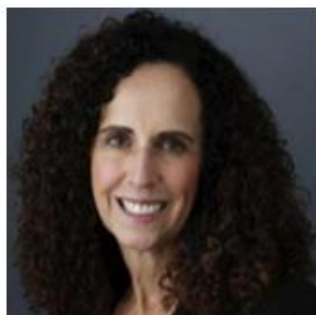
### *Marketing and IT Veterans Join El Pollo Loco's Board of Directors*

COSTA MESA, Calif., December 13, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – El Pollo Loco, Inc. (“El Pollo Loco” or “the Company”) (Nasdaq: LOCO), the nation’s leading fire-grilled chicken restaurant chain, today announced it appointed Deborah Gonzalez and Nancy Faginas-Cody as independent directors, effective December 9, 2021. Ms. Gonzalez is expected to serve for an initial Class I director term expiring at the 2024 Annual Meeting and Ms. Faginas-Cody is expected to serve for an initial Class II director term expiring at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The election of Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Faginas-Cody fills two vacancies on the Company’s Board of Directors that were created as a result of an increase in the size of the Board from nine (9) to eleven (11) directors.

“I am pleased to welcome Debbie and Nancy to our Board of Directors. They each bring a wealth of experience to El Pollo Loco and have been exceptional leaders in their respective organizations and disciplines. Debbie brings over 30 years of brand marketing experience to our Board, and Nancy has more than 40 years of experience in Information Technology” said Michael Maselli, Chairman of El Pollo Loco’s Board of Directors. “We will benefit from the depth of their expertise in key areas, as well as their broad business and personal perspectives, and we know they will be assets to El Pollo Loco.



Ms. Gonzalez currently serves as Senior Vice President, Global Marketing & Communications for Concentrix Corporation, a leading global provider of customer experience solutions and technology, improving business performance for some of the world’s best brands, including over 100 Global Fortune 500 clients and over 115 global disruptor clients. In this role, she oversees all aspects of brand and integrated marketing, digital marketing, communications and public relations. Previously, Ms. Gonzalez held senior leadership positions in diverse industries, such as Chief Brand/Marketing Officer for Massage Envy Franchising and Vice President, Merchandising Marketing for PetSmart, Inc. She brings specific expertise in delivering marketing programs that help grow demand and loyalty with a focus on customer experience.



Ms. Faginas-Cody is an accomplished senior Information Technology executive who recently retired from Walt Disney Company as the Senior Vice President, Information Technology Enterprise Business Systems. Ms. Faginas-Cody held various roles in her 20-year career with Walt Disney Company, and in her most recent role she was responsible for the global corporate enterprise business systems. Prior to Walt Disney Company, Ms. Faginas-Cody served in IT leadership roles for retailers such as FEDCO and MacFrugal’s.

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**About El Pollo Loco**

El Pollo Loco is the nation's leading fire-grilled chicken restaurant with a mission to bring people together around food, family, and culture in the communities it serves. El Pollo Loco is renowned for its handcrafted L.A. Mex food, an innovative blend of traditional Mexican cuisine and better-for-you eating, that Los Angeles is known for. Since 1980, El Pollo Loco has successfully opened and maintained 480 company-owned and franchised restaurants in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Utah, and Louisiana while remaining true to its Mexican-American heritage. El Pollo Loco continues to grow and evolve, nourishing connections to tradition, culture, and one another through fire-grilled goodness that makes us feel like familia. For more information, visit us at [ElPolloLoco.com](http://ElPolloLoco.com).

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