FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | DC | 20549 |
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| vvasi ii iytori, | D.C. | 20349 |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b)

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | | | | | | | | | | 1 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|----------|--|---|--|--|--|------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|--------|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person* Lozano Miguel | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc. [LOCO] | | | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | | |
| Lozano iviiguei | | | | | | 5-7 | | | | | | | | | Officer | | | 10% Ov | | | |
| (Look) (First) (Middle) | | | | | | | Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | Officer (give title below) | | Other (specify below) | specify | | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O EL POLLO LOCO HOLDINGS, INC. | | | | | | 05/12/2021 | | | | | | | | | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | | | | | | |
| ' | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3535 HARBOR BLVD, SUITE 100 | | | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable | | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | | i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i | | | | | | | | | Line) | | | | | | |
| l` ′ | MESA C | A | 92626 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| , | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City) | (5 | State) | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date | | | | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | | 3. 4. Securit Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. 5) | | | | | 5. Amou Securitie Benefici | s Form | | rm: Direct | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial | | | | |
| (Month/D | | | | | | | | (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | Following (I) (| | Instr. 4) | Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | Amount (A) or (D) | | Price | Transact (Instr. 3 | tion(s) | | | (111501.4) | | |
| Common Stock 05/12/ | | | | | 2/2021 | | | | A | | 14,245 | 1,245 ⁽¹⁾ A | | \$0 | 86,980 | | | D | | | |
| | | | Гable II - I | Derivat | ive \$ | Sec | urities | Acqı | uired, D | ispo | osed of, | or B | enefi | cially | Owned | | | <u> </u> | | | |
| | | | (| e.g., pu | uts, | call | s, warr | ants | , option | s, c | onvertil | ble se | ecurit | ties) | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution D if any (Month/Day | Date, Ti | 4. Transactio Code (Inst | | | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | 7. Title and Amou of Securities Underlying Derivative Securit (Instr. 3 and 4) | | curity | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactior (Instr. 4) | ly | Ownershi Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | A | mount | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Ш | Date | | xpiration | | | umber | | | | | | | |
| | | | | c | ode | ٧ | (A) | (D) | Exercisab | le C | ate | Title | s | hares | | | | | | | |
| Non- Qualified Stock Options | \$17.55 | 05/12/2021 | | | A | | 30,864 | | (2) | 0 | 5/12/2031 | Comm | | 0,864 | \$0 | 30,864 | 1 | D | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Consists of restricted shares granted under the 2018 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan, vesting in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of grant
- 2. Granted by a nonqualified stock option agreement under the 2018 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan, vesting and becoming exercisable in four equal installments on each of the four anniversaries of the date of

/s/ Anne E. Jollay, Attorney-in-05/14/2021

Fact

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Anne Jollay and Laurance Roberts of El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc. (the "Company"), or any of them signing singly, and with full power of substitution, the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

- (1) prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submit to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") a Form ID, including amendments thereto, and any other documents necessary or appropriate to obtain codes and passwords enabling the undersigned to make electronic filings with the SEC of reports required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any rule or regulation of the SEC;
- (2) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer, director, and/or 10% owner of the Company, Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder:
- (3) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4, or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the SEC and any stock exchange or similar authority; and
- (4) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of the date indicated below.

Date: 5/7/2021

ls/

Name: Miguel Lozano