FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| STATEMENT ( | OF CHANGES IN | BENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
|             |               |            |           |

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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

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     Lozano Miguel  |   |            |   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol El Pollo Loco Holdings, Inc. [ LOCO ] |   |  |                        |                 |  |  |                    | (Che  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner  X Officer (give title Other (speci |   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
|--|---|------------|---|---|---|--|------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O EL POLLO LOCO HOLDINGS, INC. 3535 HARBOR BLVD, SUITE 100   |   |            |   |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/10/2022 |  |                        |                 |  |  |                    |   |   | below)  |   | TINC  | below)  | ER   |                                       |
| (Street)   | MESA C  | A          | 92626   |   | 4.1   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |                        |                 |  |  |                    |   | 6. In<br>Line   | ·   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
| (City)   | (S  |            | (Zip)   | Dori  | , otiv  |  |                        |                 | irod                                       | Dia  |                    | .f ar D   | 000   | ficially  | . Owned   |   |   |  |                                       |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Date)  |   |            |   | action  | Execution Date,   |  | 3.<br>Transa<br>Code ( | ction<br>Instr. | 4. Securities Acc<br>Disposed Of (D)<br>5) |  | ired (             | A) or   | 5. Amou<br>Securitie<br>Benefici<br>Owned F<br>Reported   | Amount of ecurities Feneficially (I) whed Following eported ransaction(s) |   | n: Direct<br>r Indirect<br>estr. 4)   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |                                       |
| Common Stock 05/10/  |   |            | 0/202   | /2022   |   | A  | ľ                      |                 | 23,719 <sup>(1)</sup> A                    |  | \$0                | +`  | (Instr. 3 and 4)<br>87,019  |   | D   |   |   |  |                                       |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |            |   |   |   |  |                        |                 |  |  |                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security |            | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | oate,   | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)                     |  | of E                   |                 | Expiration                                 | . Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>Month/Day/Year) |                    | 7. Title and Amount<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |   | curity  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficial<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactio<br>(Instr. 4) | ly  | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |            |   |   | Code  | v  | (A)                    |                 | Date<br>Exercisab                          |  | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | or<br>Nu<br>of  | umber   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
| Non-<br>Qualified<br>Stock<br>Options  | \$10.54   | 05/10/2022 |   |   | A   |  | 51,020                 |                 | (2)  | 0  | 05/10/2032         | Commo<br>Stock  | 5   | 1,020   | \$0   | 51,020  | )   | D  |                                       |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Consists of restricted shares granted under the 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 Equity Incentive Plan, vesting and becoming exercisable in four equal installments on each of the four anniversaries of the date of the grant.

/s/ Anne E. Jollay, Attorney-in-05/12/2022 **Fact** 

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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.