

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

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**FORM 10-Q**

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**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended April 3, 2016

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission File Number: 001-35373

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**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**14800 Landmark Boulevard, Suite 500**

**Dallas, Texas**

(Address of principal executive office)

**90-0712224**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**75254**

(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (972) 702-9300**

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on their Corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of May 5, 2016, Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. had 26,908,207 shares of its common stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding.

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**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**QUARTER ENDED APRIL 3, 2016**

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## PART I—FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1—INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)  
(Unaudited)

	April 3, 2016	January 3, 2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 4,053	\$ 5,281
Trade receivables	9,483	9,217
Inventories	2,669	2,910
Prepaid rent	3,295	3,163
Income tax receivable	2,000	7,448
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	4,778	3,219
Total current assets	26,278	31,238
Property and equipment, net	262,838	248,992
Goodwill	123,484	123,484
Deferred income taxes	8,497	8,497
Deferred financing costs, net	841	918
Other assets	2,451	2,516
Total assets	\$ 424,389	\$ 415,645
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 55	\$ 69
Accounts payable	19,778	12,405
Accrued payroll, related taxes and benefits	11,675	15,614
Accrued real estate taxes	3,007	6,121
Other liabilities	9,078	12,096
Total current liabilities	43,593	46,305
Long-term debt, net of current portion	72,513	72,612
Lease financing obligations	1,663	1,663
Deferred income—sale-leaseback of real estate	29,184	30,086
Other liabilities	22,591	20,997
Total liabilities	169,544	171,663
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$.01; authorized 100,000,000 shares, issued 26,908,420 and 26,829,220 shares, respectively, and outstanding 26,630,642 and 26,571,602 shares, respectively.	266	266
Additional paid-in capital	160,692	159,724
Retained earnings	93,887	83,992
Total stockholders' equity	254,845	243,982
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 424,389	\$ 415,645

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated unaudited financial statements.*

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
**THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 3, 2016 AND MARCH 29, 2015**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	April 3, 2016	March 29, 2015
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Restaurant sales	\$ 175,939	\$ 163,058
Franchise royalty revenues and fees	738	817
Total revenues	176,677	163,875
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>		
Cost of sales	54,050	51,123
Restaurant wages and related expenses (including stock-based compensation expense of \$36 and \$67, respectively)	45,052	40,590
Restaurant rent expense	8,921	8,007
Other restaurant operating expenses	22,388	19,859
Advertising expense	6,995	5,554
General and administrative (including stock-based compensation expense of \$975 and \$874, respectively)	13,848	13,764
Depreciation and amortization	8,336	6,847
Pre-opening costs	1,182	951
Impairment and other lease charges	12	94
Other (income) expense	(248)	(372)
Total operating expenses	160,536	146,417
Income from operations	16,141	17,458
Interest expense	558	438
Income before income taxes	15,583	17,020
Provision for income taxes	5,688	6,519
Net income	\$ 9,895	\$ 10,501
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.39
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.39
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	26,605,717	26,435,166
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	26,612,021	26,442,602

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated unaudited financial statements.*

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**  
**THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 3, 2016 AND MARCH 29, 2015**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share amounts)  
(Unaudited)

	Number of Common Stock Shares	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance at December 28, 2014	26,358,448	\$ 264	\$ 153,867	\$ 45,456	\$ 199,587
Stock-based compensation	—	—	941	—	941
Vesting of restricted shares and related tax benefit	116,239	1	887	—	888
Net income	—	—	—	10,501	10,501
Balance at March 29, 2015	<u>26,474,687</u>	<u>\$ 265</u>	<u>\$ 155,695</u>	<u>\$ 55,957</u>	<u>\$ 211,917</u>
Balance at January 3, 2016	26,571,602	\$ 266	\$ 159,724	\$ 83,992	\$ 243,982
Stock-based compensation	—	—	1,011	—	1,011
Vesting of restricted shares and related tax benefit (deficiency)	59,040	—	(43)	—	(43)
Net income	—	—	—	9,895	9,895
Balance at April 3, 2016	<u>26,630,642</u>	<u>\$ 266</u>	<u>\$ 160,692</u>	<u>\$ 93,887</u>	<u>\$ 254,845</u>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated unaudited financial statements.*

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 3, 2016 AND MARCH 29, 2015**  
(In thousands of dollars)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	April 3, 2016	March 29, 2015
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 9,895	\$ 10,501
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided from operating activities:		
Gain on disposals of property and equipment	(39)	(294)
Stock-based compensation	1,011	941
Impairment and other lease charges	12	94
Depreciation and amortization	8,336	6,847
Amortization of deferred financing costs	77	77
Amortization of deferred gains from sale-leaseback transactions	(901)	(911)
Changes in other operating assets and liabilities	(380)	(4,434)
Net cash provided from operating activities	<u>18,011</u>	<u>12,821</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures:		
New restaurant development	(14,086)	(15,955)
Restaurant remodeling	(243)	(872)
Other restaurant capital expenditures	(910)	(1,245)
Corporate and restaurant information systems	(1,552)	(1,185)
Total capital expenditures	<u>(16,791)</u>	<u>(19,257)</u>
Properties purchased for sale-leaseback	(2,663)	—
Proceeds from disposals of other properties	236	—
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(19,218)</u>	<u>(19,257)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Excess tax benefit from vesting of restricted shares	92	888
Borrowings on revolving credit facility	6,400	7,000
Repayments on revolving credit facility	(6,500)	(3,000)
Principal payments on capital leases	(13)	(16)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>(21)</u>	<u>4,872</u>
Net decrease in cash	<u>(1,228)</u>	<u>(1,564)</u>
Cash, beginning of period	5,281	5,087
Cash, end of period	<u>\$ 4,053</u>	<u>\$ 3,523</u>
Supplemental disclosures:		
Interest paid on long-term debt	\$ 473	\$ 418
Accruals for capital expenditures	\$ 7,764	\$ 5,012
Income tax payments (refunds), net	\$ 282	\$ (789)

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated unaudited financial statements.*

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

**1. Basis of Presentation**

*Business Description.* Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. ("Fiesta Restaurant Group" or "Fiesta") owns, operates and franchises two fast-casual restaurant brands through its wholly-owned subsidiaries Pollo Operations, Inc., and its subsidiaries, and Pollo Franchise, Inc., (collectively "Pollo Tropical") and Taco Cabana, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively "Taco Cabana"). Unless the context otherwise requires, Fiesta and its subsidiaries, Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana, are collectively referred to as the "Company". At April 3, 2016, the Company owned and operated 161 Pollo Tropical® restaurants and 162 Taco Cabana® restaurants. The Pollo Tropical restaurants include 119 located in Florida, 27 located in Texas, eleven located in Georgia and four located in Tennessee. The Taco Cabana restaurants include 161 located in Texas and one located in Oklahoma. At April 3, 2016, the Company franchised a total of 36 Pollo Tropical restaurants and six Taco Cabana restaurants. The franchised Pollo Tropical restaurants include 17 in Puerto Rico, one in Honduras, one in the Bahamas, three in Trinidad & Tobago, one in Venezuela, five in Panama, three in Guatemala, and five on college campuses in Florida. The franchised Taco Cabana restaurants include four in New Mexico and two on college campuses in Texas.

*Basis of Consolidation.* The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements presented herein reflect the consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows of Fiesta and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

*Fiscal Year.* The Company uses a 52 - 53 week fiscal year ending on the Sunday closest to December 31. The fiscal year ended January 3, 2016 contained 53 weeks. The three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 each contained thirteen weeks. The fiscal year ending January 1, 2017 will contain 52 weeks.

*Basis of Presentation.* The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 have been prepared without an audit pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and do not include certain information and footnotes required by U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all normal and recurring adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of such financial statements have been included. The results of operations for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended January 3, 2016 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016. The January 3, 2016 balance sheet data is derived from those audited financial statements.

*Fair Value of Financial Instruments.* Fair value is defined as 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 under current market conditions. In determining fair value, the accounting standards establish a three level hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value as follows: Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities; Level 2 inputs are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, including quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities; and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and reflect our own assumptions. The following methods were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate the fair value:

- *Current Assets and Liabilities.* The carrying values reported on the balance sheet of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those financial instruments.
- *Revolving Credit Borrowings.* The fair value of outstanding revolving credit borrowings under the Company's senior credit facility, which is considered Level 2, is based on current LIBOR rates. At April 3, 2016, the fair value and carrying value of the Company's senior credit facility was approximately \$70.9 million.

*Long-Lived Assets.* The Company reviews its long-lived assets, principally property and equipment, for impairment at the restaurant level. In addition to considering management's plans, known regulatory or governmental actions and damage due to acts of God (hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.), the Company considers a triggering event to have occurred related to a specific restaurant if the restaurant's cash flows for the last twelve months are less than a minimum threshold or if consistent levels of cash flows for the remaining lease period are less than the carrying value of the restaurant's assets. If an indicator of impairment exists for any of its assets, an estimate of undiscounted future cash flows over the life of the primary asset for each restaurant is compared to that long-lived asset's carrying value. If the carrying value is greater than the undiscounted cash flow, the Company then determines the fair value of the asset and if an asset is determined to be impaired, the loss is measured by the excess of the carrying amount of the asset over its fair value. For closed restaurant locations, the Company reviews the future minimum lease payments and

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

related ancillary costs from the date of the restaurant closure to the end of the remaining lease term and records a lease charge for the lease liabilities to be incurred, net of any estimated sublease recoveries.

*Use of Estimates.* The preparation of the condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements. Estimates also affect the reported amounts of expenses during the reporting periods. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include: accrued occupancy costs, insurance liabilities, evaluation for impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets and lease accounting matters. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 2. Other Liabilities

Other liabilities, current, consisted of the following:

	April 3, 2016	January 3, 2016
Accrued workers' compensation and general liability claims	\$ 5,448	\$ 5,540
Sales and property taxes	1,669	3,031
Accrued occupancy costs	885	980
Other	1,076	2,545
	<u>\$ 9,078</u>	<u>\$ 12,096</u>

Other liabilities, long-term, consisted of the following:

	April 3, 2016	January 3, 2016
Accrued occupancy costs	\$ 16,166	\$ 15,349
Deferred compensation	1,581	1,665
Accrued workers' compensation and general liability claims	1,139	697
Other	3,705	3,286
	<u>\$ 22,591</u>	<u>\$ 20,997</u>

Accrued occupancy costs include obligations pertaining to closed restaurant locations and accruals to expense operating lease rental payments on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The following table presents the activity in the closed-store reserve, of which \$ 1.2 million are included in long-term accrued occupancy costs at April 3, 2016 and January 3, 2016, with the remainder in other current liabilities:

	Three Months Ended April 3, 2016	Year Ended January 3, 2016
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 1,832	\$ 1,251
Provisions for restaurant closures	—	554
Additional lease charges, net of (recoveries)	—	258
Payments, net	(166)	(358)
Other adjustments	108	127
Balance, end of period	<u>\$ 1,774</u>	<u>\$ 1,832</u>

## 3. Stock-Based Compensation

During the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, the Company granted 50,087 and 22,597 non-vested restricted shares, respectively, under the Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. 2012 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Fiesta Plan") to certain employees. These shares generally vest and become non-forfeitable over a four year vesting period. The weighted average fair value at grant date for these non-vested shares issued to employees during the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 was \$35.25 and \$62.05, respectively.

During the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, the Company granted 5,762 and 10,007 restricted stock units, respectively, under the Fiesta Plan to certain employees. The restricted stock units granted during the three months ended

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

April 3, 2016 vest and become non-forfeitable at the end of a four year vesting period. The restricted stock units granted during the three months ended March 29, 2015 vest and become non-forfeitable over a four year vesting period or, for certain units, at the end of a four year vesting period. The weighted average fair value at grant date for these restricted stock units issued to employees during three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 was \$ 35.25 and \$62.05 , respectively.

Also during the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, the Company granted 33,691 and 17,501 non-vested restricted shares, respectively, and 33,691 and 17,501 restricted stock units, respectively, under the Fiesta Plan to certain employees subject to performance conditions. The non-vested restricted shares vest and become non-forfeitable over a four year vesting period subject to the attainment of performance conditions. The restricted stock units vest and become non-forfeitable at the end of a three year vesting period. The number of shares into which the restricted stock units convert is determined based on the attainment of certain performance conditions, and for the restricted stock units granted during the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 , ranges from no shares, if the minimum performance condition is not met, to 67,382 and 35,002 shares, respectively, if the maximum performance condition is met. The weighted average fair value at grant date for restricted non-vested shares and restricted stock units subject to performance conditions granted during the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 was \$ 35.25 and \$ 65.01 , respectively.

Stock-based compensation expense for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 was \$ 1.0 million and \$0.9 million , respectively. As of April 3, 2016 , the total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense relating to non-vested restricted shares and restricted stock units was approximately \$ 9.2 million . At April 3, 2016 , the remaining weighted average vesting period for non-vested restricted shares was 1.7 years and restricted stock units was 2.6 years.

A summary of all non-vested restricted shares and restricted stock units activity for the three months ended April 3, 2016 was as follows:

	Non-Vested Shares		Restricted Stock Units	
	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Price	Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Price
Outstanding at January 3, 2016	257,618	\$ 30.69	42,840	\$ 56.46
Granted	83,778	35.25	39,453	35.25
Vested/Released	(58,918)	33.00	(122)	51.45
Forfeited	(4,700)	37.62	(1,093)	47.02
Outstanding at April 3, 2016	277,778	\$ 31.46	81,078	\$ 46.27

The fair value of the non-vested restricted shares and restricted stock units is based on the closing price on the date of grant.

#### 4. Business Segment Information

The Company is engaged in the fast-casual restaurant industry, with two restaurant concepts (each of which is an operating segment): Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana. Pollo Tropical restaurants offer a wide variety of freshly prepared Caribbean inspired food, while our Taco Cabana restaurants offer a broad selection of hand-made, freshly prepared and authentic Mexican food.

The accounting policies of each segment are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies discussed in Note 1. The Company reports more than one measure of segment profit or loss to the chief operating decision maker for the purposes of allocating resources to the segments and assessing their performance. The primary measures of segment profit or loss used to assess performance and allocate resources are income before taxes and Adjusted EBITDA, which is defined as earnings attributable to the applicable operating segment before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, impairment and other lease charges, stock-based compensation expense and other income and expense. Although the chief operating decision maker uses Adjusted EBITDA as a measure of segment profitability, in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 280, Segment Reporting, the following table includes segment income before taxes, which is the measure of segment profit or loss determined in accordance with the measurement principles that are most consistent with the principles used in measuring the corresponding amounts in the consolidated financial statements.

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

The “Other” column includes corporate related items not allocated to reportable segments and consists primarily of corporate owned property and equipment, miscellaneous prepaid costs, capitalized costs associated with the issuance of indebtedness, corporate cash accounts, a current income tax receivable and advisory fees related to a proposed separation transaction.

Three Months Ended	Pollo Tropical	Taco Cabana	Other	Consolidated
<b>April 3, 2016:</b>				
Restaurant sales	\$ 98,906	\$ 77,033	\$ —	\$ 175,939
Franchise revenue	577	161	—	738
Cost of sales	31,604	22,446	—	54,050
Restaurant wages and related expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	22,896	22,156	—	45,052
Restaurant rent expense	4,644	4,277	—	8,921
Other restaurant operating expenses	12,592	9,796	—	22,388
Advertising expense	3,762	3,233	—	6,995
General and administrative expense <sup>(2)</sup>	7,685	5,462	701	13,848
Depreciation and amortization	5,278	3,058	—	8,336
Pre-opening costs	1,114	68	—	1,182
Impairment and other lease charges	—	12	—	12
Interest expense	251	307	—	558
Income before taxes	9,669	6,615	(701)	15,583
Capital expenditures	14,099	1,634	1,058	16,791
<b>March 29, 2015:</b>				
Restaurant sales	\$ 86,889	\$ 76,169	\$ —	\$ 163,058
Franchise revenue	681	136	—	817
Cost of sales	28,539	22,584	—	51,123
Restaurant wages and related expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	18,754	21,836	—	40,590
Restaurant rent expense	3,649	4,358	—	8,007
Other restaurant operating expenses	10,089	9,770	—	19,859
Advertising expense	2,358	3,196	—	5,554
General and administrative expense <sup>(2)</sup>	7,797	5,967	—	13,764
Depreciation and amortization	3,739	3,108	—	6,847
Pre-opening costs	870	81	—	951
Impairment and other lease charges	—	94	—	94
Interest expense	185	253	—	438
Income before taxes	11,590	5,430	—	17,020
Capital expenditures	15,042	3,051	1,164	19,257
<b>Identifiable Assets:</b>				
April 3, 2016:	251,099	161,303	11,987	424,389
January 3, 2016	237,065	165,549	13,031	415,645

(1) Includes stock-based compensation expense of \$36 and \$67 for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, respectively.

(2) Includes stock-based compensation expense of \$975 and \$874 for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, respectively.

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

### 5. Net Income per Share

We compute basic net income per share by dividing net income applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each period. Our non-vested restricted shares contain a non-forfeitable right to receive dividends on a one-to-one per share ratio to common shares and are thus considered participating securities. The impact of the participating securities is included in the computation of basic net income per share pursuant to the two-class method. The two-class method of computing earnings per share is an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings attributable to common shares and participating securities according to dividends declared (whether paid or unpaid) and participation rights in undistributed earnings. Net income per common share was computed by dividing undistributed earnings allocated to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. In applying the two-class method, undistributed earnings are allocated to both common shares and non-vested restricted shares based on the weighted average shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if our restricted stock units were converted into common shares. Restricted stock units with performance conditions are only included in the diluted earnings per share calculation to the extent that performance conditions have been met at the measurement date. We compute diluted earnings per share by adjusting the basic weighted average number of common shares by the dilutive effect of the restricted stock units, determined using the treasury stock method.

Weighted average outstanding restricted stock units totaling 7,407 shares were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the three months ended April 3, 2016, because to do so would have been antidilutive.

The computation of basic and diluted net income per share is as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	April 3, 2016	March 29, 2015
<b>Basic and diluted net income per share:</b>		
Net income	\$ 9,895	\$ 10,501
Less: income allocated to participating securities	(93)	(142)
Net income available to common stockholders	<u>\$ 9,802</u>	<u>\$ 10,359</u>
Weighted average common shares, basic	26,605,717	26,435,166
Restricted stock units	6,304	7,436
Weighted average common shares, diluted	<u>26,612,021</u>	<u>26,442,602</u>
<b>Basic net income per common share</b>	<u>\$ 0.37</u>	<u>\$ 0.39</u>
<b>Diluted net income per common share</b>	<u>\$ 0.37</u>	<u>\$ 0.39</u>

### 6. Commitments and Contingencies

*Lease Assignments* . Taco Cabana has assigned four leases on properties where it no longer operates restaurants with lease terms expiring on various dates through 2029 to various parties. Although the Company is not a guarantor under these leases, it remains secondarily liable as a surety for these leases. The maximum potential liability for future rental payments the Company could be required to make under these leases at April 3, 2016 was \$2.2 million . The obligations under these leases will generally continue to decrease over time as the operating leases expire. The Company does not believe it is probable that it would be ultimately responsible for the obligations under these leases.

*Legal Matters* . The Company is a party to legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of business, including the matter described below. The Company records accruals for outstanding legal matters when it believes it is probable that a loss will be incurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. The Company evaluates, on a quarterly basis, developments in legal matters that could affect the amount of any accrual and developments that would make a loss contingency both probable and reasonably estimable. If a loss contingency is not both probable and estimable, the Company does not establish an accrued liability.

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)**  
(In thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)

On September 29, 2014, Daisy, Inc., an automotive repair shop in Cape Coral, Florida, filed a putative class action suit against Fiesta's subsidiary, Pollo Operations, Inc. ("Pollo Operations") in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The suit alleged that Pollo Operations engaged in unlawful activity in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, § 227 et seq. occurring in December 2010 and January 2011. As of April 3, 2016, Pollo Operations reached a settlement with the plaintiff which resulted in dismissal of the case and has paid all settlement claims.

The Company is also a party to various other litigation matters incidental to the conduct of business. The Company does not believe that the outcome of any of these matters will have a material effect on its consolidated financial statements.

#### **7. Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In May 2014, and in subsequent updates, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which amends the guidance in former Topic 605, Revenue Recognition, and provides for either a full retrospective adoption in which the standard is applied to all of the periods presented or a modified retrospective adoption in which the cumulative effect of initially applying the standard is recognized at the date of initial application. The new standard provides accounting guidance for all revenue arising from contracts with customers and affects all entities that enter into contracts to provide goods or services to their customers unless the contracts are in the scope of other US GAAP requirements. The guidance also provides a model for the measurement and recognition of gains and losses on the sale of certain non-financial assets, such as property and equipment, including real estate. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the provisions of Topic 606; however, the Company expects the provisions to primarily impact certain franchise revenues and does not expect the standard to have a material effect on its financial statements. For the Company, the new standard is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842), which requires lessee recognition of lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosure of key information about leasing arrangements. For the Company, the new standard is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018, and early adoption is permitted. A modified retrospective approach is required with an option to use certain practical expedients. The new guidance is required to be applied at the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented. The Company is currently evaluating the impact on its financial statements. Although the impact is not currently estimable, the Company expects to recognize lease assets and lease liabilities for most of the leases it currently accounts for as operating leases.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-04, Recognition of Breakage for Certain Prepaid Stored-Value Products (Topic 405-20), which creates an exception under Topic 405-20 to derecognize financial liabilities related to certain prepaid stored-value products using a breakage model consistent with the revenue breakage model in Topic 606. The new guidance will be effective concurrent with Topic 606, which is effective for the Company for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company does not expect this standard to have a material effect on its financial statements.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting (Topic 718), to simplify various aspects of the accounting and presentation of share-based payments, including the income tax effects of awards and forfeiture assumptions. Currently, tax deductions in excess of compensation costs (excess tax benefits) are recorded in equity and tax deduction shortfalls (tax deficiencies), to the extent of previous excess tax benefits, are recorded in equity and then to income tax expense. Under the new guidance, all excess tax benefits and tax deficiencies will be recorded to income tax expense in the income statement, which could create volatility in the Company's income statement. The new guidance will also change the classification of excess tax benefits in the cash flow statement and impact the diluted earnings per share calculation. The guidance will be effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and early adoption is permitted. Different components of the guidance require prospective, retrospective and/or modified retrospective adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the impact on its financial statements and it is not currently estimable.

## ITEM 2-MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis of financial condition and results of operations ("MD&A") is written to help the reader understand our company. The MD&A is provided as a supplement to, and should be read in conjunction with, our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the accompanying financial statement notes. Any reference to restaurants refers to company-owned restaurants unless otherwise indicated. Throughout this MD&A, we refer to Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc., together with its consolidated subsidiaries, as "we," "our" and "us."

We use a 52-53 week fiscal year ending on the Sunday closest to December 31. The fiscal year ended January 3, 2016 contained 53 weeks. The three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015 each contained thirteen weeks. The fiscal year ending January 1, 2017 will contain 52 weeks.

### Company Overview

We own, operate and franchise two fast-casual restaurant brands, Pollo Tropical<sup>®</sup> and Taco Cabana<sup>®</sup>, which have almost 30 years and 40 years, respectively, of operating history and loyal customer bases. Our Pollo Tropical restaurants offer a wide variety of freshly prepared Caribbean inspired food, while our Taco Cabana restaurants offer a broad selection of hand-made, freshly prepared and authentic Mexican food. We believe that both brands are differentiated from other restaurant concepts and offer a unique dining experience. We are positioned within the value-oriented fast-casual restaurant segment, which combines the convenience and value of quick-service restaurants with the variety, food quality, décor and atmosphere more typical of casual dining restaurants. Our open display kitchen format allows guests to view and experience our food being freshly-prepared and cooked to order. Additionally, nearly all of our restaurants offer the convenience of drive-thru windows. As of April 3, 2016, our company-owned restaurants included 161 Pollo Tropical restaurants and 162 Taco Cabana restaurants.

We franchise our Pollo Tropical restaurants primarily internationally and as of April 3, 2016, we had 31 franchised Pollo Tropical restaurants located in Puerto Rico, Honduras, Trinidad & Tobago, the Bahamas, Venezuela, Panama and Guatemala, and five licensed locations on college campuses in Florida. We have agreements for the continued development of franchised Pollo Tropical restaurants in certain of our existing franchised markets, and we have commitments for additional non-traditional locations in U.S. markets in which we currently operate.

As of April 3, 2016, we had four Taco Cabana franchised restaurants located in New Mexico and two non-traditional Taco Cabana licensed locations on college campuses in Texas.

### Executive Summary-Consolidated Operating Performance for the Three Months Ended April 3, 2016

Our first quarter 2016 results and highlights include the following:

- Net income decreased \$0.6 million to \$9.9 million in the first quarter of 2016, or \$0.37 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$10.5 million, or \$0.39 per diluted share in the first quarter of 2015, primarily due to new restaurant performance and advisory fees related to the proposed separation transaction discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016.
- Total revenues increased 7.8% in the first quarter of 2016 to \$176.7 million compared to \$163.9 million in the first quarter of 2015, driven primarily by an increase in the number of our company-owned restaurants and an increase in comparable restaurant sales of 1.7% for our Taco Cabana restaurants. The growth in comparable restaurant sales resulted primarily from an increase in average check of 2.5%, partially offset by a decrease in comparable guest traffic of 0.8% at Taco Cabana. An increase in comparable guest traffic of 0.1% was offset by a decrease in average check of 0.1% at Pollo Tropical.
- During the first quarter of 2016, we opened six new company-owned Pollo Tropical restaurants. During the first quarter of 2015, we opened six new company-owned Pollo Tropical restaurants and closed three company-owned Taco Cabana restaurants.
- Adjusted EBITDA increased \$0.3 million in the first quarter of 2016 to \$25.3 million compared to \$25.0 million in the first quarter of 2015. The net impact of revenue growth in the first quarter of 2016 was largely offset by new restaurant performance and advisory fees related to the proposed separation transaction. Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure of performance. For a discussion of our use of Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income, see "Management's Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures".

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth, for the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, selected consolidated operating results as a percentage of consolidated restaurant sales and selected segment operating results as a percentage of applicable segment restaurant sales:

	Three Months Ended							
	April 3, 2016		March 29, 2015		April 3, 2016		March 29, 2015	
	Pollo Tropical		Taco Cabana		Consolidated			
Restaurant sales:								
Pollo Tropical					56.2%	53.3%		
Taco Cabana					43.8%	46.7%		
Consolidated restaurant sales					100.0%	100.0%		
Costs and expenses:								
Cost of sales	32.0%	32.8%	29.1%	29.6%	30.7%	31.4%		
Restaurant wages and related expenses	23.1%	21.6%	28.8%	28.7%	25.6%	24.9%		
Restaurant rent expense	4.7%	4.2%	5.6%	5.7%	5.1%	4.9%		
Other restaurant operating expenses	12.7%	11.6%	12.7%	12.8%	12.7%	12.2%		
Advertising expense	3.8%	2.7%	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%	3.4%		
Pre-opening costs	1.1%	1.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.6%		

The following table summarizes the changes in the number and mix of Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana company-owned and franchised restaurants:

	Pollo Tropical			Taco Cabana		
	Owned	Franchised	Total	Owned	Franchised	Total
January 3, 2016	155	35	190	162	6	168
New	6	1	7	—	—	—
Closed	—	—	—	—	—	—
April 3, 2016	161	36	197	162	6	168
December 28, 2014	124	37	161	167	7	174
New	6	—	6	—	—	—
Closed	—	—	—	(3)	—	(3)
March 29, 2015	130	37	167	164	7	171

*Consolidated Revenues.* Revenues include restaurant sales, which consist of food and beverage sales, net of discounts, at our company-owned restaurants, and franchise royalty revenues and fees, which represent ongoing royalty payments that are determined based on a percentage of franchisee sales, franchise fees associated with new restaurant openings, and development fees associated with the opening of new franchised restaurants in a given market. Restaurant sales are influenced by new restaurant openings, closures of restaurants and changes in comparable restaurant sales.

Total revenues increased 7.8% to \$176.7 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$163.9 million in the first quarter of 2015. Restaurant sales increased 7.9% to \$175.9 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$163.1 million in the first quarter of 2015.

The following table presents the primary drivers of the increase in restaurant sales for both Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana for the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015 (in millions):

**Pollo Tropical:**

Increase in comparable restaurant sales	\$	—
Incremental sales related to new restaurants, net of closed restaurants		12.0
Total increase	\$	12.0

**Taco Cabana:**

Increase in comparable restaurant sales	\$	1.2
Decrease in sales related to closed restaurants, net of new restaurants		(0.3)
Total increase	\$	0.9

Comparable restaurant sales for Pollo Tropical restaurants were flat in the first quarter of 2016. Comparable restaurant sales for Taco Cabana restaurants increased 1.7% in the first quarter of 2016. Restaurants are included in comparable restaurant sales after they have been open for 18 months. Increases in comparable restaurant sales result primarily from an increase in guest traffic and an increase in average check. The increase in average check is primarily driven by menu price increases. For Pollo Tropical, average check decreased due to sales mix and higher discounting, partially offset by menu price increases of 0.7% in the first quarter of 2016 as compared to the first quarter of 2015. For Taco Cabana, menu price increases drove an increase in restaurant sales of 2.7% in the first quarter of 2016 as compared to the first quarter of 2015, partially offset by a change in sales mix. As a result of new restaurant openings, planned sales cannibalization of existing restaurants negatively impacted comparable restaurant sales for Pollo Tropical by 2.0% in the first quarter of 2016. Comparable restaurant sales were also negatively impacted by the general slowdown in restaurant sales industrywide.

Restaurants in newer markets that have not reached media efficiency generally have lower sales than restaurants in mature, media-efficient markets. As a result, Pollo Tropical revenues are growing at a slower rate than the average number of restaurants.

Franchise revenues remained relatively stable and decreased by less than \$0.1 million to \$0.7 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$ 0.8 million in the first quarter of 2015.

*Operating costs and expenses.* Operating costs and expenses include cost of sales, restaurant wages and related expenses, other restaurant expenses and advertising expenses. Cost of sales consists of food, paper and beverage costs including packaging costs, less rebates and purchase discounts. Cost of sales is generally influenced by changes in commodity costs, the sales mix of items sold and the effectiveness of our restaurant-level controls to manage food and paper costs. Key commodities, including chicken and beef, are generally purchased under contracts for future periods of up to one year.

Restaurant wages and related expenses include all restaurant management and hourly productive labor costs, employer payroll taxes, restaurant-level bonuses and related benefits. Payroll and related taxes and benefits are subject to inflation, including minimum wage increases and increased costs for health insurance, workers' compensation insurance and state unemployment insurance.

Other restaurant operating expenses include all other restaurant-level operating costs, the major components of which are utilities, repairs and maintenance, general liability insurance, real estate taxes, sanitation, supplies and credit card fees.

Advertising expense includes all promotional expenses including television, radio, billboards and other sponsorships and promotional activities.

Pre-opening costs include costs incurred prior to opening a restaurant, including restaurant employee wages and related expenses, travel expenditures, recruiting, training, promotional costs associated with the restaurant opening and rent, including

any non-cash rent expense recognized during the construction period. Pre-opening costs are generally incurred beginning four to six months prior to a restaurant opening.

The following tables present the primary drivers of the changes in the components of restaurant operating margins for Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana for the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015. All percentages are stated as a percentage of applicable segment restaurant sales.

**Pollo Tropical:**

Cost of sales:	
Lower commodity costs	(2.1)%
Higher promotions and discounts	0.3 %
Operating inefficiencies	0.8 %
Other	0.2 %
Net decrease in cost of sales as a percentage of restaurant sales	(0.8)%

Restaurant wages and related expenses:	
Higher labor costs for comparable restaurants	0.4 %
Higher labor costs and impact of lower sales volumes for new restaurants (1)	1.1 %
Higher medical benefit costs	0.3 %
Lower incentive bonus costs	(0.2)%
Other	(0.1)%
Net increase in restaurant wages and related costs as a percentage of restaurant sales	1.5 %

Other operating expenses:	
Higher repairs and maintenance costs	0.5 %
Lower insurance costs	(0.4)%
Higher real estate taxes related to new restaurants	0.5 %
Other (2)	0.5 %
Net increase in other restaurant operating expenses as a percentage of restaurant sales	1.1 %

Advertising expense:	
Increase in advertising	1.1 %
Net increase in advertising expense as a percentage of restaurant sales	1.1 %

Pre-opening costs:	
Timing of restaurant openings	0.1 %
Net increase in pre-opening costs as a percentage of restaurant sales	0.1 %

(1) Includes additional restaurant managers in training that will be deployed to new restaurants as they open.

(2) Includes higher credit card, sanitation and various other costs.

**Taco Cabana:**

Cost of sales:	
Menu price increases	(0.8)%
Sales mix	(0.3)%
Operating inefficiencies	0.4 %
Other	0.2 %
Net decrease in cost of sales as a percentage of restaurant sales	(0.5)%
Restaurant wages and related expenses:	
Higher labor costs for comparable restaurants	0.6 %
Impact of closing lower sales volume restaurants, net of new restaurants	(0.2)%
Higher workers' compensation claim costs	0.4 %
Lower medical benefit costs	(0.6)%
Other	(0.1)%
Net increase in restaurant wages and related costs as a percentage of restaurant sales	0.1 %
Other operating expenses:	
Higher repairs and maintenance costs	0.3 %
Lower utilities	(0.5)%
Other	0.1 %
Net decrease in other restaurant operating expenses as a percentage of restaurant sales	(0.1)%
Advertising expense:	
Net change in advertising expense as a percentage of restaurant sales	— %
Pre-opening costs:	
Net change in pre-opening costs as a percentage of restaurant sales	— %

*Consolidated Restaurant Rent Expense*. Restaurant rent expense includes base rent and contingent rent on our leases characterized as operating leases, reduced by amortization of gains on sale-leaseback transactions. Restaurant rent expense, as a percentage of total restaurant sales, increased to 5.1% in the first quarter of 2016 from 4.9% in the first quarter of 2015 primarily as a result of new restaurants, which generally have higher rent, partially offset by the impact of higher sales.

*Consolidated General and Administrative Expenses*. General and administrative expenses are comprised primarily of (1) salaries and expenses associated with the development and support of our company and brands and the management oversight of the operation of our restaurants; and (2) legal, auditing and other professional fees and stock-based compensation expense.

General and administrative expenses were \$ 13.8 million in the first quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2015, and as a percentage of total revenues, general and administrative expenses decreased to 7.8% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to 8.4% in the first quarter of 2015 due primarily to higher current year sales and lower incentive based compensation costs. In addition, general and administrative expenses in the first quarter of 2016 include \$0.7 million in advisory fees related to the proposed separation transaction discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016, partially offset by a \$0.4 million reduction in legal settlement costs.

*Adjusted EBITDA*. Adjusted EBITDA, which is one of the measures of segment profit or loss used by our chief operating decision maker for purposes of allocating resources to our segments and assessing their performance, is defined as earnings attributable to the applicable segment before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, impairment and other lease charges, stock-based compensation expense and other income and expense. Adjusted EBITDA may not be necessarily comparable to other similarly titled captions of other companies due to differences in methods of calculation. Adjusted EBITDA for each of our segments includes an allocation of general and administrative expenses associated with administrative support for executive management, information systems and certain accounting, legal, supply chain, development, and other administrative functions.

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure of performance. For a discussion of our use of Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income, see the heading entitled "Management's Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures".

Adjusted EBITDA for Pollo Tropical decreased to \$15.7 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$16.0 million in the first quarter of 2015 primarily as a result of lower profitability at new restaurants and higher advertising and other costs, partially offset by the increase in revenues. Adjusted EBITDA for Taco Cabana increased to \$10.2 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$ 9.0 million in the first quarter of 2015 primarily due to the net impact of the increase in revenues.

*Depreciation and Amortization.* Depreciation and amortization expense increased to \$ 8.3 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$6.8 million in the first quarter of 2015 due primarily to increased depreciation relating to new restaurant openings.

*Impairment and Other Lease Charges.* Impairment and other lease charges were \$0.1 million in the first quarter of 2015 and consisted of impairment charges for Taco Cabana locations that have closed.

Each quarter we assess the potential impairment of any long-lived assets that have experienced a triggering event, including restaurants for which the related cash flows are below a certain threshold. After reviewing the specific cash flows and management's plans related to the restaurants for which an impairment review was performed, we determined that no impairment was currently necessary. However, for six Pollo Tropical restaurants and one Taco Cabana restaurant, the projected cash flows were not substantially in excess of their combined carrying values of \$10.2 million and \$1.3 million, respectively. If the performance of these restaurants does not improve as projected, an impairment charge could be recognized in future periods, and such charge could be material.

*Other (Income) Expense.* Other income in the first quarter of 2016 primarily consisted of additional proceeds related to a location that closed in 2015 as a result of an eminent domain proceeding. Other income in the first quarter of 2015 primarily consisted of a previously deferred gain from a sale-leaseback transaction that was recognized upon termination of the lease as a result of an eminent domain proceeding.

*Interest Expense.* Interest expense increased to \$ 0.6 million in the first quarter of 2016 from \$0.4 million in the first quarter 2015.

*Provision for Income Taxes.* The provision for income taxes was derived using an estimated effective annual income tax rate of 36.5% for the first quarter of 2016 and 38.3% for the first quarter of 2015. There were no discrete tax adjustments in the first quarter of 2016 or 2015. The effective annual income tax rate decreased in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015 due primarily to the reinstatement of Work Opportunity Tax Credits.

*Net Income.* As a result of the foregoing, we had net income of \$9.9 million in the first quarter of 2016 compared to net income of \$10.5 million in the first quarter of 2015.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We do not have significant receivables or inventory and receive trade credit based upon negotiated terms in purchasing food products and other supplies. We are able to operate with a substantial working capital deficit because:

- restaurant operations are primarily conducted on a cash basis;
- rapid turnover results in a limited investment in inventories; and
- cash from sales is usually received before related liabilities for food, supplies and payroll become due.

Capital expenditures and payments related to our lease obligations represent significant liquidity requirements for us. We believe cash generated from our operations, availability of borrowings under our senior credit facility and proceeds from any sale-leaseback transactions which we may choose to do will provide sufficient cash availability to cover our anticipated working capital needs, capital expenditures and debt service requirements for the next twelve months.

*Operating Activities .* Net cash provided by operating activities in the first three months of 2016 and 2015 was \$18.0 million and \$12.8 million , respectively. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities in the first three months of 2016 was primarily driven by the timing of payments.

*Investing Activities.* Net cash used in investing activities in the first three months of 2016 and 2015 was \$19.2 million and \$19.3 million , respectively. Capital expenditures are the largest component of our investing activities and include: (1) new restaurant development, which may include the purchase of real estate; (2) restaurant remodeling/reimaging, which includes the renovation or rebuilding of the interior and exterior of our existing restaurants; (3) other restaurant capital expenditures, which include capital

maintenance expenditures for the ongoing reinvestment and enhancement of our restaurants; and (4) corporate and restaurant information systems.

The following table sets forth our capital expenditures for the periods presented (in thousands):

	Pollo Tropical	Taco Cabana	Other	Consolidated
<b>Three Months Ended April 3, 2016:</b>				
New restaurant development	\$ 13,150	\$ 936	\$ —	\$ 14,086
Restaurant remodeling	243	—	—	243
Other restaurant capital expenditures (1)	425	485	—	910
Corporate and restaurant information systems	281	213	1,058	1,552
Total capital expenditures	<u>\$ 14,099</u>	<u>\$ 1,634</u>	<u>\$ 1,058</u>	<u>\$ 16,791</u>
Number of new restaurant openings	6	—		6
<b>Three Months Ended March 29, 2015:</b>				
New restaurant development	\$ 14,476	\$ 1,479	\$ —	\$ 15,955
Restaurant remodeling	—	872	—	872
Other restaurant capital expenditures (1)	555	690	—	1,245
Corporate and restaurant information systems	11	10	1,164	1,185
Total capital expenditures	<u>\$ 15,042</u>	<u>\$ 3,051</u>	<u>\$ 1,164</u>	<u>\$ 19,257</u>
Number of new restaurant openings	6	—		6

(1) Excludes restaurant repair and maintenance expenses included in other restaurant operating expenses in our consolidated financial statements. For the three months ended April 3, 2016 and March 29, 2015, total restaurant repair and maintenance expenses were approximately \$4.6 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

Some new Pollo Tropical restaurants originally planned to open in late 2016 are now anticipated to open in early 2017. As a result, for 2016, we anticipate that total capital expenditures will range from \$90.0 million to \$100.0 million. Capital expenditures in 2016 are expected to include \$75.0 million to \$80.0 million for development of new restaurants and purchase of related real estate. Our capital expenditures in 2016 are also expected to include expenditures of approximately \$10.0 million to \$13.0 million for the ongoing reinvestment in our Pollo Tropical and Taco Cabana restaurants for remodeling costs and capital maintenance expenditures and approximately \$5.0 million to \$7.0 million of other expenditures.

*Financing Activities.* Financing activities in the first three months of 2016 primarily included net revolving credit borrowing repayments under our senior credit facility of \$0.1 million and excess tax benefits of \$0.1 million. Net cash provided by financing activities in the first three months of 2015 was \$4.9 million and included net revolving credit borrowings under our senior credit facility of \$4.0 million and the excess tax benefit from vesting of restricted shares of \$0.9 million.

*Senior Credit Facility.* Our senior credit facility provides for aggregate revolving credit borrowings of up to \$150 million (including \$15 million available for letters of credit) and matures on December 11, 2018. The senior credit facility also provides for potential incremental increases of up to \$50 million to the revolving credit borrowings available under the senior credit facility. On April 3, 2016, there were \$70.9 million in outstanding revolving credit borrowings under our senior credit facility.

Borrowings under the senior credit facility bear interest at a per annum rate, at our option, equal to either (all terms as defined in the senior credit facility):

- 1) the Alternate Base Rate plus the applicable margin of 0.50% to 1.50% based on our Adjusted Leverage Ratio (with a margin of 0.50% as of April 3, 2016), or
- 2) the LIBOR Rate plus the applicable margin of 1.50% to 2.50% based on our Adjusted Leverage Ratio (with a margin of 1.50% at April 3, 2016).

In addition, the senior credit facility requires us to pay (i) a commitment fee based on the applicable Commitment Fee margin of 0.25% to 0.45%, based on our Adjusted Leverage Ratio, (with a margin of 0.25% at April 3, 2016) and the unused portion of the facility and (ii) a letter of credit fee based on the applicable LIBOR margin and the dollar amount of outstanding letters of credit.

All obligations under the senior credit facility are guaranteed by all of our material domestic subsidiaries. In general, our obligations under our senior credit facility and our subsidiaries' obligations under the guarantees are secured by a first priority lien and security interest on substantially all of our assets and the assets of our material subsidiaries (including a pledge of all of

the capital stock and equity interests of our material subsidiaries), other than certain specified assets, including real property owned by us or our subsidiaries.

The outstanding borrowings under the senior credit facility are prepayable without penalty (other than customary breakage costs). The senior credit facility requires us to comply with customary affirmative, negative and financial covenants, including, without limitation, those limiting our and our subsidiaries' ability to (i) incur indebtedness, (ii) incur liens, (iii) loan, advance, or make acquisitions and other investments or other commitments to construct, acquire or develop new restaurants (subject to certain exceptions), (iv) pay dividends, (v) redeem and repurchase equity interests, (vi) conduct asset and restaurant sales and other dispositions (subject to certain exceptions), (vii) conduct transactions with affiliates and (viii) change our business. In addition, the senior credit facility will require us to maintain certain financial ratios, including minimum Fixed Charge Coverage and maximum Adjusted Leverage Ratios (all as defined under the senior credit facility).

Our senior credit facility contains customary default provisions, including without limitation, a cross default provision pursuant to which it is an event of default under this facility if there is a default under any of our indebtedness having an outstanding principal amount of \$5.0 million or more which results in the acceleration of such indebtedness prior to its stated maturity or is caused by a failure to pay principal when due.

As of April 3, 2016, we were in compliance with the covenants under our senior credit facility. After reserving \$5.2 million for letters of credit issued under the senior credit facility, \$73.9 million was available for borrowing under the senior credit facility at April 3, 2016.

#### ***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Contractual Obligations***

We have no off-balance sheet arrangements other than our operating leases, which are primarily for our restaurant properties and not recorded on our consolidated balance sheet.

There have been no significant changes outside the ordinary course of business to our contractual obligations since January 3, 2016. Information regarding our contractual obligations is included under "Contractual Obligations" in Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016.

#### ***Inflation***

The inflationary factors that have historically affected our results of operations include increases in food and paper costs, labor and other operating expenses and energy costs. Labor costs in our restaurants are impacted by changes in the Federal and state hourly minimum wage rates as well as changes in payroll related taxes, including Federal and state unemployment taxes. We typically attempt to offset the effect of inflation, at least in part, through periodic menu price increases and various cost reduction programs. However, no assurance can be given that we will be able to fully offset such inflationary cost increases in the future.

#### ***Application of Critical Accounting Policies***

Our unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Preparing consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. These estimates and assumptions are affected by the application of our accounting policies. Our significant accounting policies are described in the "Significant Accounting Policies" footnote in the notes to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended January 3, 2016 included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016. Critical accounting estimates are those that require application of management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of matters that are inherently uncertain and may change in subsequent periods. There have been no material changes affecting our critical accounting policies for the three months ended April 3, 2016.

**Management's Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure. We use Adjusted EBITDA in addition to net income, income from operations, and income before income taxes to assess our performance, and we believe it is important for investors to be able to evaluate us using the same measures used by management. We believe this measure is an important indicator of our operational strength and the performance of our business. Adjusted EBITDA as calculated by us is not necessarily comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies, and should not be considered as an alternative to net income, earnings per share, cash flows from operating activities or other financial information determined under GAAP.

Adjusted EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, impairment and other lease charges, stock-based compensation expense and other income and expense. Adjusted EBITDA for each of our segments includes an allocation of general and administrative expenses associated with administrative support for executive management, information systems and certain accounting, legal, supply chain, human resources, development and other administrative functions.

Management believes that Adjusted EBITDA, when viewed with our results of operations calculated in accordance with GAAP and our reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income (i) provide useful information about our operating performance and period-over-period growth, (ii) provide additional information that is useful for evaluating the operating performance of our business and (iii) permit investors to gain an understanding of the factors and trends affecting our ongoing earnings, from which capital investments are made and debt is serviced. However, such measures are not measures of financial performance or liquidity under GAAP and, accordingly, should not be considered as alternatives to net income or cash flow from operating activities as indicators of operating performance or liquidity. Also these measures may not be comparable to similarly titled captions of other companies.

All of such non-GAAP financial measures have important limitations as analytical tools. These limitations include the following:

- such financial information does not reflect our capital expenditures, future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments to purchase capital equipment;
- such financial information does not reflect interest expense or the cash requirements necessary to service payments on our debt;
- although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets that we currently depreciate and amortize will likely have to be replaced in the future, and such financial information does not reflect the cash required to fund such replacements; and
- such financial information does not reflect the effect of earnings or charges resulting from matters that our management does not consider to be indicative of our ongoing operations. However, some of these charges (such as impairment and other lease charges, other income and expense and stock-based compensation expense) have recurred and may recur.

A reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to consolidated net income follows:

(Dollars in thousands)	Three Months Ended	
	April 3, 2016	March 29, 2015
Adjusted EBITDA:		
Pollo Tropical	\$ 15,748	\$ 16,011
Taco Cabana	10,205	8,957
Fiesta	(701)	—
Consolidated	25,252	24,968
Less:		
Depreciation and amortization	8,336	6,847
Impairment and other lease charges	12	94
Interest expense	558	438
Provision for income taxes	5,688	6,519
Stock-based compensation expense	1,011	941
Other (income) expense	(248)	(372)
Net income	\$ 9,895	\$ 10,501

### **Forward Looking Statements**

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. “Forward-looking statements” are any statements that are not based on historical information. Statements other than statements of historical facts included herein, including, without limitation, statements regarding our future financial position and results of operations, business strategy, budgets, projected costs and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are “forward-looking statements.” Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “seek,” “estimate” or “continue” or the negative of such words or variations of such words and similar expressions. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions, which are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements and we can give no assurance that such forward-looking statements will prove to be correct. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, or “cautionary statements,” include, but are not limited to:

- Increases in food and other commodity costs;
- Risks associated with the expansion of our business, including increasing real estate and construction costs;
- Risks associated with food borne illness or other food safety issues, including negative publicity through traditional and social media;
- Our ability to manage our growth and successfully implement our business strategy;
- Labor and employment benefit costs, including the impact of increases in federal and state minimum wages, increases in exempt status salary levels and healthcare costs imposed by the Affordable Care Act;
- Cyber security breaches;
- General economic conditions, particularly in the retail sector;
- Competitive conditions;
- Weather conditions;
- Significant disruptions in service or supply by any of our suppliers or distributors;
- Increases in employee injury and general liability claims;
- Changes in consumer perception of dietary health and food safety;
- Regulatory factors;
- Fuel prices;
- The outcome of pending or future legal claims or proceedings;
- Environmental conditions and regulations;
- Our borrowing costs;
- The availability and terms of necessary or desirable financing or refinancing and other related risks and uncertainties;
- The risk of an act of terrorism or escalation of any insurrection or armed conflict involving the United States or any other national or international calamity; and
- Factors that affect the restaurant industry generally, including product recalls, liability if our products cause injury, ingredient disclosure and labeling laws and regulations.

### ITEM 3—QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

#### Commodity Price Risk

We purchase certain products which are affected by commodity prices and are, therefore, subject to price volatility caused by weather, market conditions and other factors which are not considered predictable or within our control. Although many of the products purchased are subject to changes in commodity prices, certain purchasing contracts or pricing arrangements have been negotiated in advance to minimize price volatility. Where possible, we use these types of purchasing techniques to control costs as an alternative to using financial instruments to hedge commodity prices. In many cases, we believe we will be able to address commodity cost increases that are significant and appear to be long-term in nature by adjusting our menu pricing. However, long-term increases in commodity prices may result in lower restaurant-level operating margins.

There were no material changes from the information presented in Item 7A included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended January 3, 2016 with respect to our market risk sensitive instruments.

### ITEM 4—CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

*Disclosure Controls and Procedures* . Our senior management is responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")), designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

*Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures* . We have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as well as other key members of our management. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of April 3, 2016 .

*Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*. No change occurred in our internal control over financial reporting during the first quarter of 2016 that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II—OTHER INFORMATION

### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

On September 29, 2014, Daisy, Inc., an automotive repair shop in Cape Coral, Florida, filed a putative class action suit against Fiesta's subsidiary, Pollo Operations, Inc. ("Pollo Operations") in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The suit alleged that Pollo Operations engaged in unlawful activity in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, § 227 et seq. occurring in December 2010 and January 2011. As of April 3, 2016, Pollo Operations reached a settlement with the plaintiff which resulted in dismissal of the case and has paid all settlement claims.

We are a party to various other litigation matters incidental to the conduct of our business. We do not believe that the outcome of any of these matters will have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

### Item 1A. Risk Factors

Part 1 - Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016 describes important factors that could cause our actual operating results to differ materially from those indicated or suggested by forward-looking statements made in this Form 10-Q or presented elsewhere by management from time-to-time. There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2016.

### Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

None

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable

**Item 5. Other Information**

None

**Item 6. Exhibits**

(a) The following exhibits are filed as part of this report.

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	
31.1	Chief Executive Officer's Certificate Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.
31.2	Chief Financial Officer's Certificate Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.
32.1	Chief Executive Officer's Certificate Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.
32.2	Chief Financial Officer's Certificate Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase 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 thereunto duly authorized.

**FIESTA RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.**

Date: May 9, 2016

/ s / T I M O T H Y P. T A F T

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**(Signature)**

**Timothy P. Taft  
Chief Executive Officer**

Date: May 9, 2016

/ s / L Y N N S. S C H W E I N F U R T H

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**(Signature)**

**Lynn S. Schweinfurth  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer**

Date: May 9, 2016

/ s / C H E R I L. K I N D E R

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**(Signature)**

**Cheri L. Kinder  
Vice President, Corporate Controller**

## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Timothy P. Taft, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended April 3, 2016 of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 9, 2016

/s/TIMOTHY P. TAFT

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Timothy P. Taft  
Chief Executive Officer

## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Lynn Schweinfurth, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended April 3, 2016 of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 9, 2016

/s/LYNN SCHWEINFURTH

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Lynn Schweinfurth  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

**CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO**  
**18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,**  
**AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO**  
**SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

The undersigned, Timothy P. Taft, Chief Executive Officer of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. (the "Company"), hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended April 3, 2016 , as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Quarterly Report"), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Quarterly Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ TIMOTHY P. TAFT

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Timothy P. Taft  
Chief Executive Officer

May 9, 2016

**CERTIFICATE PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

The undersigned, Lynn Schweinfurth, Chief Financial Officer of Fiesta Restaurant Group, Inc. (the "Company"), hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended April 3, 2016 , as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Quarterly Report"), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Quarterly Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ LYNN SCHWEINFURTH

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Lynn Schweinfurth  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

May 9, 2016