UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 033-36383

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) 33-36383 (Commission File Number) 94-2723335 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

875 Prospect Street, Suite 301 La Jolla, California 92037 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (858) 456-6022

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 \circ No⁻⁻

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes " No "

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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 definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Accelerated filer " 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 \acute{y}

On November 5, 2010, the registrant had 22,700,558 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value outstanding.

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.

FORM 10-Q

For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page No.
Part I: Financial Information		
Item 1:	Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)	3
	Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2010 and December 31, 2009	3
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009	4
	Condensed Consolidated Statement Of Shareholders' Equity for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009	e 5
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010 and 2009	6
	Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	7
Item 2:	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and the Results of Operations	14
Item 3:	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk	27
Item 4:	Controls and Procedures	28
Part II: Other Information		
Item 1:	Legal Proceedings	28
Item 1A:	Risk Factors	28
Item 2:	Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	28
Item 3:	Defaults Upon Senior Securities	28
Item 4:	(Removed and Reserved)	28
Item 5:	Other Information	28
Item 6:	<u>Exhibits</u>	29

Part I: Financial Information Item I: Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Total liabilities and shareholders' equity

PICO HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (In thousands, except per share data)

	September 30, 2010 (Unaudited)		December 31, 2009	
ASSETS				
Available for sale investments:				
Fixed maturities	\$	42,094	\$	50,575
Equity securities		117,188		118,327
Total available for sale investments		159,282		168,902
Other Investments		8,531		8,884
Total investments		167,813		177,786
Cash and cash equivalents		111,328		154,545
Notes and other receivables, net		10,065		15,412
Reinsurance receivables		14,080		15,013
Real estate and water assets, net		345,478		299,833
Property and equipment, net		2,146		1,328
Net deferred income taxes		15,711		11,165
Federal, foreign and state income taxes		10,769		8,879
Other assets		3,259		3,656
Total assets	\$	680,649	\$	687,617
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY				
Reserves for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$	22,480	\$	24,175
Deferred compensation		36,360		31,144
Borrowings		42,637		41,221
Other liabilities		10,534		11,382
Total liabilities		112,011		107,922
		,		,
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 6)				
Common stock, \$.001 par value; authorized 100,000,000 shares, 27,117,269 issued and 22,700,558 outstanding at September 30, 2010, and 27,020,473 issued and				
22,595,678 outstanding at December 31, 2009		27		27
Additional paid-in capital		540,523		539,792
Retained earnings		92,122		100,002
Accumulated other comprehensive income		19,371		21,094
Treasury stock, at cost (common shares: 4,416,711 in 2010 and 4,424,795 in 2009)		(78,152)		(78,272)
Total PICO Holdings, Inc. shareholders' equity		573,891		582,643
Noncontrolling interest in subsidiaries		(5,253)		(2,948)
Total shareholders' equity		568,638		579,695
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\$ 680,649 \$ 687,617

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS - UNAUDITED (In thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2010		Three Months Ended September 30, 2009		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2010		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009	
Revenues:	¢	5 1	¢	526	¢	2 701	¢	5 004
Sale of real estate and water assets	\$	51	\$	536	\$	3,791	\$	5,804
Net investment income		1,619		1,441		4,981		4,449
Net realized gain (loss) on sale and impairment of investments		5,203		(2,010)				