

El Pollo Loco Announces the Grand Opening of Petaluma, CA Restaurant

COSTA MESA, Calif., October 10, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- El Pollo Loco (Nasdaq:LOCO), the nation's leading fire-grilled chicken chain, opened a new location in Petaluma, CA today. The restaurant, located at 211 North McDowell, is the first location to open in the city of Petaluma.

"We are excited to continue expanding in the state of California and offer another conveniently located destination for individuals and families to enjoy our handcrafted dishes," said Steve Sather, Chief Executive Officer at El Pollo Loco. "Not only do we look forward to sharing our signature citrusmarinated, fire-grilled chicken with the Petaluma community, we are also thrilled to be able to create jobs for local residents. We take great pride in serving guests and we welcome passionate, hardworking individuals to join the El Pollo Loco family."

The brand's signature citrus-marinated chicken is prepared on an open flame grill by El Pollo Loco Grill Masters before it is hand-cut and served in its chicken meals and crave-worthy Mexican-inspired entrees. Whether guests are looking for a family chicken meal, burrito, salad, quesadilla or under 500-calorie options, El Pollo Loco has a wide variety of flavorful offerings.

The 2,635 square foot restaurant has seating for 68 guests and features the brand's hacienda design, with an open kitchen layout for customers to view El Pollo Loco's signature chicken as it's fire-grilled. The restaurant is open from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm each day.

For promotions and news on the new Petaluma location, fans can follow the restaurant's <u>local Facebook page</u>. El Pollo Loco fans are also encouraged to join the My Loco Rewards Program. New members that sign up will receive a voucher for a free taco al carbon. My Loco Rewards members also receive exclusive offers, information about new menu items, promotions, events and more. To learn more about El Pollo Loco, please visit <u>www.elpolloloco.com</u> or check them out on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

About El Pollo Loco

<u>El Pollo Loco</u> (Nasdaq:LOCO) is the nation's leading fire-grilled chicken restaurant chain renowned for its masterfully citrus-marinated, fire-grilled chicken and handcrafted entrees using fresh ingredients inspired by Mexican recipes. With more than 445 company-owned and franchised restaurants in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas and Utah, El Pollo Loco is expanding its presence in key markets

through a combination of company and existing and new franchisee development. Visit us on our website at EIPOlloLoco.com.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kellie Duffy ICR Inc. 203-682-8200 LOCO@icrinc.com