

Laredo Petroleum, Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
March 21, 2017

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC.**

---

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

---

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

---

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

March 21, 2017

To the Stockholders of Laredo Petroleum, Inc.:

You are invited to attend our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be held at the Bank of America Building, Lower Level, 15 West Sixth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119, on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time (the "Annual Meeting").

Details of the business to be conducted at the meeting are described in the attached Notice of 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement.

We are mailing to most of our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials ("Notice") instead of a paper copy of our Annual Report, which includes our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, Proxy Statement and proxy card. We believe this process allows us to provide stockholders with the information needed in connection with our Annual Meeting in a timely manner, while saving costs and conserving resources. The Notice contains instructions on how to access these documents over the Internet, as well as instructions on how to request a paper copy of the materials, if desired. All stockholders who do not receive a Notice should receive a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail.

Your vote is important, and we encourage you to vote whether or not you plan to attend the meeting. Please either vote by telephone or over the Internet or sign, date and return your proxy card, following the instructions on the Notice or proxy materials, so that your shares will be represented. If you are a stockholder of record and plan to attend the meeting, you may also vote in person.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Foutch  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

---

Table of Contents

**LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC.**

**15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119**

**NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

TIME	9:00 a.m. Central Time on Wednesday, May 10, 2017
PLACE	Bank of America Building, Lower Level, 15 West Sixth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
ITEMS OF BUSINESS	<p>(1) To elect three Class I directors to our board of directors to hold office until the expiration of their three-year term in 2020 and thereafter until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified and to elect one Class II director to our board of directors to hold office until the expiration of his one-year term in 2018 and thereafter until his respective successor is duly elected and qualified.</p> <p>(2) To ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered accounting firm.</p> <p>(3) To hold an advisory vote approving the compensation of our named executive officers.</p> <p>(4) To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or at any adjournment or postponement thereof.</p>
RECORD DATE	You can vote if, at the close of business on March 13, 2017, you were a holder of record of our common stock.
PROXY VOTING	All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting in person. However, to ensure your representation at the Annual Meeting, you are urged to vote promptly by voting by telephone at 1-800-690-6903 or over the Internet at <a href="http://www.proxyvote.com">www.proxyvote.com</a> (or if you received a paper copy of the proxy materials, by signing and returning the proxy card in the envelope provided).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE  
STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 10, 2017**

**The Company's Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and our 2016 Annual Report, including the Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, are available over the Internet at <http://materials.proxyvote.com/516806>. Alternatively, if you received a paper copy of the proxy materials (which include the proxy card), you may vote by signing and returning the proxy card in the envelope provided.**

This Notice, Proxy Statement and the form of proxy/voting instructions are first being sent or made available to stockholders on or about March 21, 2017.

March 21, 2017  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**By Order of the Board of Directors,**

Kenneth E. Dornblaser

*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary*

---

Table of Contents

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>PROXY STATEMENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</u>	2
<u>CORPORATE STRUCTURE</u>	10
<b><u>ITEM ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u></b>	<b>11</b>
<u>DIRECTORS</u>	13
<u>MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF DIRECTORS</u>	17
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	19
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	20
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	20
<u>Introduction</u>	20
<u>Named Executive Officers</u>	20
<u>2016 Company Highlights</u>	20
<u>Compensation Best Practices</u>	22
<u>Alignment of Pay and Performance</u>	22
<u>Summary of our Compensation Program</u>	25
<u>Process for Determining Executive Compensation</u>	25
<u>Elements of Compensation</u>	30
<u>2016 Compensation Paid</u>	33
<u>Other Benefits</u>	38
<u>Employment, Severance or Change in Control Agreements</u>	39
<u>Other Matters</u>	40
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	42
<u>Summary Compensation</u>	43
<u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards for the Year Ended December 31, 2016</u>	44
<u>Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan</u>	44
<u>Registration Rights</u>	46
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Fiscal Year-End</u>	47
<u>Stock Vestings, Option Exercises and Performance Unit Vestings in Fiscal Year 2016</u>	48
<u>Pension Benefits</u>	49
<u>Nonqualified Deferred Compensation</u>	49
<u>Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control</u>	49
<u>Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control Table for Fiscal Year 2016</u>	51
<u>Compensation of Directors</u>	53
<u>Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Incentive Plan</u>	56
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION</u>	56
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	57
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	59
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	59
<u>Code of Conduct and Business Ethics</u>	60
<u>Board of Directors Leadership</u>	60
<u>Communications with the Board of Directors</u>	60
<u>Director Independence</u>	61
<u>Executive Sessions of the Board of Directors</u>	61
<u>Financial Literacy of Audit Committee and Designation of Financial Experts</u>	61
<u>Oversight of Risk Management</u>	61
<u>Attendance at Annual Meetings</u>	62
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	63
<u>SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	65
<u>TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS</u>	65
<u>Procedures for Review, Approval and Ratification of Related Person Transactions</u>	65
<u>Registration Rights</u>	66

Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<u>Other Related-Party Transactions</u>	<u>66</u>
<b><u>ITEM TWO: RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS</u></b>	<u>67</u>
<u>Audit and Other Fees</u>	<u>67</u>
<b><u>ITEM THREE: ADVISORY VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u></b>	<u>68</u>
<b><u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS: IDENTIFICATION OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES</u></b>	<u>69</u>
<u>SOLICITATION OF PROXIES</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDER LIST</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>PROXY MATERIALS, ANNUAL REPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>INTERNET AND PHONE VOTING</u>	<u>72</u>

---

Table of Contents

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider and is not a form for voting. You should read the entire Proxy Statement carefully before voting.*

**General Information**

**Items to be Voted On**

**Meeting:** Annual Meeting of Stockholders

**Meeting Location:** Bank of America Building, Lower Level,  
15 West Sixth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

Proposal

Board of Director  
Recommendations

**Date:** 9:00 a.m. Central Time on May 10, 2017

No. 1: Election of three  
directors to a three year term  
and one director to a one year  
term

**Record Date:** March 13, 2017

FOR

**Common Shares Outstanding as of Record Date:**

242,584,430

**Stock Symbol:** LPI

No. 2: Ratification of  
appointment of independent  
public accounting firm

FOR

**Stock Exchange:** NYSE

**Registrar & Transfer Agent:** American Stock Transfer and

Trust Company

No. 3: Advisory vote to  
approve the compensation of  
named executives

**State and Year of Incorporation:** Delaware (2011)

FOR

**Corporate Headquarters:** 15 West Sixth Street, Suite 900  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

**Corporate website:** www.laredopetro.com



*Investor Relations website:* <http://investor.laredopetro.com>

**Corporate Governance**

*Board Meetings in fiscal 2016:* 5

*Standing Board Committees (Meetings in fiscal 2016):*

Audit (9)  
Compensation (6)  
Nominating & Corporate Governance (4)

*Separate Chairman and CEO:* No

*Lead Independent Director:* Yes

*Independent Directors Meet without Management:* Yes

*Staggered Board of Directors:* Yes

*Stockholder Rights Plan:* No

*Director and Officer Share Ownership Guidelines:* Yes

*Hedging and Short Sale Policy:* Yes

**Executive Compensation**

*CEO:* Randy A. Foutch (age 65)

*Fiscal 2016 CEO Pay Mix:*

Salary earned: 5%

Short-term incentive cash bonus: 11%

Long-term incentive equity awards: 83%

*Key Elements of our Executive Compensation Program:*

Competitive base salary

Short-term incentive cash bonus

Long-term incentive equity awards comprised of:

○

Performance units

○

Stock options

○

Restricted stock

Other Benefit Plans and Programs such as a 401(k) Plan

**Fiscal 2016 Highlights**

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

In 2016, we successfully grew our oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids ("NGL") reserves and our production, while generating more efficiencies in our drilling program and controlling costs in all areas of operations. Partially as a result of this performance, Laredo's stock outperformed the S&P 500 Index by 67% and the S&P 500 O&G E&P Index by 46% for the year. Our stock recognized a 77% return, which is among the best within our Performance Peer Group (as defined in our Compensation Discussion and Analysis). Among the highlights achieved by the Company in 2016, the following directly impacted growth in the value of the Company for our stockholders:

Produced a Company record 53,141 barrels of oil equivalent ("BOE") per day ("BOE/D") in the fourth quarter of 2016, resulting in full-year 2016 production growth of 11% from full-year 2015;

Reduced unit lease operating expenses to \$3.56 per BOE in the fourth quarter of 2016, resulting in a full-year 2016 reduction of 37% from full-year 2015;

Generated a return on average capital employed on a three-year average of 15.2%;

Generated drilling capital efficiency on a dollar-per-barrel basis of \$6.39;

Generated a drilling rate of return on 45 completed horizontal development wells of more than 40%;

Grew annual transported volumes on the Medallion-Midland Basin system, of which Laredo (as defined below) is a 49% owner, by 159% in 2016 to 39.3 million barrels ("Bbls") of oil, with a fourth-quarter daily average rate of 129,087 Bbl per day; and

Received \$186 million of net cash settlements on commodity derivatives that matured during 2016, increasing the average sales price for oil by \$20.34 per Bbl and for natural gas by \$0.47 per thousand cubic feet ("Mcf") compared to pre-hedged average sales prices.

Table of Contents

**LAREDO PETROLEUM, INC.**

**15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119**

**PROXY STATEMENT  
2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

The board of directors of Laredo Petroleum, Inc. (the "Company," "Laredo," "we," "us" or "our") requests your proxy for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders that will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at the Bank of America Building, Lower Level, 15 West Sixth Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 (the "Annual Meeting"). By granting the proxy, you authorize the persons named on the proxy to represent you and vote your shares at the Annual Meeting. Those persons will also be authorized to vote your shares to adjourn the Annual Meeting from time to time and to vote your shares at any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting.

In accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we are providing our stockholders access to our proxy materials on the Internet. Accordingly, a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") will be mailed to most of our stockholders on or about March 21, 2017. The Notice will include (i) instructions on how to access the Company's proxy materials electronically, (ii) the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting, (iii) a description of the matters intended to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting, (iv) a list of the materials being made available electronically, (v) instructions on how a stockholder can request to receive paper or e-mail copies of the Company's proxy materials, (vi) any control/identification numbers that a stockholder needs to access his or her proxy card and instructions on how to access the proxy card and (vii) information about attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice, or request a printed set of the proxy materials to be sent to them by following instructions on the Notice.

If you choose to receive future proxy materials by e-mail, you will receive an e-mail next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by e-mail or printed form will remain in effect until you terminate it.

**Q. Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?**

A. Holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 13, 2017, which we refer to as the "Record Date," are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 242,584,430 shares of our common stock outstanding. Stockholders are entitled to cast one vote per share on each matter presented for consideration and action at the Annual Meeting.

**Q. What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?**

A. At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will consider and vote upon the following matters:

- (1) Election of three Class I directors to our board of directors until the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in the year 2020 and until their respective successors are duly elected and the election of one Class II director to our board of directors until the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in the year 2018 and until his respective successor is duly elected;
- (2) Ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017;
- (3) An advisory vote approving the compensation of our named executive officers; and

Table of Contents

- (4) Such other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

**Q. Why did I receive a Notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials this year instead of a full set of proxy materials?**

A. In accordance with SEC rules, we are providing access to our proxy materials over the Internet. As a result, we are sending to most of our stockholders a Notice instead of a paper copy of the proxy materials. The Notice contains instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet and how to request a paper copy. In addition, stockholders may request to receive future proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by e-mail. A stockholder's election to receive proxy materials by mail or e-mail will remain in effect until the stockholder terminates it.

**Q. Why didn't I receive a Notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials?**

A. We are providing certain stockholders, including those who have previously requested to receive paper copies of the proxy materials, with paper copies of the proxy materials instead of a Notice. If you would like to help reduce the costs we incur in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receive all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions provided with your proxy materials and on your proxy card or voting instruction card to vote using the Internet. When prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access stockholder communications electronically in the future.

**Q. Can I vote my stock by filling out and returning the Notice?**

A. No. However, the Notice will provide instructions on how to vote over the Internet, by telephone, by requesting and returning a paper proxy card or by submitting a ballot in person at the Annual Meeting.

**Q. How can I access the proxy materials over the Internet?**

A. Your Notice or proxy card will contain instructions on how to view our proxy materials on the Internet. Our proxy materials are also available on our website at: [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com).

You may vote by any of the following four methods:

- (1) *Internet.* Vote over the Internet at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com), the website for Internet voting. Simply follow the instructions on the Notice, or if you received a proxy card by mail, follow the instructions on the proxy card, and you can confirm that your vote has been properly recorded. If you vote on the Internet, you can request electronic delivery of future proxy materials. Internet voting facilities for stockholders of record will be available 24 hours a day and will close at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on May 9, 2017.
- (2) *Telephone.* Vote by telephone by following the instructions on the Notice, or if you received a proxy card, by following the instructions on the proxy card. Easy-to-follow voice prompts allow you to vote your shares and confirm that your vote has been properly recorded. Telephone voting facilities for stockholders of record will be available 24 hours a day and will close at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on May 9, 2017.
- (3) *Mail.* If you received a proxy card by mail, vote by mail by completing, signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided. If you vote by mail and your proxy card is returned unsigned, then your vote cannot be counted. If you vote by mail and the returned proxy card is signed without indicating how you want to vote,

then

Table of Contents

your proxy will be voted as recommended by the board of directors. If mailed, your completed and signed proxy card must be received by May 9, 2017.

(4)

*Meeting.* If you are a stockholder of record, you may attend and vote at the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2017.

If you hold your Company shares in a brokerage account, your ability to vote over the Internet or by telephone depends on your broker's voting process. Please follow the directions on your proxy card or the voter instruction card from your broker carefully.

The board of directors recommends that you vote using one of the first three methods discussed above, as it is not practical for most stockholders to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. Using one of the first three methods discussed above to vote will not limit your right to vote at the Annual Meeting if you later decide to attend in person.

**Q.**

**How can I vote my shares in person at the Annual Meeting?**

**A.**

*Stockholders of Record.* If your shares are registered directly in your name with the American Stock Transfer and Trust Company ("AST"), our "transfer agent," you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares, and the Notice or proxy materials are being mailed to you. As the stockholder of record, you have the right to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. If you choose to do so, you can bring the proxy card or vote using the ballot provided at the Annual Meeting. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you vote your shares in advance as described below so that your vote will be counted if you decide later not to attend the Annual Meeting.

**B.**

*Beneficial Owners.* Most of our stockholders hold their shares in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. In that case, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and the proxy materials are being forwarded to you together with a voting instruction card. As the beneficial owner, you are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Because a beneficial owner is not the stockholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you obtain a "legal proxy" from the broker, bank or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting. You will need to contact your broker, bank or nominee to obtain a legal proxy, and you will need to bring it to the Annual Meeting in order to vote in person.

**Q.**

**How does the board of directors recommend that I vote?**

**A.**

Our board of directors recommends that you vote:

(1)

"FOR" the election of the Company's nominees to the board of directors.

(2)

"FOR" ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017.

(3)

"FOR" the advisory resolution approving the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement (which disclosure includes the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the executive compensation tables and the related footnotes and narrative accompanying the tables).

Table of Contents

**Q.**

**What is the voting requirement to approve each of the items?**

- A. Item One Election of directors                      The persons receiving the highest number of "FOR" votes at the Annual Meeting will be elected. As a result, the three nominees for election as Class I directors and the one nominee for election as a Class II director who receive the greatest number of votes will be elected directors. Abstentions, broker non-votes and withheld votes, if any, are not counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of this election.
- Item Two Ratification of appointment of independent public accounting firm                      To be approved by the stockholders, this item must receive the "FOR" vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes, if any, will be counted as votes "FOR" this proposal. Abstentions, if any, have the same effect as votes against the matter.
- Item Three Advisory vote approving the compensation of our named executive officers                      To be approved by the stockholders, this item must receive the "FOR" vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes, if any, are not counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal. Abstentions, if any, have the same effect as votes against the matter. The results of the votes on this Item Three are not binding on the board of directors, whether or not the resolution is passed under these voting standards.

**Q.**

**What happens if additional matters are presented at the Annual Meeting?**

- A. Other than the three items of business described in this Proxy Statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxies will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

**Q.**

**What happens if I do not give specific voting instructions?**

- A. If you are a stockholder of record, and vote without giving specific voting instructions, the proxyholders will vote your shares in the manner recommended by our board of directors on all matters presented in this Proxy Statement, and, with respect to any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting, as the proxyholders may determine in their discretion.

If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee and do not provide that broker, bank or other nominee with voting instructions in the proxy card, your shares will constitute "broker non-votes." Generally, broker non-votes occur when a broker is not permitted to vote on a matter without instructions from the beneficial owner and such instructions are not given. Except with respect to Item Two listed above, in tabulating the voting results for any particular proposal, shares that constitute broker non-votes are not considered entitled to vote on

Table of Contents

that proposal. Thus, other than for Item Two, broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of any matter being voted on at the meeting, assuming that a quorum is obtained.

If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other nominee and you do not provide your broker with specific voting instructions, your broker may vote your shares only with respect to certain matters considered routine. Specifically, your broker may not vote on the election of directors or the compensation of our named executive officers if you do not furnish instructions for these items. Your broker may vote in its discretion on the ratification of the appointment of our independent public accounting firm.

**Q.**

**What is the quorum requirement for the Annual Meeting?**

**A.**

A majority of the Company's outstanding shares as of the Record Date must be present, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting in order to hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business. This is called a quorum. Your shares will be counted for purposes of determining if there is a quorum, whether representing votes for, against, withheld or abstained, if you:

are present and vote at the Annual Meeting; or

properly submit a proxy card or vote over the Internet or by telephone.

Broker non-votes are counted as present for the purpose of determining the existence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting. If a quorum is not present, the chairman of the Annual Meeting may adjourn the meeting to another place, if any, date, or time.

**Q.**

**How can I change my vote after I return my proxy card?**

**A.**

If you are a stockholder of record, there are three ways you can change your vote or revoke your proxy after you have sent in your proxy form.

First, you may send a written notice to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119, stating that you would like to revoke your proxy.

Second, you may complete and submit another valid proxy by mail, telephone or over the Internet that is later dated and if mailed, is properly signed, or if submitted by telephone or over the Internet is received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 9, 2017. Any earlier proxies will be revoked automatically.

Third, you may attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. Any earlier proxy will be revoked. However, attending the Annual Meeting without voting in person will not revoke your proxy.

If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other nominee and you have instructed the broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares, you must follow directions from your broker, bank or other nominee to change your vote.

**Q.**

**Who will tabulate the votes?**

**A.**

The board of directors has appointed our transfer agent, AST, to certify the tabulated vote and AST will have a representative to act as the independent inspector of elections for the Annual Meeting. AST will be responsible for (i) determining the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting, (ii) receiving all votes and ballots, whether by proxy or in person, with regard to all issues voted upon at the Annual Meeting, (iii) counting and tabulating all such votes and ballots and (iv) determining and reporting the results with regard to all such issues voted upon at the Annual Meeting.





Table of Contents

**Q. Where can I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?**

A. We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and publish final results in a Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC within four business days following the Annual Meeting.

**Q. How can I obtain a separate set of proxy materials?**

A. We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC known as "householding." Under this procedure, multiple stockholders residing at the same address have the convenience of receiving a single copy of our Annual Report and Proxy Statement, unless they have notified us that they want to continue receiving multiple copies. Householding allows us to reduce the environmental impact of providing proxy materials as well as printing and mailing costs.

If you received a householded mailing this year and you would like to have additional copies of the Annual Report and/or Proxy Statement mailed to you, or you would like to revoke your consent to the householding of documents, please submit your request to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 or by calling (918) 513-4570.

Unfortunately, householding for bank and brokerage accounts is limited to accounts within the same bank or brokerage firm. For example, if you and your spouse each have an account containing our common stock at different brokerage firms, your household will receive two copies of our Annual Meeting materials - one from each brokerage firm. To reduce the number of duplicate sets of materials your household receives, you may wish to enroll some or all of your accounts in our electronic delivery program.

**Q. Who pays for the cost of this proxy solicitation?**

A. We will pay the costs of the solicitation of proxies. We may reimburse brokerage firms and other persons for expenses incurred in forwarding the voting materials to their customers who are beneficial owners and obtaining their voting instructions. Laredo has retained the services of Georgeson LLC ("Georgeson") to aid in the solicitation of proxies from banks, brokers, nominees and intermediaries. Laredo will pay Georgeson a fee of \$10,000 for its services, plus reasonable out of pocket expenses. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, our board of directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies on our behalf, without additional compensation, personally or by telephone. Stockholders voting over the Internet should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as the usage charges from telephone companies and Internet access providers, that must be borne by the stockholder.

**Q. Is there a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?**

A. The names of stockholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available at the Annual Meeting and for 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting at our principal executive offices between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central Time for any purpose relevant to the Annual Meeting. To arrange to view this list during the times specified above, please contact the Secretary of the Company at Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 or call (918) 513-4570.

**Q. What is the deadline to propose actions for consideration at next year's annual meeting?**

A. Stockholders who, in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the "Exchange Act," wish to present proposals for inclusion in the proxy materials to be distributed in connection with the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders, must

Table of Contents

submit their proposals so that they are received at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on November 20, 2017, or, in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting, within a reasonable time before the Company begins to print and mail the proxy materials for the 2018 annual meeting. As the SEC rules make clear, simply submitting a proposal does not guarantee that it will be included in the Company's proxy materials.

In addition, stockholders who wish to introduce a proposal from the floor of the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders (outside the processes of Rule 14a-8), must submit that proposal in writing to the Company's Secretary at our principal executive offices no earlier than January 4, 2018 and no later than February 5, 2018, or, in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the anniversary of the Annual Meeting, not later than the later of (i) the 90th day before the 2018 annual meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the 2018 annual meeting is first made by the Company.

To be in proper form, a stockholder's notice must be timely delivered to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 and must include the information required by our Second Amended and Restated Bylaws (our "bylaws") with respect to each proposal submitted. The Company may refuse to consider any proposal that is not timely or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of our bylaws or the SEC's rules with respect to the submission of proposals.

You may obtain a copy of our bylaws by accessing our website ([www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com)) or submitting a request to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119.

**Q.**

**How do I nominate a candidate for election as a director?**

**A.**

Stockholders who wish to nominate a candidate for election as a director at our 2018 annual meeting must submit their nomination in writing to the Company's Secretary at our principal executive offices no earlier than January 4, 2018 and no later than February 5, 2018, or, in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting, not later than the later of (i) the 90th day before the 2018 annual meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the 2018 annual meeting is first made by the Company.

In the event that the number of directors to be elected to the board of directors is increased and there has been no public announcement naming all of the nominees for director or indicating the increase made by the Company at least 10 days before the last day a stockholder may deliver a notice of nomination in accordance with the preceding sentence, a stockholder's notice will be considered timely, but only with respect to nominees for any new positions created by such increase, if it is received by the Secretary at the principal executive offices of the Company not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the day on which such public announcement is first made by the Company.

To be in proper form, a stockholder's notice must be timely delivered to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 and must include the information required by our bylaws with respect to the nomination and all other information regarding the proposed nominee and the nominating stockholder required by Section 14 of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The Company may refuse to consider any nomination that is not timely or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of our bylaws or the SEC's rules with respect to the submission of director nominations. A written

Table of Contents

statement from the proposed nominee consenting to be named as a candidate and, if nominated and elected, to serve as a director should accompany any stockholder nomination.

**Q.**

**How can I communicate with the board of directors?**

**A.**

Stockholders or other interested parties can contact any director, any committee of the board of directors, or the Company's non-management directors as a group, by writing to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119. Comments or complaints relating to the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters will also be referred to members of the audit committee of our board of directors (the "Audit Committee"). All such communications will be forwarded to the appropriate member(s) of the board of directors.

**THIS QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION IS ONLY MEANT TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROXY STATEMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE SUBSEQUENT PAGES.**

Table of Contents

**CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

Laredo Petroleum, Inc. is a Delaware corporation formed in 2011 for the purpose of merging with Laredo Petroleum, LLC (a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2007) to consummate an initial public offering of common stock in December 2011 ("IPO"). Laredo Petroleum, Inc. was the survivor of such merger and currently has two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Laredo Midstream Services, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("LMS"), and Garden City Minerals, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("GCM").

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this Proxy Statement to "Laredo," the "Company," "we," "our," "us," or similar terms refer to Laredo Petroleum, Inc. and its subsidiaries at the applicable time, including former subsidiaries and predecessor companies, as applicable.

Table of Contents

**ITEM ONE**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, our board of directors is divided into three classes, designated Class I, Class II and Class III, with each class serving staggered terms and thereafter until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The individuals listed below currently serve, **or are being nominated to serve**, as the directors in the class indicated with a term expiring at the corresponding annual meeting of stockholders. As a result, approximately one-third of the director positions will be elected at each annual meeting of stockholders.

**Class I With a term expiring 2020**

**Randy A. Foutch**  
**Peter R. Kagan**  
**Edmund P. Segner, III**

**Class II With a term expiring 2018**

James R. Levy  
**Dr. Myles W. Scoggins**  
Donald D. Wolf

**Class III With a term expiring 2019**

B.Z. (Bill) Parker  
Pamela S. Pierce

**Nominees for Class I (with a term expiring in 2020) and for Class II (with a term expiring in 2018)**

On the recommendation of the nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors (the "Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee"), the board of directors has nominated Randy A. Foutch, Peter R. Kagan and Edmund P. Segner, III for election to the board as Class I directors and Dr. Myles W. Scoggins for election to the board as a Class II director of the Company and recommends that each of them be re-elected to the board of directors to serve as Class I and II directors, respectively. The board of directors recommends that Randy A. Foutch, Peter R. Kagan and Edmund P. Segner, III hold office until the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders and thereafter until each of their successors is elected and qualified or his earlier resignation or removal, and that Dr. Myles W. Scoggins holds office until the 2018 annual meeting of the stockholders and thereafter until his successor is elected and qualified or his earlier resignation or removal. Dr. Scoggins has previously served as a Class I director together with Messrs. Foutch, Kagan and Segner. However, following the resignation of Ambassador Francis Rooney from our board of directors, in order to comply with rules of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") requiring that classes of directors be of as equal size as possible, Dr. Scoggins has agreed to seek election as a Class II director. Ambassador Francis Rooney resigned from our board of directors on September 6, 2016 for personal reasons to focus on his election campaign for a Florida congressional seat and not due to any disagreement with the Company. The Company appreciates Ambassador Rooney's distinguished service on our board of directors since February 2010.

The biographical information for all four director nominees and our other directors is contained in the "Directors" section below.

Table of Contents

Assuming the presence of a quorum, each of the four director nominees receiving the affirmative vote "FOR" of a plurality of the shares voted at the Annual Meeting will be elected. Cumulative voting is not permitted in the election of directors. The board of directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of each of the four nominees Randy A. Foutch, Peter R. Kagan, Edmund P. Segner, III and Dr. Myles W. Scoggins.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxyholders will vote the proxies received by them for the four nominees named above. The board of directors has no reason to believe that any of its nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve if elected. If a nominee becomes unable or unwilling to accept nomination or election, either the number of the Company's directors will be reduced or the proxyholders will vote for the election of a substitute nominee that the board of directors recommends.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE *FOR* THE ELECTION OF EACH OF RANDY A. FOUTCH, PETER R. KAGAN, EDMUND P. SEGNER, III AND DR. MYLES W. SCOGGINS.**

Table of Contents**DIRECTORS**

After the Annual Meeting, assuming the stockholders elect the four nominees of the board of directors as set forth in "Item One Election of Directors" above, the board of directors of the Company will be:

Name	Directors	
	Age	Position
Randy A. Foutch*	65	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Peter R. Kagan(1)*	48	Director
James R. Levy(2)	41	Director
B.Z. (Bill) Parker(1)(3)	69	Director
Pamela S. Pierce(1)(2)(3)	62	Director
Dr. Myles W. Scoggins(1)(2)(3)*	69	Director
Edmund P. Segner, III(1)(3)*	63	Director
Donald D. Wolf(1)(2)(3)	73	Director

- (1) Member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee
- (2) Member of the Compensation Committee
- (3) Member of the Audit Committee

Our board of directors currently consists of eight members, each serving a three-year term that expires on the date of the corresponding annual meeting of the stockholders except for Dr. Myles W. Scoggins, who, if elected, will serve a one-year term that expires on the date of the next annual meeting of the stockholders.

Set forth below is biographical information about each of our nominees and the continuing directors as of March 31, 2017. \* **Indicates Nominees for Election.**

\**Randy A. Foutch* is Laredo's founder and has served as Laredo's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since that time. He also served as Laredo's President from October 2006 to July 2008. Mr. Foutch has more than 32 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. Prior to our formation, Mr. Foutch founded Latigo Petroleum, Inc. ("Latigo") in 2001 and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer until it was sold to Pogo Producing Co. in May 2006. Previous to Latigo, Mr. Foutch founded Lariat Petroleum, Inc. ("Lariat") in 1996 and served as its President until January 2001 when it was sold to Newfield Exploration, Inc. He is currently serving on the board of directors of Helmerich & Payne, Inc. (where he is a member of its audit and nominating and corporate governance committees). Mr. Foutch is also a member of the National Petroleum Council and the Advisory Council of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas, Austin. From 2013 until his resignation in June 2015, he served on the board of directors of Cheniere Energy, Inc. From 2006 to August 2011, he served on the board of directors of Bill Barrett Corporation and from 2006 to 2008, on the board of directors of MacroSolve, Inc. Mr. Foutch also serves on the University of Tulsa Board of Trustees and several nonprofit and private industry boards. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Texas and a Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Houston.

Mr. Foutch has been successful in founding other oil and gas companies and has served in director positions of various oil and gas companies. As a result, he provides a strong operational and strategic background and has valuable business, leadership and management experience and insights into many aspects of the operations of exploration and production companies. Mr. Foutch also brings financial expertise to the board of directors, including his experience in obtaining financing for startup oil and gas companies. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Foutch is qualified to serve as a director.



Table of Contents

\**Peter R. Kagan* has served as one of our (or our predecessor's) directors since July 2007. He has been with Warburg Pincus since 1997 where he leads the firm's investment activities in energy and natural resources. He is a Partner of Warburg Pincus & Co. and a Managing Director of Warburg Pincus. He is also a member of Warburg Pincus' Executive Management Group. Mr. Kagan is currently on the board of directors of AAG Energy Holdings Ltd. (formerly Asian American Gas Ltd.), Antero Resources Corporation (where he serves as the lead director for the governance and nominating committee), Antero Midstream Partners LP, Brigham Resources LLC, Canbriam Energy, Inc. (where he serves on the human resources committee), Delonex Energy, MEG Energy (where he serves on the nominating and governance committee), Navitas Midstream Partners, LLC and Venari Resources LLC (where he serves on the finance committee). He previously served on the board of directors of Broad Oak Energy, Inc. ("Broad Oak"), Hawkwood Energy LLC, Targa Resources, Inc., Targa Resources Partners L.P., Lariat and Latigo. Mr. Kagan is a director of Resources for the Future and a trustee of Milton Academy. Mr. Kagan received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Harvard College and Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration degrees with honors from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Kagan has significant experience with energy companies and investments and broad familiarity with the industry and related transactions and capital markets activity, which enhance his contributions to the board of directors. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Kagan is qualified to serve as a director.

*James R. Levy* has served as one of our (or our predecessor's) directors since May 2007. He joined Warburg Pincus in 2006 and focuses on investments in the energy industry. He is a Partner of Warburg Pincus & Co. and a Managing Director of Warburg Pincus. Prior to joining Warburg Pincus, he worked as an Associate at Kohlberg & Company, a middle-market private equity investment firm, from 2002 to 2006, and as an Analyst and Associate at Wasserstein Perella & Co. from 1999 to 2002. Mr. Levy is currently serving on the board of directors of Antero Resources Corporation (where he serves on the compensation committee), Brigham Resources LLC, Chisholm Energy Partners, EnStorage, Inc., Hawkwood Energy LLC, Independence Resources Management LLC and Terra Energy Partners. He is a former director of Broad Oak and Black Swan Energy. In addition, he is a trustee for Prep for Prep. Mr. Levy received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Yale University.

Mr. Levy has significant experience with investments in the energy industry and currently serves on the boards of various energy companies. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Levy is qualified to serve as a director.

*B.Z. (Bill) Parker* has served as one of our (or our predecessor's) directors since May 2007. Mr. Parker joined Phillips Petroleum Company in 1970 where he held various engineering positions in exploration and production in the United States and abroad. He later served in numerous executive positions at Phillips Petroleum Company and in 2000, he was named Executive Vice President for Worldwide Production & Operations. He retired from Phillips Petroleum Company in this position in November 2002. Mr. Parker served on the board of Williams Partners GP LLC, the general partner of Williams Partners LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership, from August 2005 to September 2010 where he also served as chairman of the conflicts and audit committees. He served on the board of directors of Latigo from January 2003 to May 2006 where he also served as chairman of the audit committee. Mr. Parker is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Parker has more than 45 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, having served in various engineering and executive positions for an exploration and production company and as a director and audit committee member for various energy companies. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Parker is qualified to serve as a director.

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

*Pamela S. Pierce* has served as one of our (or our predecessor's) directors since May 2007. She has been a partner at Ztown Investments, Inc. since 2005, focused on investments in domestic oil and natural gas non-working interests. She also is a member of the board of directors of Scientific Drilling International, Inc. and ShawCor Ltd., an energy services company traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, where she also serves on the compensation committee. From 2005 to 2013, she served on the board of directors of Michael Baker, Inc., and from 2002 to 2004, she was the President of Huber Energy LP, an operating company of J.M. Huber Corporation. From 2000 to 2002, she was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Houston-based Mirant Americas Energy Capital and Production Company. She has also held a variety of managerial positions with ARCO Oil and Gas Company, ARCO Alaska and Vastar Resources. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Business Administration in Corporate Finance from the University of Dallas.

Ms. Pierce is a highly experienced business executive with extensive knowledge of the energy industry. Her business acumen enhances the board of directors' discussions on all issues affecting us, and her leadership insights contribute significantly to the board of directors' decision making process. For these reasons, we believe Ms. Pierce is qualified to serve as a director.

\**Dr. Myles W. Scoggins* has served as one of our directors since May 2012. Dr. Scoggins is President Emeritus of the Colorado School of Mines, an engineering and science research university with strong ties to the oil and gas industry. He served as its 16th President from June 2006 until July 2015. Dr. Scoggins retired in April 2004 after a 34-year career with Mobil Oil Corporation and ExxonMobil Corporation, where he held senior executive positions in the upstream oil and gas business. From December 1999 to April 2004, he served as Executive Vice President of ExxonMobil Production Co. Prior to the merger of Mobil and Exxon in December 1999, he was President, International Exploration & Production and Global Exploration and an officer and member of the executive committee of Mobil Oil Corporation. He has been a member of the board of directors of Cobalt International Energy, a publicly traded independent oil exploration and production company focusing on the deepwater U.S. Gulf of Mexico and offshore West Africa, since March 2010 (where he serves on the nominating and corporate governance committee and is interim chair of the audit committee); and QEP Resources, Inc., a publicly traded independent onshore U.S. oil and gas exploration and production company since July 2010 (where he serves on the compensation committee and chairs the audit committee). From February 2005 until June 2010, Dr. Scoggins was a member of the board of directors of Questar Corporation, a publicly traded Rockies-based integrated natural gas company; from March 2005 until August 2011, he was a member of the board of directors of Trico Marine Services, Inc., an integrated provider of subsea, trenching and marine support vessels and services; and from June 2007 until October 2012, he was a member of the board of directors of Venoco, Inc., a publicly traded oil and gas production company. Dr. Scoggins has a Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

Dr. Scoggins has more than 47 years of experience in the oil and gas exploration and production industry with extensive industry and management experience and expertise and has served in various senior executive and management positions in the upstream oil and gas business. For these reasons, we believe Dr. Scoggins is qualified to serve as a director.

\**Edmund P. Segner, III* joined our (or our predecessor's) board of directors in August 2011. Mr. Segner currently is a professor in the practice of engineering management in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University in Houston, Texas, a position he has held since July 2006. In 2008, Mr. Segner retired from EOG Resources, Inc. ("EOG"), a publicly traded independent oil and gas exploration and production company. Among the positions he held at EOG were President, Chief of Staff and director from 1999 to 2007. From March 2003 through June 2007, he also served as the Principal Financial Officer of EOG. He has been a member of the board of directors of Bill Barrett Corporation, a publicly traded oil and gas company primarily active in the Rocky

Table of Contents

Mountain region of the United States, since August 2009 (where he serves on the audit, compensation and reserves & EHS committees). He has also served on the board of directors of Archrock Partners, L.P. (formerly Exterran Partners, L.P.), a publicly traded master limited partnership that provides natural gas contract operations services, since May 2009 (where he serves on the audit, compensation and conflicts committees). In February 2014, Mr. Segner also became a member of the board of directors of Midcoast Holdings, L.L.C., the general partner of Midcoast Energy Partners, L.P., a publicly traded master limited partnership (an affiliate of Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.), where he serves on the conflicts committee. From August 2009 until October 2011, Mr. Segner was a member of the board of directors of Seahawk Drilling, Inc., an offshore oil and natural gas drilling company. He also currently serves as a member of the board or as a trustee for several non-profit organizations. Mr. Segner graduated from Rice University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and received an M.A. degree in economics from the University of Houston. He is a certified public accountant.

Mr. Segner's service as President, Principal Financial Officer and director of publicly traded oil and gas exploration and development companies provides our board of directors with a strong operational, financial, accounting and strategic background and provides valuable business, leadership and management experience and insights into many aspects of the operations of exploration and production companies. Mr. Segner also brings financial and accounting expertise to the board of directors, including through his experience in financing transactions for oil and gas companies, his background as a certified public accountant, his service as a Principal Financial Officer, his supervision of principal financial officers and principal accounting officers, and his service on the audit committees of other companies. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Segner is qualified to serve as a director.

*Donald D. Wolf* has served as one of our (or our predecessor's) directors since February 2010. Mr. Wolf served as the Chief Executive Officer of Quantum Resources Management from 2006 to 2009 and served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the general partner of the fund until year-end 2014 when it merged with Breitburn Energy Partners LLC, a publicly traded oil and gas company, where he currently serves as a director. He is currently Chairman of the board of Enduring Resources, LLC and a director of Aspect Energy, LLC. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Aspect Energy, LLC from 2004 to 2006. Prior to joining Aspect, Mr. Wolf served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Westport Resources Corporation from 1996 to 2004. Mr. Wolf graduated from Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Mr. Wolf has had a diversified career in the oil and natural gas industry and has served in executive positions for various exploration and production companies. His extensive experience in the energy industry brings substantial experience and leadership skill to the board of directors. For these reasons, we believe Mr. Wolf is qualified to serve as a director.

Table of Contents

**MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF DIRECTORS**

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines require that the board of directors hold at least four meetings each year, and that our independent directors meet in executive session regularly. Our board of directors held five meetings in 2016, and our independent directors met in executive session five times in 2016. Our board of directors held four regularly scheduled quarterly meetings and one special telephonic meeting in 2016. All incumbent members of the board of directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the board of directors and the total number of meetings held by all committees of the board on which the board member served in 2016, with the exception of Donald Wolf, who attended 70% of such meetings. For more information regarding the role and structure of our board of directors, refer to the "Corporate Governance" section included herein.

The board of directors has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

*Audit Committee.* Information regarding the functions performed by the Audit Committee and its membership is set forth in the "Audit Committee Report" included herein and also in the "Audit Committee Charter" that is posted on the Company's website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com). The current members of the Audit Committee are Mr. Segner (Chair), Mr. Parker, Mr. Wolf, Ms. Pierce and Dr. Scoggins. The Audit Committee Charter requires that the Audit Committee meet as often as it determines necessary but at least four times each year. The Audit Committee held nine meetings and nine executive sessions during 2016 either in person or by teleconference. The Audit Committee regularly meets in executive session with each of our external auditors and our internal audit manager.

*Compensation Committee.* Responsibilities of the Compensation Committee, which are discussed in detail in the "Compensation Committee Charter" that is posted on the Company's website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com), include, among other duties, the responsibility to:

in consultation with senior management, establish the Company's general compensation philosophy and objectives;

review and approve the Company's goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, annually evaluate the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of those goals and objectives and, based on this evaluation, determine the Chief Executive Officer's compensation level, including salary, bonus, incentive and equity compensation;

make recommendations to the board of directors with respect to compensation for non-Chief Executive Officer executive officers;

make recommendations to the board of directors with respect to all employment agreements, severance arrangements, change in control provisions and agreements and any special supplemental benefits applicable to the Company's executive officers;

review and make recommendations to the board of directors with respect to incentive compensation and equity-based plans;

administer the Company's equity-based compensation plans, including the grant of stock option awards and other equity awards under such plans; and

review and make recommendations to the board of directors with respect to director compensation.

The Compensation Committee has the authority, to the extent it deems appropriate, to retain one or more compensation consultants to assist in the evaluation of director, Chief Executive Officer or other executive compensation. The Compensation Committee has the sole authority to retain and terminate any such consulting firm and to approve the firm's fees and other retention terms. The



Table of Contents

Compensation Committee also has the authority, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, to retain other advisers. The Company will provide for appropriate funding as determined by the Compensation Committee, for payment of compensation to any consulting firm or other advisers employed by the Compensation Committee.

The members of the Compensation Committee are Ms. Pierce (Chair), Mr. Levy, Mr. Wolf and Dr. Scoggins.

The Compensation Committee Charter requires that the Compensation Committee meet as often as it determines necessary but at least once each year. The Compensation Committee held six meetings and five executive sessions in 2016 either in person or by teleconference.

*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee identifies, evaluates and recommends qualified nominees to serve on the Company's board of directors, develops and oversees the Company's internal corporate governance processes and maintains a management succession plan. Additional information regarding the functions performed by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is set forth in the "Corporate Governance" section included herein and also in the "Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter" that is posted on the Company's website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com).

The members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Mr. Parker (Chair), Messrs. Kagan, Segner and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter requires that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meet as often as it determines necessary but at least once each year. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held four meetings in 2016, and two executive sessions.

Table of Contents

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Set forth below is biographical information about each of our executive officers as of March 31, 2017.

*Randy A. Foutch* is the Chairman of the board of directors of the Company and Laredo's Chief Executive Officer. Please see the "Directors" section above for Mr. Foutch's biographical information.

*Richard C. Buterbaugh*, age 62, joined the Company in June 2012 and has served as Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of the Company since December 2012. He served as Senior Vice President Investor Relations from June 2012 to December 2012. From March 2007 to June 2011, he was Vice President Investor Relations and Corporate Planning at Quicksilver Resources, Inc. From November 1989 to August 2006, he was with Kerr-McGee Corp., most recently as Vice President of Corporate Planning and previously as Vice President of Investor Relations and Communications. After leaving Quicksilver Resources, Inc. and prior to joining Laredo, as well as after leaving Kerr-McGee Corp. and prior to joining Quicksilver Resources, Inc., he was a consultant for oil and gas finance and management projects. Mr. Buterbaugh has more than 40 years of corporate finance, planning and investor relations experience in the oil and gas industry. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Colorado.

*Daniel C. Schooley*, age 61, joined Laredo in 2007 and has served as Senior Vice President Operations of the Company since May 2016. He served as Senior Vice President Midstream and Marketing from February 2014 to May 2016 and Vice President of Marketing from 2007 to February 2014. Mr. Schooley has been in the midstream and marketing business since 1983, serving in senior level management positions at Oxley Petroleum Co., Stalwart Energy Corporation and Lumen Energy Corp. Mr. Schooley is a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association and holds a Bachelors degree in Forestry and a Masters degree in Resource Economics, both from Oklahoma State University.

*Patrick J. Curth*, age 65, has served as Senior Vice President Exploration and Land of the Company since October 2006. He has been involved in exploration and development projects in the Mid-Continent area for over three decades. Prior to joining Laredo, Mr. Curth joined Latigo in 2000 as Exploration Manager and served as Vice President Exploration when Latigo was sold in May 2006. From 1997 to 2000, he was the Vice President Exploration at Lariat. Mr. Curth holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geology from Windham College, a Masters Degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and a second Masters Degree in Environmental Sciences from Oklahoma State University.

*Kenneth E. Dornblaser*, age 62, joined Laredo in June 2011 and has served as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Company since that time. In 2012, Mr. Dornblaser was also appointed corporate Secretary. Immediately prior to joining Laredo, Mr. Dornblaser was a shareholder in the Johnson & Jones law firm, which he co-founded in March 1994. Prior to co-founding Johnson & Jones, Mr. Dornblaser had been engaged in the private practice of law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with the law firm of Gable & Gotwals since 1980. Mr. Dornblaser graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and the University of Oklahoma where he received his Juris Doctorate degree.

*Michael T. Beyer*, age 41, joined Laredo in September 2007 and has served as Vice President-Controller and Chief Accounting Officer of the Company since April 2014. He served as Laredo's Controller from February 2012 to April 2014 and in various accounting roles from September 2007 to February 2012. Mr. Beyer has more than 16 years of experience in accounting, with the majority in the energy industry. Prior to joining Laredo, he worked in the tax field and spent five years at a private energy company, from 2002 to 2007. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Oklahoma and has been a Certified Public Accountant since 2002.

Table of Contents

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

*The following discussion and analysis contains statements regarding our named executive officers' past and future performance targets and goals. These targets and goals are disclosed in the limited context of our compensation programs and should not be understood to be statements of management's expectations or estimates of results or other guidance.*

***Introduction***

The following compensation discussion and analysis describes the material elements of compensation for our named executive officers as determined by the Compensation Committee for 2016. In particular, this "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" (1) provides an overview of Laredo's historical and proposed compensation policies and programs; (2) explains our compensation objectives, policies and practices with respect to our executive officers; and (3) identifies the elements of compensation for each of the individuals identified in the "Named Executive Officers" table, who we refer to in this "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" as our "named executive officers."

***Named Executive Officers***

For the 2016 fiscal year, our named executive officers were:

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Randy A. Foutch

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Richard C. Buterbaugh

Senior Vice President Operations

Daniel C. Schooley

Senior Vice President Exploration & Land

Patrick J. Curth

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Kenneth E. Dornblaser

Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh are named executive officers by reason of their positions as the principal executive officer ("PEO") and principal financial officer ("PFO"), respectively, of the Company during the year. Mr. Schooley, Mr. Curth and Mr. Dornblaser are named executive officers as they are our three most highly compensated executive officers (other than our PEO and PFO) who were serving in such capacity at the end of 2016.

***2016 Company Highlights***

At the beginning of 2016, the downward trend in commodity prices for crude oil, natural gas and NGL accelerated, with crude oil prices reaching a twelve-year low in February 2016. As a result, early in the year all phases of our operations were impacted, meriting changes to our compensation structure. Effective in February 2016, our named executive officers recommended a 10% reduction in their salaries. As more fully discussed below, this reduction in salary earned also negatively impacted the named executive officers' short-term incentive compensation because such compensation is in part targeted as a percentage of salary earned during the calendar year. In the second half of 2016, commodity prices recovered and somewhat stabilized at relatively higher prices, but still significantly lower than historically high prices seen at the beginning of 2014.

Despite the challenges presented by the initially depressed and continuing volatile price environment in 2016, we achieved a number of significant accomplishments. We successfully grew our oil, natural gas and NGL production and reserves, while generating significant and repeatable efficiencies in our drilling program and cost controls in all areas of our operations. In part because of our operational performance in 2016, our stock outperformed the S&P 500 Index by 67% and the S&P 500 O&G E&P Index by 46% for the year (as shown in the chart below).



Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

The 77% return on our stock for the year was among the best in our Performance Peer Group.

Table of Contents

**2016 Stock Price Performance**  
**Laredo Petroleum, Inc. vs. S&P 500 vs. S&P O&G E&P**

Among the operational highlights we achieved in 2016, the following directly and positively impacted the growth in the value of the Company for our stockholders:

**Exploration and Production Segment Highlights**

<b>11% Production Growth</b>	Produced a Company record 53,141 BOE/D in the fourth quarter of 2016, resulting in full-year 2016 production growth of 11% from full-year 2015
<b>37% LOE per BOE Reduction</b>	Reduced unit lease operating expenses ("LOE") to \$3.56 per BOE in the fourth quarter of 2016, resulting in full-year 2016 reduction of 37% from full-year 2015
<b>15.2% ROACE</b>	Generated a return on average capital employed ("ROACE") on a three-year average of 15.2%
<b>DCE \$6.39 per Bbl</b>	Generated drilling capital efficiency ("DCE") on a dollar-per-BOE basis of \$6.39
<b>&gt; 50% Drilling ROR</b>	Generated a drilling rate of return ("ROR") on 45 completed horizontal development wells of over 40%

**40% Proved  
Developed  
Reserve  
Growth**

Grew proved developed reserves organically by 40% in 2016

**Midstream and Marketing Segment Highlights**

**\$24MM Cash  
Benefits**

Recognized \$24 million of cash benefits from field infrastructure investments through reduced capital and operating costs and increased revenue

**Hedge Benefit  
of \$20.34 per  
Bbl of oil /  
\$0.47 per Mcf  
of natural gas**

Received \$186 million of net cash settlements on commodity derivatives that matured during 2016, increasing the average sales price for oil by \$20.34 per Bbl and for natural gas by \$0.47 per Mcf compared to pre-hedged average sales prices

**159%  
Transported  
Volumes  
Growth**

Grew annual transported volumes on the Medallion-Midland Basin system, of which Laredo is a 49% owner, by 159% in 2016 to 39.3 million Bbls of oil, with a fourth-quarter daily average rate of 129,087 Bbl of oil per day

Table of Contents

***Compensation Best Practices***

The Company maintains compensation arrangements intended to optimize returns to shareholders and include best practice features.

<b>What We Do</b>	<b>What We Don't Do</b>
Maintain robust equity ownership guidelines for directors and executives	Provide excise tax gross-ups for executives
Tie a significant portion of annual incentive compensation to Company performance and stock performance	Provide for "single trigger" change in control severance
Utilize an independent compensation consultant	Provide long-term employment agreements to executives
Perform an annual compensation risk assessment, including to ensure our compensation structure does not encourage unnecessary risk taking	Allow for option repricing without stockholder approval
Provide at least 50% of long-term incentives in the form of performance-based compensation	Allow directors or officers to pledge and/or hedge Company stock

***Alignment of Pay and Performance***

Our executive compensation program is strongly aligned with Company performance, and the majority of our named executive officers' compensation is considered variable and at-risk. The following table sets forth the approximate percentages of our named executive officers' total compensation that Laredo paid in the form of (i) base salary and cash bonus awards and (ii) equity awards during fiscal year 2016 as set forth in the "Summary compensation table" below. The charts that follow the table below depict the allocation of base salary, target annual cash bonus and target long-term incentive awards of our Chief Executive Officer and other named executive officers for 2016 (assuming each such person receives his or her target percentage for STIP and LTIP awards). We balance the various components of our compensation program by tying significant portions of total compensation to short- and long-term financial and strategic goals, currently in the form of annual cash bonus awards and long-term, plan-based incentive awards. Our compensation philosophy is designed to align the interests of our employees with those of our stockholders. For more information regarding the equity awards, see the "Grants of plan-based awards table for the year ended December 31, 2016." We also attempt to set each officer's base salary in line with comparable positions with our peers and to award an annual cash bonus based on the achievement of overall Company strategic goals and each individual's relative contribution to those goals.

Table of Contents**2016 Actual Pay Mix**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Principal position</b>	<b>Salary earned as a percentage of total compensation(1)</b>	<b>Cash bonus as a percentage of total compensation</b>	<b>Equity awards as a percentage of total compensation</b>
Randy A. Foutch(2)	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	5%	11%	83%
Richard C. Buterbaugh	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	7%	10%	83%
Daniel C. Schooley	Senior Vice President Operations	9%	14%	77%
Patrick J. Curth(2)	Senior Vice President Exploration and Land	8%	12%	79%
Kenneth E. Dornblaser(2)	Senior Vice President and General Counsel	8%	12%	79%

(1) Represents the salary earned in 2016, regardless of when it was paid.

(2) The remaining portions of the named executive officers' total compensation were attributable to all other compensation paid for 2016. See " Summary Compensation" for further details regarding the named executive officers' other compensation.

**CEO Target Pay Mix**

Table of Contents

**Average Named Executive Officer Target Pay Mix**

*Reported Compensation vs. Realized Compensation*

**3-Year CEO Target vs. Realized Compensation**

**Target Comp:** Salary, target bonus and target long-term incentive grant

**Realized Comp:** Long-term incentive awards captured to the extent they were realized and valued using the closing stock price on the date of each vesting

**Stock Price:** Valued using the average closing price for each fiscal year

Table of Contents

***Summary of our Compensation Program***

The key components of our compensation program and how each supports our compensation objectives are presented in the following table:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Base salary	Annual cash compensation	Base salaries are designed to provide a fixed level of cash compensation for services rendered during the year.
Short-term incentive performance ("STIP")	Cash bonus award, based primarily on overall Company performance, with consideration also given to relative individual performance	Annual cash bonus awards are a key part of each named executive officer's annual compensation package. The Compensation Committee believes that cash bonuses are an appropriate way to further the Company's goal of attracting, retaining and rewarding highly-qualified and experienced officers. Cash bonuses are generally awarded annually following completion of the service year for which bonuses are payable and based primarily on Laredo's performance relative to predetermined targets for such service year, with consideration also given to individual performance and specific contributions to Laredo's success and performance.
Long-term equity-based incentive ("LTIP") awards	For corporate officers, consists of approximately 50% performance units, 25% restricted stock, and 25% stock options	Our historical long-term plan-based incentive program was designed to provide our employees, including our named executive officers, with an incentive to focus on our long-term success and to act as a long-term retention tool by aligning the interests of our employees with those of our stockholders.

***Process for Determining Executive Compensation***

*Administration of our compensation programs*

Our executive compensation program is overseen by the Compensation Committee. The purpose of the Compensation Committee is to supervise the administration of compensation programs for all our officers and employees and those of our subsidiaries. Officer compensation is reviewed at least annually for possible adjustments by the Compensation Committee.

*Compensation philosophy and competitive market positioning*

Our executive compensation program is designed to attract, retain and motivate highly qualified and committed personnel by compensating them with both long-term incentive compensation in the form of equity, options and performance incentives, and short-term cash compensation comprised of salary and the possibility of annual bonuses. We intend for our mix of compensation incentives to enhance our ability to recruit, retain and motivate our executives and other employees and to accelerate the value of our assets for the benefit of our stockholders.

We believe that our pay mix enables us to provide a competitive pay package in order to recruit and retain executives, while placing a larger emphasis on at-risk, variable compensation. The following chart summarizes the Company's compensation strategy by pay element, as well as our named executive officers' current competitive marketing positioning, based on data supplied in 2016 by

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. ("FW Cook"), who has been engaged by the Compensation Committee as its independent compensation adviser.

<b>Compensation Element</b>	<b>Target Positioning</b>	<b>2016 Competitive Market Positioning</b>
Base Salary	Market Median	Aggregate base salaries for our named executive officers was approximately 93% of the market median
Total Cash Compensation	Market Median	With respect to total cash compensation <i>paid</i> to our executive officers, the Company was positioned at 83% of the market median. The Company's <i>target</i> total cash compensation was positioned at 97% of the market median
Long-term incentive compensation	Between the market median and market 75th percentile	The named executive officers were positioned at 91% of the market median and 64% of the market 75th percentile

### *Implementing our objectives*

Executive compensation decisions are made on an annual basis by the Compensation Committee with input primarily from Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh. Although the Compensation Committee considers the input received from these executive officers, compensation decisions affecting our executive (including our named executive) and other officers are ultimately recommended by the Compensation Committee and approved by the board of directors.

With the approval of the Compensation Committee, Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh have routinely obtained and reviewed external market information (including that received from the Compensation Committee's independent compensation adviser, as more fully described below) to assess the Company's ability to provide competitive compensation packages to our executive officers and recommend an adjustment to the compensation levels, when necessary. In making executive compensation recommendations, Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh consider both the Company's and the executive officers' performance during the year. Moreover, an executive officer's expanded role at the Company could also serve as a basis for adjustment. Specifically, Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh provide recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding the compensation levels for our existing officers (excluding Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh) and our compensation program as a whole.

While the Compensation Committee gives considerable weight to Messrs. Foutch's and Buterbaugh's input on compensation matters, the board of directors, after considering the recommendations of the Compensation Committee, has the final decision-making authority on all executive (including on named executive) and other officer compensation matters. No other executive officers have a role in the evaluation, design or administration of our executive officer compensation program.

### *Shareholder Say-on-Pay Results*

Our executive compensation program received the support of 93.4% of shares voted at our 2016 Annual Meeting, which the Compensation Committee views as evidence of stockholder support of the Company's executive compensation decisions and policies. Despite this high level of approval, given the current volatility of the oil and gas industry, the Compensation Committee, with the advice of its independent compensation adviser, continues to review the compensation program and modify it in ways that it believes will further align the interests of our executive officers with our stockholders. The Compensation Committee will continue to review stockholder votes on our executive compensation and determine whether to make changes to the program accordingly.



Table of Contents

*Compensation Consultant and Conflict of Interest Analysis*

Since July 2012, the Compensation Committee has engaged FW Cook to serve as its independent compensation adviser. FW Cook did not provide any services to the Company outside of the scope of its engagement by the Compensation Committee. In accordance with the requirements of Item 407(e)(3)(iv) of Regulation S-K, the Compensation Committee considered the relationships that FW Cook has had with the Company, the members of the Compensation Committee and our executive officers, as well as the policies that FW Cook has in place to maintain its independence and objectivity, and determined that no conflicts of interest arose from the work performed by FW Cook. It is anticipated that the relationship will continue during 2017. The Compensation Committee's objective when engaging FW Cook was to assess our level of competitiveness for executive-level talent and provide recommendations for attracting, motivating and retaining key employees, including identifying industry best practices.

At the request of the Compensation Committee, FW Cook has undertaken comprehensive market reviews annually, which have been utilized by the Compensation Committee when making its recommendations to the Company's board of directors for the compensation programs, including adjustments to the current programs that were made in 2016 and later, as described below.

*Competitive Benchmarking*

In light of the ever-changing energy industry, we closely monitor the appropriateness of our peer group. With the assistance of FW Cook, we review compensation and performance of these peers annually. Below are lists of companies used for peer analysis during 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. We have included the identification of our 2014 and 2015 peer companies because measurement of these peer groups' performance is used to determine outstanding long-term share-settled performance unit awards.

2014 Peer Companies

With respect to our share-settled performance units issued in 2014 and for which the performance period ended at December 31, 2016, our peer group consisted of the following:

Athlon Energy, Inc.	Newfield Exploration Co.
Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.	Oasis Petroleum, Inc.
Cimarex Energy Co.	Pioneer Natural Resources Co.
Comstock Resources, Inc.	Range Resources Corp.
Concho Resources, Inc.	Rosetta Resources, Inc.
Continental Resources, Inc.	Sandridge Energy, Inc.
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	SM Energy Co.
EXCO Resources, Inc.	Ultra Petroleum Corp.

2015 Peer Companies

In January 2015, the Compensation Committee asked FW Cook to undertake an analysis of our peer group to confirm its continued appropriateness. Historically, the Company utilized a single peer group to benchmark executive compensation and measure performance under its performance units that are directly based on relative total shareholder return. Commencing in 2015, the Company began using two different peer groups: the "Compensation Reference Group," used to benchmark executive compensation, and consisting of appropriately-sized industry comparators in areas such as revenue, assets and market capitalization, and the "Performance Peer Group," used to measure performance under the Company's performance units, and consisting of industry comparators that do not necessarily fit within the same size parameters used to develop the Compensation Reference Group but enabling

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

the Company to compare itself with companies with similar operations in the Permian Basin. With respect to our share-settled performance units issued in 2015 and for which the performance period will end at December 31, 2017, our Performance Peer Group consists of the following:

Cimarex Energy Co.	Parsley Energy, Inc.
Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.	QEP Resources, Inc.
Concho Resources, Inc.	Rosetta Resources, Inc.
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	RSP Permian, Inc.
Energen Corp.	SM Energy Co.
EP Energy Corp.	

### 2016 Peer Group Changes

As part of its compensation review, in October 2015 FW Cook again undertook an analysis of our Compensation Reference Group that was first established to benchmark executive compensation in 2015. FW Cook recommended replacing Rosetta Resources, Inc. ("Rosetta") with Energen Corporation ("Energen Corp.") in the Compensation Reference Group. This recommendation was made as a result of Rosetta's recent acquisition. After considering a number of replacement companies, FW Cook recommended that Energen Corp. be included in the Compensation Reference Group because it is within an appropriate revenue and market capitalization range, keeping the Company near the median of the group, and has a significant asset base in the same geographic location as the Company. The Compensation Committee considered and adopted this recommendation to our Compensation Reference Group for 2016.

The changes made to our Performance Peer Group for 2016 were the deletion of Rosetta, as a result of its acquisition in 2015, and the addition of Whiting Petroleum, Corp. ("Whiting"). The Compensation Committee determined that it was appropriate to maintain Rosetta in the 2014 peer group and the 2015 performance peer group, as it serves as a peer for outstanding performance awards. The Compensation Committee further determined that for purposes of computing relevant total shareholder return associated with such awards, Rosetta's effective acquisition price per share would be utilized. In light of the removal of Rosetta, the Compensation Committee determined that it should add a new peer company in order to keep the group size consistent. Whiting was chosen because it positions us closer to the median for market capitalization purposes and also has operations in the Permian Basin.

As a result of these changes, with respect to compensation matters in 2016, our peer groups consist of the companies listed below:

### "Compensation Reference Group"

Bonanza Creek Energy, Inc.	Newfield Exploration Co.
Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.	Northern Oil & Gas, Inc.
Cimarex Energy Co.	Oasis Petroleum, Inc.
Comstock Resources, Inc.	PDC Energy, Inc.
Concho Resources, Inc.	Range Resources Corp.
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	SandRidge Energy, Inc.
Energen Corp.	SM Energy Co.
EP Energy Corp.	Ultra Petroleum Corp.
EXCO Resources, Inc.	

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

#### "Performance Peer Group"

Cimarex Energy Co.  
Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.  
Concho Resources, Inc.  
Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
Energen Corp.  
EP Energy Corp.

Parsley Energy, Inc.  
QEP Resources, Inc.  
RSP Permian, Inc.  
SM Energy Co.  
Whiting Petroleum Corp.

#### 2017 Peer Group Changes

As part of its annual compensation review, beginning in November 2016 and continuing as a part of ongoing discussions with our Compensation Committee through the end of the year, FW Cook again reviewed our Compensation Reference Group and Performance Peer Group to consider continued relevance for both general compensation elements and for our share-settled performance unit awards.

FW Cook recommended that Bonanza Creek Energy, Inc., Comstock Resources, Inc., EXCO Resources, Inc. and Northern Oil & Gas, Inc. be removed from the 2017 Compensation Reference Group due to their low market value and other ongoing concerns, and that SandRidge Energy, Inc. and Ultra Petroleum Corp. be removed due to their recent bankruptcy filings. In place of these companies, FW Cook recommended that we add Matador Resources Company, Parsley Energy, Inc., RSP Permian, Inc., Sanchez Energy Corp. and WPX Energy, Inc. as members of the Compensation Reference Group.

FW Cook further recommended that we add Callon Petroleum Company, Pioneer Natural Resources Co. and WPX Energy, Inc. as members of our 2017 Performance Peer Group. FW Cook considered these companies as suitable for this peer group as they are majority oil producing companies with operations in single regions that are operated and structured in a manner similar to us. FW Cook further suggested deleting Clayton Williams Energy, Inc. from this peer group due to its pending merger.

Our Compensation Committee reviewed and discussed these recommendations and ultimately adopted the recommended changes. As a result, with respect to compensation matters in 2017, our peer groups consist of the companies listed below:

#### "Compensation Reference Group"

Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.  
Cimarex Energy Co.  
Concho Resources, Inc.  
Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
Energen Corp.  
EP Energy Corp.  
Matador Resources Company  
Newfield Exploration Co.

Oasis Petroleum, Inc.  
PDC Energy, Inc.  
Parsley Energy, Inc.  
Range Resources Corporation  
RSP Permian, Inc.  
SM Energy Company  
Sanchez Energy Corporation  
WPX Energy, Inc.

#### "Performance Peer Group"

Callon Petroleum Company  
Cimarex Energy Co.  
Concho Resources, Inc.  
Diamondback Energy, Inc.  
Energen Corp.  
EP Energy Corp.  
Parsley Energy, Inc.

Pioneer Natural Resources Co.  
QEP Resources, Inc.  
RSP Permian, Inc.  
SM Energy Company  
Whiting Petroleum Corp.  
WPX Energy, Inc.

Table of Contents***Elements of Compensation******Base Salaries***

**Process for Setting Base Salaries:** Base salaries are typically reviewed annually and adjusted, if deemed warranted, in the first quarter of each year following the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. In considering adjustments to base salaries, our Compensation Committee considers both our internal performance and external market factors.

In addition to providing a base salary that we believe is competitive with peers, we also consider internal pay equity among each of our named executive officers' salary levels relative to the salary levels of our other officers so that it accurately reflects the officer's relative skills, responsibilities, experience and contributions to the Company. Annual salary adjustments are based on a subjective analysis of many individual factors, including:

the responsibilities of the officer;

the scope, level of expertise and experience required for the officer's position;

the strategic impact of the officer's position;

the potential future contribution of the officer; and

the actual performance of the officer during the year.

In addition to the individual factors listed above, we also take into consideration our overall business performance and implementation of Company objectives, as well as industry trends. While these factors generally provide context for making salary decisions, base salary decisions do not depend directly on attainment of specific goals or performance levels and no specific weighting is given to one factor over another.

***STIP in the Form of Annual Cash Bonus Awards***

**Target Award Levels:** Target short-term incentive values for 2016 and 2017 for each named executive officer are listed below and are calculated as a percentage of salary earned. Award levels are calculated on a threshold level of 50% of target and a maximum of 200% of target. The annual incentive target percentage varies by named executive officer and is based on differing job classifications and responsibilities. Each position is compared to similar positions in the market as well as our peer companies.

<b>Name</b>	<b>2016 short-term incentive percentage at target</b>	<b>2017 short-term incentive percentage at target</b>
Randy A. Foutch	125%	125%
Richard C. Buterbaugh	90%	90%
Daniel C. Schooley	85%	85%
Patrick J. Curth	85%	85%
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	85%	85%

**Plan Mechanics:** For the 2016 fiscal year, annual cash bonuses were determined in two parts at the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee for ultimate approval by the board of directors. The objective 2016 Bonus Performance Metric Results (discussed below) established 60% of the total cash bonus, while the remaining 40% was subjectively determined by the Compensation Committee considering the Company's overall strategic performance in other areas. Individual adjustments were made after considering input provided by Messrs. Foutch and Buterbaugh regarding both Company performance in other areas as well as individual performance factors such as leadership, commitment,

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

motivational effect, level of responsibility and overall contribution to Laredo's success (provided that Mr. Foutch's performance was solely determined by the Compensation Committee, and Mr. Buterbaugh's performance was determined by the Compensation Committee based in part on the recommendations of Mr. Foutch). Although our cash bonus program includes the Company 2016 Bonus Performance Metrics, our Compensation Committee has the ultimate discretion to recommend to the board of directors whether to award any, and the amount of, cash bonus awards.

Our STIP awards, which are based on the prior calendar year Company and individual performance, are also generally paid in early March after we file our Annual Report on Form 10-K and the objective metrics on which such awards are partially based have been documented.

### *Long-term Plan-based Incentive Awards*

In connection with our initial public offering in late 2011, we adopted the Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (the "Equity Incentive Plan"). The Equity Incentive Plan was amended in 2016.

**Target Award Levels:** Target incentive levels for long-term incentive payouts for 2016 and 2017 awards for each named executive officer are listed below and are calculated as a percentage of the prior year's base salary. The long-term incentive target percentage varies by named executive officer and is based on differing job classifications and responsibilities. Each position is compared to similar positions in the market as well as our peer companies.

Name	2016 long-term incentive percentage target	2016 value of long-term incentive target	2017 long-term incentive percentage target	2017 value of long-term incentive target
Randy A. Foutch	525%	\$ 4,200,000	525%	\$ 4,452,000
Richard C. Buterbaugh	400%	\$ 1,860,000	400%	\$ 1,960,000
Daniel C. Schooley(1)	300%	\$ 990,000	300%	\$ 1,200,000
Patrick J. Curth	300%	\$ 1,140,000	300%	\$ 1,173,000
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	300%	\$ 1,050,000	300%	\$ 1,095,000

(1) Mr. Schooley's 2016 value of long-term incentive target was determined using his salary before his promotion to Senior Vice President of Operations during 2016.

**Long-Term Incentive Vehicles:** For corporate officers, the Company targets a long-term incentive vehicle mix of approximately 25% restricted stock, 25% stock options and 50% performance units. This mix of incentive vehicles, as well as the applicable vesting periods described below, were adopted by the board of directors following the recommendation of FW Cook and a review of comparable awards granted by our peer group and the industry in general. As more fully discussed above under "Alignment of Pay and Performance," we believe that by tying significant portions of our officers' total compensation to awards that are directly impacted by the performance of our common stock, we align the interests of our officers with those of our stockholders. Long-term equity incentives are generally awarded within two days following the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Restricted Stock:** The restricted shares of our common stock are subject to forfeiture until vested. So long as the recipient of such shares is an employee of the Company, generally the shares granted to each recipient will vest, and the transfer restrictions thereon will lapse ratably, over three years. Each recipient will forfeit his or her unvested shares if the recipient's employment is terminated by us for any reason or if the recipient resigns (in either case, other than for death or disability). We believe that this vesting schedule is comparable to those utilized by the peer group and will assist us in attracting new talent and retaining existing personnel. Restricted shares of common stock may be granted to new employees upon hire to attract talent to the

Table of Contents

Company. All new hire employee grants must be approved by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and all executive officer grants must be approved by the Compensation Committee.

*Stock Options:* Stock options provide the opportunity to purchase our stock at a price that is fixed on the grant date regardless of the future market price. We consider stock options a form of performance-based compensation. If our stock price does not increase, then these stock options will have no economic value. Pursuant to the terms of the Equity Incentive Plan, the exercise price for each stock option is the closing price of a share of stock on the NYSE on the grant date. Historically we have issued stock options to officers only on an annual basis, following the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. Therefore, in almost all cases, our stock options are issued at an exercise price equal to the market close on the second trading day following the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K. In one instance we issued stock options as a part of an employment offer made to a new officer, and in such case the exercise price was the price of our stock at market close on the grant date of such award, which was the first day of the month following acceptance of the offer.

The stock option awards vest ratably over four years. As with the restricted shares of our common stock, we believe that this vesting schedule is comparable to those utilized by our peer group and will enable us to both attract new talent and retain existing personnel. The unvested portion of a stock option award will expire upon termination of employment of the optionee, and the vested portion of a stock option award will remain exercisable for (i) one year following termination of employment by reason of the optionee's death or disability or (ii) 90 days for any other reason, other than for cause. Both the unvested and vested (but unexercised) portion of a stock option award will expire upon the termination of the optionee's employment by us for cause. Unless sooner terminated, the stock option award will expire if and to the extent it is not exercised within 10 years from the date of the grant.

*Performance Units:* The performance unit awards granted to each recipient in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 are payable in common stock of the Company. These share-based performance units are based upon achievement over a three-year performance period against performance goals established by the Compensation Committee.

Each performance unit represents one share of common stock of the Company. The amount of stock payable at the end of the performance period will be determined by multiplying the number of performance units by the total shareholder return modifier ("TSR Modifier"). The TSR Modifier is determined as follows:

Level of Performance	TSR Performance	TSR Modifier(1)(2)
Below Threshold	<40th Percentile	0%
Threshold	40th Percentile	50%
Target	60th Percentile	100%
Maximum	≥80th Percentile	200%

(1) Amounts between percentages are interpolated on a straight-line basis.

(2) With respect to performance units granted in 2016 and 2017, the recipient's maximum payout will be limited to 150% of total shareholder return in the event our stock price has declined during the relevant performance period, even if our total shareholder return among our performance peer group would otherwise call for a payout in excess of 150%.

Total shareholder return for the Company and each of the peer companies is determined by dividing (i) the end average stock price plus dividends reinvested minus the start average stock price by (ii) the start average stock price, with the average stock price being the average closing stock price for the first 30 trading days of the beginning of each of the performance periods plus dividends during that

Table of Contents

period and the 30 trading days immediately preceding the maturity date, as reported on the stock exchange on which such shares are listed. We believe utilizing an incentive award such as the performance units, based on total shareholder return, is an appropriate vehicle to align the interests of our officers with the interests of our stockholders.

As noted above, our performance units awarded in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 are payable in shares of common stock (with a three-year cliff vest). Therefore, not only are such awards subject to achieving a minimum total shareholder return, but these awards are further directly impacted by movements in our stock price. In addition to these limitations, with respect to the performance units issued in 2016 and 2017, the payout on these awards will be limited to 150% in the event our stock price has declined during the relevant performance period, even if our total shareholder return among our performance peer group would otherwise call for a payout in excess of 150%.

Each recipient will forfeit his or her performance unit awards if the recipient's employment with us is terminated by the Company for any reason or if the recipient resigns (in either case, other than for death or disability). If the employment is terminated due to death or disability, the recipient is entitled to receive a pro-rated performance unit. Generally, grants of performance unit awards will be made in the first quarter of each year, when our results of operations for the previous year have generally been determined and when our Compensation Committee is normally meeting to discuss short-term incentive payouts based on the prior-year results.

Based in part upon the recommendation of FW Cook, beginning with grants made in 2016, the Compensation Committee included supervisory non-officers in the group of employees who receive performance units as a part of their total overall compensation. Before this change, these employees received only restricted stock as a long-term incentive. Following this change, such employees now receive a smaller percentage of restricted stock, with the balance of their long-term incentive awarded in the form of performance units. We believe this change more closely aligns the interests of these supervisory personnel with the interests of our stockholders and provides a retention benefit to the Company.

**2016 Compensation Paid**

*Base Salaries*

The following table identifies the salaries earned by our named executive officers in 2016, their base salaries during 2016, as well as the base salaries adopted by the Compensation Committee for these officers in February 2017 for the remainder of 2017:

<b>Name</b>	<b>2016 salary earned</b>	<b>2016 base salary</b>	<b>2017 base salary</b>
Randy A. Foutch	\$ 758,462	\$ 800,000	\$ 848,000
Richard C. Buterbaugh	\$ 440,856	\$ 465,000	\$ 490,000
Daniel C. Schooley	\$ 344,865	\$ 380,000	\$ 400,000
Patrick J. Curth	\$ 360,269	\$ 380,000	\$ 391,000
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	\$ 331,827	\$ 350,000	\$ 365,000

As of the first of the year in 2016, the named executive officers' base salary remained at the level established in the beginning of 2015. As we indicated in our 2015 proxy statement, based on the industry environment in early 2016, our named executive officers recommended a 10% reduction in their base salaries effective February 28, 2016. The Compensation Committee and the Company's board of directors agreed with the recommendation. Later in the year, as a result of the improved overall performance of the Company and improved general state of the industry, effective September 5, 2016, the Compensation Committee and the board of directors approved the reinstatement of the named executive officers' 2016 base salary levels, as shown in the table above. For this reason, the table above also reflects the actual salaries earned in 2016 by each of our named executive officers.

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

In February 2017, following an extended review of data provided by FW Cook with respect to target pay elements of our Compensation Reference Group, and in accordance with our compensation philosophy of targeting our officer base salary at the market median, our Compensation Committee and our board of directors approved the 2017 base salaries for our named executive officers indicated in the table above. We believe the new base salaries reflect the approximate median of our peer group.

#### *STIP in the Form of Cash Bonuses*

As discussed above, our annual cash bonuses are determined in two parts at the discretion of the Compensation Committee for ultimate approval by our board of directors. Our target objective 2016 Bonus Performance Metric Results (discussed below) account for 60% of the cash bonus awards, while the remaining 40% is subjectively determined by the Compensation Committee, considering the Company's overall strategic performance in other areas.

**2016 Bonus Performance Metric Targets and Results:** We structured our 2016 performance metrics to capture several critical performance criteria that we believe provide a quantitative measure of overall Company performance. The targets were set based on the Company's 2016 operating plan, which also takes into account our capital budget for the year. The operational metrics capture the Company's emphasis on the development of the Company's assets through efficient capital deployment. Each metric is relatively weighted, and for each metric, a minimum threshold, a target and a stretch target are established. No credit is earned for a metric that fails to meet a minimum threshold. A 100% credit is earned for a metric that meets the target, and a maximum of 200% credit is earned for a metric that meets or exceeds its stretch target (with intervals between directly interpolated).

The objective 2016 Bonus Performance Metrics consisted of production volume measured in million barrels of oil equivalent ("MMBOE"), drilling capital efficiency on reserve additions (\$/BOE), three-year average return on average capital employed, lease operating expense over sales volumes (\$/BOE), general and administrative expenses and drilling rate of return. The minimum threshold, target and stretch target for each metric, together with the actual results and relative weighting of each metric resulting from the Company's 2016 performance are indicated in the table below.

2016 Performance metrics	Minimum thresholds	2016 targets	Stretch targets	2016 results	Relative weighting
Production (MMBOE)	15.3	15.7	16.4	18.1	25.0%
Drilling Capital Efficiency (\$/BOE)(1)	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.15	\$ 6.45	\$ 6.39	20.0%
Return on Average Capital Employed(2)	12.0%	14.5%	17.0%	15.2%	20.0%
Lease Operating Expense (\$/BOE)(3)	\$ 6.45	\$ 6.15	\$ 5.50	\$ 4.15	12.5%
General and Administrative Expense (in thousands)(4)	\$ 65,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 55,700	\$ 62,527	12.5%
Drilling Rate of Return(5)	20.0%	22.5%	27.5%	62.6%	10.0%

(1) Calculated using 2016 drilling and completions capital invested divided by 2016 reserve additions. The prices used to calculate the reserve additions were the 2016 oil, NGL and natural gas budget prices.

(2) Based on a three-year average which compares Adjusted EBITDA, excluding adjustments for accretion of asset retirement obligations and our proportionate share of equity method investee's depreciation and amortization, to total capital employed (consisting of total debt, total stockholders' equity and tax adjustments for non-cash impairment and mark-to-market on commodity derivatives). Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure that we define as net income or loss plus adjustments for deferred income tax expense or benefit, depletion, depreciation and amortization, bad debt expense, impairment expense, non-cash stock-based compensation, accretion of asset retirement obligations, restructuring expenses, gains or losses on



## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

derivatives, cash settlements received for matured derivatives, cash settlements on early terminated and modified derivatives, cash premiums paid for derivatives, interest expense, write-off of debt issuance costs, gains or losses on disposal of assets, loss on early redemption of debt, buyout of minimum volume commitment, income or loss from equity method investee and our proportionate Adjusted EBITDA of equity method investee. See our 2016 Annual Report for further information and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to Net income (loss).

- (3) Includes both lease operating expenses and workover expenses.
- (4) Excludes non-cash stock-based compensation.
- (5) Calculated using 2016 drilled wells' cumulative net cash flows, measured as a percentage of 2016 drilling and completion capital invested. The prices used were the 2016 oil, NGL and natural gas budget prices.

**2016 Bonus Strategic Performance Accomplishments:** As noted above, the remaining 40% of target cash bonus awards was determined subjectively by the Compensation Committee, considering the Company's strategic performance in other areas. The following were among the performance accomplishments considered by the Compensation Committee in determining the 2016 payout amount:

Improved environmental, health and safety metrics, where the Company (i) had no compliance issues and (ii) had its best employee total recordable incident rate in three years;

Laredo's stock outperformed the S&P 500 Index by 67% and the S&P 500 O&G E&P Index by 46% for the year, and recognized a 77% return, among the best in our Performance Peer Group; and

Strengthened our balance sheet, maintained liquidity, engaged in a robust hedging program and reduced leverage.

### *Short-term incentive payouts for 2016 performance*

Following the Compensation Committee's review of the objective 2016 Bonus Performance Metric Results and the subjective results of the Company as described above, the Compensation Committee determined that the Company's overall performance resulted in the approval for up to a 172% cash payout. The short-term incentive bonuses approved by the Compensation Committee for the majority of the named executive officers approximated 172% of their target bonus amounts, aligning with the overall Company performance rating percentage. The individual awards to the named executive officers are identified in the following table. The Compensation Committee submitted its recommendations to our board of directors, which approved such recommendations. The amounts shown under the "Approved award" column were paid to the named executive officers in March 2017 after our financial statements had been completed and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 (the "2016 Annual Report") was filed in February 2017.

Name	2016 salary earned	2016 short- term incentive percentage target	Short-term incentive at target	Approved award	Percent payout
Randy A. Foutch	\$ 758,462	125%	\$ 948,078	\$ 1,650,000	174%
Richard C. Buterbaugh	\$ 440,856	90%	\$ 396,770	\$ 680,000	171%
Daniel C. Schooley(1)	\$ 344,865	85%	\$ 293,135	\$ 550,000	188%
Patrick J. Curth	\$ 360,269	85%	\$ 306,229	\$ 525,000	171%
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	\$ 331,827	85%	\$ 282,053	\$ 485,000	172%

- (1) The Compensation Committee approved a short-term incentive bonus that differed from the overall Company performance rating percentage for Mr. Schooley due to his significant contribution related to his increased role as Senior Vice President of Operations during the year.



Table of Contents

*Changes for 2017*

Effective for 2017, following consultation between FW Cook and our Compensation Committee and the consideration and recommendation by the Compensation Committee and approval by the board of directors, we have updated the objective performance metrics and weightings as reflected below for 2017.

<b>2017 Performance metrics</b>	<b>Relative weighting</b>
Return on Average Capital Employed(1)	30.0%
Production (MMBOE)	25.0%
Drilling Rate of Return(2)	20.0%
Lease Operating Expense (\$/BOE)(3)	12.5%
General and Administrative Expense (\$/BOE)(4)	12.5%

- (1) Based on a three-year average which compares Adjusted EBITDA, excluding adjustments for accretion of asset retirement obligations and our proportionate share of equity method investee's depreciation and amortization for the two years prior to 2017, to total capital employed (consisting of total debt, total stockholders' equity and tax adjustments for non-cash impairment and mark-to-market on commodity derivatives). Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure that we define as net income or loss plus adjustments for deferred income tax expense or benefit, depletion, depreciation and amortization, bad debt expense, impairment expense, non-cash stock-based compensation, accretion of asset retirement obligations, restructuring expenses, gains or losses on derivatives, cash settlements received for matured derivatives, cash settlements on early terminated and modified derivatives, cash premiums paid for derivatives, interest expense, write-off of debt issuance costs, gains or losses on disposal of assets, loss on early redemption of debt, buyout of minimum volume commitment, income or loss from equity method investee and our proportionate Adjusted EDITDA of equity method investee. See our 2016 Annual Report for further information and a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to Net income (loss).
- (2) Calculated using 2017 drilled wells' cumulative net cash flows, measured as a percentage of 2017 drilling and completion capital invested utilizing budget prices for oil, NGL and natural gas.
- (3) Includes both lease operating expenses and workover expenses.
- (4) Excludes non-cash stock-based compensation.

*LTIP Awards in 2016*

On February 9, 2016, our board of directors approved the value for grants to the named executive officers. The closing price of our stock on this date was \$6.10. In accordance with prior practice, the number of shares of restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance units to be issued pursuant to such approval were calculated based on the average closing price of our stock for the 10 trading days ended February 19, 2016 (two days after the filing of our 2015 Annual Report on

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

Form 10-K). This 10-day average closing price was \$5.40. The aggregate value of these awards as of such date is shown below:

Name	Approval date of 2016 LTIP awards by board of directors	Approval date aggregate value of 2016 LTIP awards
Randy A. Foutch	2/9/2016	\$ 4,200,000
Richard C. Buterbaugh	2/9/2016	\$ 1,860,000
Daniel C. Schooley	2/9/2016	\$ 990,000
Patrick J. Curth	2/9/2016	\$ 1,140,000
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	2/9/2016	\$ 1,050,000

As previously noted, these grants were contingent on the subsequent approval of the amendment to our Equity Incentive Plan by our stockholders. If the grant of these shares had not been subject to subsequent stockholder approval, the shares would have been valued using the February 19, 2016 closing price of \$4.10 in compliance with applicable accounting principles. On May 25, 2016, our stockholders approved the amendment to our Equity Incentive Plan. On May 25, 2016 the closing price of our stock was \$12.36. However, in accordance with applicable accounting principles noted below, the value of such awards is calculated using the May 25, 2016 closing price of \$12.36. The grant numbers were as follows:

Name	Restricted stock(1)		Stock options(2)		Share-settled performance units(3)	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Randy A. Foutch	194,408	2,402,883	310,111	3,023,806	388,817	6,942,950
Richard C. Buterbaugh	86,095	1,064,134	137,335	1,339,115	172,190	3,074,728
Daniel C. Schooley	45,825	566,397	73,098	712,758	91,650	1,636,557
Patrick J. Curth	52,768	652,212	84,173	820,747	105,536	1,884,514
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	48,602	600,721	77,528	755,954	97,204	1,735,733

- (1) Grant date fair value is determined based on the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on May 25, 2016, which was \$12.36. These shares vest 33%, 33% and 34% on a time basis per year beginning on the first anniversary date of February 19, 2016.
- (2) Stock option awards vest and become exercisable in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of February 19, 2016. We utilize the Black-Scholes option pricing model to measure the fair value of stock option awards granted under our Equity Incentive Plan. Please refer to Note 6.b to our audited consolidated financial statements in our 2016 Annual Report for disclosures regarding fair value estimates of stock option awards.
- (3) The share-settled performance units were granted on May 25, 2016 and their corresponding grant date fair value is computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. These share-settled performance units have a three-year cliff vest and a performance period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Please refer to Note 6.c to our audited consolidated financial statements in our 2016 Annual Report for disclosures regarding fair value estimates of share-settled performance unit awards.

In addition to the restricted stock award listed above for Mr. Schooley, a one-time restricted stock award was provided to him on May 18, 2016 for 13,636 shares. The grant date fair value of these shares, based on the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on such date, was \$153,541. This additional grant has a three-year cliff vest. The Compensation Committee approved this award upon the recommendation of Mr. Foutch, based on Mr. Schooley's additional responsibilities, performance and as a retention incentive.

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

#### *LTIP Awards in 2017*

The grants made in the form of long-term incentive compensation to the named executive officers on February 17, 2017 are listed in the table below. Based on the current environment, Mr. Foutch recommended no increases be made to the named executive officers' long-term incentive targets for 2017. The Compensation Committee and the Company's board of directors agreed with the recommendations.

Name	Restricted stock(1)		Stock options(2)		Share-settled performance units(3)	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Randy A. Foutch	79,217	1,118,544	119,826	985,395	158,434	3,004,622
Richard C. Buterbaugh	34,875	492,435	52,754	433,825	69,751	1,322,793
Daniel C. Schooley	21,352	301,490	32,298	265,604	42,705	809,879
Patrick J. Curth	20,872	294,713	31,571	259,626	41,744	791,654
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	19,484	275,114	29,472	242,364	38,968	739,009

- (1) Grant date fair value is determined based on the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on February 17, 2017. These shares vest 33%, 33% and 34% on a time basis per year beginning on the first anniversary date of the grant.
- (2) Stock option awards vest and become exercisable in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of the grant. We utilize the Black-Scholes option pricing model to measure the fair value of stock option awards granted under our Equity Incentive Plan.
- (3) The share-settled performance units were granted on February 17, 2017 and their corresponding grant date fair value is computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. These share-settled performance units have a three-year cliff vest and a performance period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019.

#### ***Other Benefits***

##### Health and welfare benefits.

Our named executive officers are eligible to participate in all of our employee health and welfare benefit plans on the same basis as other employees (subject to applicable law) to meet their health and welfare needs. These plans include medical, vision and dental insurance, medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts, as well as short-and long-term disability benefits. These benefits are provided in order to ensure that we are able to competitively attract and retain officers and other employees. This is a fixed component of compensation, and these benefits are provided on a non-discriminatory basis to all employees.

##### Retirement benefits.

Our named executive officers also participate in our defined contribution plan under Section 401(k) of the Code on the same basis as our other employees. The plan allows eligible employees to make tax-deferred contributions up to 100% of their annual compensation, not to exceed annual limits established by the federal government. We make matching contributions in cash of up to 6% of an employee's eligible compensation and may make additional discretionary contributions in the form of cash.

##### Perquisites.

Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

We believe that the total mix of compensation and benefits provided to our executive officers is currently competitive and, therefore, perquisites do not play a significant role in

Table of Contents

our executive officers' total compensation. Nevertheless, Laredo provides limited perquisites and benefits to its officers, including reimbursement for cell phone charges and monthly dues at a downtown lunch/dinner club.

A charitable matching gift program is offered to all Laredo employees and members of our board of directors. This program is a way the Company can support employees and board members in their efforts to give back to the communities in which they work and live. The Company will match dollar-for-dollar contributions made by employees or members of our board of directors, up to \$1,000 per calendar year. Gifts will only be matched if they are requested for organizations eligible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. The minimum contribution that will be matched is \$100 per calendar year. In order for the Company to provide the matching gift, there can be no direct benefit, reward or consideration to the employee or board member when making the donation.

Other benefits.

Effective January 1, 2013, we entered into an aircraft lease with Lariat Ranch LLC ("Lariat Ranch"), the aircraft owner and an entity controlled by Mr. Foutch, and our board of directors adopted a revised aircraft use policy. Under this arrangement, as amended in 2014 and 2015, we pay an hourly rate for the use of the aircraft and also pay for all operating costs associated with our use of the aircraft, as well as expenses related to the flight crew and other expenses during such use. For further details, see the "Summary compensation table" below and "Transactions with Related Persons Other Related-Party Transactions."

***Employment, Severance or Change in Control Agreements***

We do not currently maintain any long-term employment agreements. On November 9, 2011, the Company adopted the Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Change in Control Executive Severance Plan, which provides severance payments and benefits to our named executive officers and eligible persons with the title of vice president and above, as determined by our Compensation Committee. The policy provides an eligible participant with a lump-sum cash severance payment and continued health benefits in the event that the participant experiences a qualifying termination event within the 18-month period following the occurrence of a qualifying change in control event ("double trigger"). In the event that an eligible executive's employment is terminated without cause by the employer or for good reason by the executive within the 18-month period following the occurrence of a change in control, the executive would become entitled to receive 100% (in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, 300%, and in the case of our other named executive officers, 200%) of the executive's base salary and 200% (in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, 300%, and in the case of our other named executive officers, 200%) of the executive's target bonus and prorated amount of such target bonus for the fiscal year in which the change of control payment is triggered. In addition, the executive would receive Company-paid COBRA continuation coverage for up to 18 months following the date of termination. The policy contains a modified cutback provision whereby payments payable to an executive may be reduced if doing so would put the executive in a more advantageous after-tax provision than if payments were not reduced and the executive became subject to excise taxes under Section 4999 of the Code and loss of deduction under Section 280G of the Code. We believe these severance levels are comparable to those utilized by our peer group.

We believe that our Change in Control Executive Severance Plan, including its requirement of a "double trigger," provides suitable incentive for our officers to remain with the Company in the event of a potential change in control through the consummation of any such transaction. We further believe such an incentive is to the benefit of our stockholders as well as any potential purchaser in connection with a change in control transaction, as it helps to ensure the continued operation and seamless transition of the Company prior to and through the conclusion of any such transaction. The

Table of Contents

compensation "multipliers" among the different categories of our officers were established based upon information provided by FW Cook regarding both our peer group and the industry in general.

*Other Matters*

*Risk assessment*

The Compensation Committee and management have reviewed our compensation policies as generally applicable to our employees and believe that our policies do not encourage excessive and unnecessary risk-taking, and that the level of risk that they do encourage is not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

Our compensation philosophy and culture support the use of base salary, cash bonuses and long-term incentive equity compensation that are generally uniform in design and operation throughout our organization and with all levels of employees. In addition, the following specific factors, in particular, reduce the likelihood of excessive risk-taking:

Our overall compensation levels are competitive with the market; and

Our compensation mix is balanced among (i) fixed components such as base salary and benefits, (ii) cash bonuses and (iii) long-term incentive equity awards that reward our employees based on long-term overall financial performance, operational measures and individual performance.

Furthermore, prior to our initial public offering in 2011, we provided our officers the opportunity to invest in our equity, which all of our named executive officers who were with the Company at the time did, and now we provide our officers with the opportunity to be awarded long-term incentive equity that continues to align their interests with those of our stockholders.

In summary, because the Compensation Committee focuses on the Company's performance, with only some consideration given to the specific individual performance of the employee when making compensation decisions, we believe our historical compensation programs did not, and our current compensation programs do not, encourage excessive and unnecessary risk taking by executive officers (or other employees). These programs were and are designed to encourage employees to remain focused on both our short- and long-term operational and financial goals. We set performance goals that we believe are appropriate in light of our past performance and market conditions. The Compensation Committee will continue to monitor all levels of compensation to attempt to ensure that no element of compensation encourages excessive and unnecessary risk-taking.

*Equity ownership guidelines*

The Compensation Committee recommended, and the board of directors approved, stock ownership guidelines for directors and the executive management team in order to further align the interest of our directors and officers with those of our stockholders. Individuals have three years from their hire, promotion or appointment date to reach the following stock ownership guidelines (as a multiple of base salary): (i) Chief Executive Officer: 5x, (ii) President and Chief Operating Officer: 3x, (iii) Executive and Senior Vice Presidents: 2x, (iv) Vice Presidents: 1x and (v) directors: \$400,000 worth of Company stock. Stock actually owned, as well as stock awarded under restricted stock awards, is included for purposes of satisfying these guidelines. No stock potentially exercisable under stock option awards is included. Based on the trading price of our common stock within 40 days of the Record Date, each of the named executive officers, our other officers and our directors have satisfied the stock ownership guidelines.



Table of Contents

*Tax and accounting implications*

Section 162(m) of the Code denies a federal income tax deduction for certain compensation in excess of \$1 million per year paid to the chief executive officer and the three other most highly-paid executive officers (other than the chief executive officer and chief financial officer) of a publicly traded corporation. Certain types of compensation, including compensation based on performance criteria that are approved in advance by stockholders, are excluded from the deduction limit. The Compensation Committee has taken, and intends to continue to take, actions, as appropriate, to attempt to minimize, if not eliminate, the Company's non-deductible compensation expense within the context of maintaining the flexibility that the Compensation Committee believes to be an important element of the Company's executive compensation program.

*Policies against hedging and pledging stock*

Under the terms of our Insider Trading Policy that is applicable to our directors and named executive officers, such persons are prohibited from engaging in hedging transactions that are designed to hedge or offset a decrease in market value of such person's common stock in the Company. We prohibit such conduct because to allow such activity, the director or officer could then no longer be exposed to the full risks of ownership and may no longer have the same objectives as the Company's other stockholders.

In addition, our directors and named executive officers may not hold their Company securities in a margin account and may not, without prior approval and in very limited circumstances, pledge Company securities as collateral for any other loan. The only exception to the prohibition on pledging securities may exist in the case of a non-margin loan where the director or officer was clearly able to demonstrate the financial ability to repay the loan without resort to the pledged securities, and only if such pledge was pre-approved by our General Counsel. No shares owned by our directors or named executive officers are currently pledged.

Table of Contents

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Our Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

Pamela S. Pierce, Chair  
James R. Levy, Member  
Dr. Myles Scoggins, Member  
Donald D. Wolf, Member

*The information contained in this Compensation Committee Report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates such information by reference in such filing.*

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation**

The following table summarizes, with respect to our named executive officers, information relating to the compensation earned for services rendered in all capacities during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

*Summary compensation table*

<b>Name and principal position</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Salary (\$)(1)</b>	<b>STIP bonus (\$)(1)</b>	<b>Restricted stock awards (\$)(2)</b>	<b>Stock option awards (\$)(2)</b>	<b>Share-settled performance units (\$)(2)</b>	<b>All other compensation (\$)(3)(4)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Randy A. Foutch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	2016	758,462	1,650,000	2,402,883	3,023,806	6,942,950	46,200	14,824,301
	2015	800,000	863,000	955,342	1,033,365	2,598,756	41,996	6,292,459
	2014	790,308	603,597	1,188,659	1,287,435	2,216,486	70,831	6,157,316
Richard C. Buterbaugh, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2016	440,856	680,000	1,064,134	1,339,115	3,074,728	19,914	6,618,747
	2015	465,000	397,300	423,086	457,636	1,150,869	20,451	2,914,342
	2014	456,539	251,050	520,678	570,150	981,570	18,420	2,798,407
Daniel C. Schooley, Senior Vice President Operations	2016	344,865	550,000	719,938	712,758	1,636,557	19,464	3,983,582
	2015	330,000	227,800	225,191	243,577	612,568	18,311	1,657,447
	2014	314,615	153,783	306,270	303,465	522,453	17,847	1,618,433
Patrick J. Curth, Senior Vice President Exploration and Land	2016	360,269	525,000	652,212	820,747	1,884,514	22,758	4,265,500
	2015	380,000	278,700	259,310	280,485	705,381	19,601	1,923,477
	2014	374,923	194,716	333,312	349,447	601,609	19,164	1,873,171
Kenneth E. Dornblaser, Senior Vice President and General Counsel	2016	331,827	485,000	600,721	755,954	1,735,733	11,579	3,920,814
	2015	350,000	256,700	471,439	258,341	649,693	4,301	1,990,474
	2014	345,538	179,455	307,149	321,859	554,121	2,820	1,710,942

(1) Amounts reported in these columns reflect the actual amounts earned in 2016, 2015 and 2014, even if paid in another year.

(2) On February 9, 2016 our board of directors approved the value for grants to the named executive officers. The closing price of our stock on this date was \$6.10. In accordance with prior practice, the number of shares of restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance units to be issued pursuant to such approval were calculated based on the average closing price of our stock for the 10 trading days ended February 19, 2016 (two days after the filing of our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K). This 10-day average closing price was \$5.40. As previously noted, these grants were contingent on the subsequent approval of the amendment to our Equity Incentive Plan by our stockholders. If the grant of these shares had not been subject to subsequent stockholder approval, the shares would have been valued using the February 19, 2016 closing price of \$4.10 in compliance with applicable accounting principles. On May 25, 2016, our stockholders approved the amendment to our Equity Incentive Plan. On May 25, 2016 the closing price of our stock was \$12.36. In accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, the restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance unit awards were valued on the date of stockholder approval. Please refer to Note 6 to our audited consolidated financial statements in our 2016 Annual Report for disclosures regarding fair value estimates of restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance unit awards.

(3) Includes the aggregate value of matching contributions to our 401(k) plan, the dollar values of life insurance coverage, wellness reimbursements and charitable gifts made on behalf of named executive officers pursuant to our charitable gift matching program. Each of our named executive officers received matching contributions to our 401(k) plan of \$15,900 during 2016, with the exception of Mr. Dornblaser who received \$7,415.

(4) During the years 2016, 2015 and 2014, \$23,442, \$22,371 and \$51,667 respectively, are the aggregate incremental cost of expenses that were paid by us pursuant to the terms of the Aircraft Lease (as defined below) and our aircraft use policy, which would otherwise have

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

been paid by Lariat Ranch, an entity controlled by Mr. Foutch, for the use of Lariat Ranch's aircraft not directly related to Laredo's business. These payments represent only a portion of the total costs incurred by Lariat Ranch of flying the aircraft. For further details, please see "Transactions with Related Persons-Other Related-Party Transactions."

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

The following table provides information concerning each stock award (referred to in the table collectively as "stock awards") granted to our named executive officers under any plan that was transferred during the year ended December 31, 2016.

**Grants of plan-based awards table for the year ended December 31, 2016**

Name	Contingent grant date	Grant Approval date	Restricted stock(1)		Stock options(2)		Share-settled performance units(3)	
			#	\$(4)	#	\$(4)	#	\$(4)
Randy A. Foutch	2/19/2016	5/25/2016	194,408	2,402,883	310,111	3,023,806	388,817	6,942,950
Richard C. Buterbaugh	2/19/2016	5/25/2016	86,095	1,064,134	137,335	1,339,115	172,190	3,074,728
Daniel C. Schooley	2/19/2016	5/25/2016	45,825	566,397	73,098	712,758	91,650	1,636,557
		5/18/2016	13,636	153,541				
Patrick J. Curth	2/19/2016	5/25/2016	52,768	652,212	84,173	820,747	105,536	1,884,514
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	2/19/2016	5/25/2016	48,602	600,721	77,528	755,954	97,204	1,735,733

- (1) The restricted shares contingently granted on February 19, 2016, which were subsequently approved when our stockholders voted in favor of an amendment to the Equity Incentive Plan on May 25, 2016, vest 33%, 33% and 34% on a time basis per year beginning on the first anniversary date of February 19, 2016. A one-time restricted stock award was granted to Mr. Schooley on May 18, 2016 with a three-year cliff vesting.
- (2) Stock option awards contingently granted on February 19, 2016, which were subsequently approved when our stockholders voted in favor of an amendment to the Equity Incentive Plan on May 25, 2016, vest and become exercisable in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of February 19, 2016. These stock option awards have an exercise price of \$4.10 per share, which was the February 19, 2016 closing price, and an expiration date of February 19, 2026.
- (3) The share-settled performance unit awards have a performance period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018 and are expected to be paid in common stock in the first quarter of 2019 if the performance and vesting criteria are met. See page 32 for discussion of these units' TSR Modifier.
- (4) The amounts in the column represent the May 25, 2016 fair value of the restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance unit awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please refer to Note 6 to our audited consolidated financial statements in our 2016 Annual Report for disclosures regarding fair value estimates of restricted stock awards, stock option awards and share-settled performance unit awards.

**Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan**

Under the Equity Incentive Plan, awards of stock options, including both incentive stock options and non-statutory stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock and restricted stock units, stock bonus awards, performance unit awards and performance compensation awards (payable in cash or otherwise) may be granted. Subject to adjustment for certain corporate events, 24,350,000 shares is currently the maximum number of shares of our common stock authorized and reserved for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan.

**Eligibility.** Our employees, consultants and directors and those of our affiliated companies, as well as those whom we reasonably expect to become our employees, consultants and directors or those of our affiliated companies are eligible for awards, provided that incentive stock options may be granted only to employees. A written agreement between us and each participant will evidence the terms of each award granted

under the Equity Incentive Plan.

Table of Contents

*Shares subject to the Equity Incentive Plan.* The shares that may be issued pursuant to awards are our common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and currently the maximum aggregate amount of common stock that may be issued upon exercise of all awards under the Equity Incentive Plan, including incentive stock options, may not exceed 24,350,000 shares, subject to adjustment to reflect certain corporate transactions or changes in our capital structure. In addition, currently (i) the maximum number of shares with respect to which stock options and/or stock appreciation rights may be granted to any participant in any one-year period is limited to 14,350,000 shares, (ii) the maximum number of shares with respect to which incentive stock options may be granted under the Equity Incentive Plan may not exceed 14,350,000 shares, (iii) no more than 14,350,000 shares may be earned in respect of performance unit awards denominated in shares granted to any single participant for a single calendar year during a performance period, or in the event that the performance unit is paid in cash, other securities, other awards or other property, no more than the fair market value of 14,350,000 shares of common stock on the last day of the performance period to which the award related, and (iv) the maximum amount that can be paid to any single participant in one calendar year pursuant to a cash bonus award is \$5 million and awards in respect of no more than 1,435,000 shares may be granted to any non-employee director in a single calendar year, in each case, subject to adjustment for certain corporate events.

If any award under the Equity Incentive Plan expires or otherwise terminates, in whole or in part, without having been exercised in full, the common stock withheld from issuance under that award will become available for future issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan. If shares issued under the Equity Incentive Plan are reacquired by us pursuant to the terms of any forfeiture provision, those shares will become available for future awards under the Equity Incentive Plan. Awards that can only be settled in cash will not be treated as shares of common stock granted for purposes of the Equity Incentive Plan.

*Administration.* Our board of directors, or a committee of members of our board of directors appointed by our board of directors, may administer the Equity Incentive Plan, and that administrator is referred to in this summary as the "administrator." Currently, the Compensation Committee serves as the administrator. Among other responsibilities, the administrator selects participants from among the eligible individuals, determines the number of shares of common stock that will be subject to each award and determines the terms and conditions of each award, including exercise price, methods of payment and vesting schedules. Our board of directors may amend or terminate the Equity Incentive Plan at any time. Amendments will not be effective without stockholder approval if stockholder approval is required by applicable law or stock exchange requirements.

*Adjustments in capitalization.* Subject to the terms of an award agreement, if there is a specified type of change in our common stock, such as extraordinary cash dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, recapitalizations, reorganizations, mergers, consolidations, combinations, exchanges or other relevant changes in capitalization, appropriate equitable adjustments or substitutions will be made to the various limits under, and the share terms of, the Equity Incentive Plan and the awards granted thereunder, including the maximum number of shares reserved under the Equity Incentive Plan, the maximum number of shares with respect to which any participant may be granted awards and the number, price or kind of shares of common stock or other consideration subject to awards to the extent necessary to preserve the economic intent of the award. In addition, subject to the terms of an award agreement, in the event of certain mergers, the sale of all or substantially all of our assets, our reorganization or liquidation, or our agreement to enter into any such transaction, the administrator may cancel outstanding awards and cause participants to receive, in cash, stock or a combination thereof, the value of the awards.

*Change in control.* In the event of a change in control, all options and stock appreciation rights subject to an award will become fully vested and immediately exercisable and any restricted period imposed upon restricted awards will expire immediately (including a waiver of applicable performance

Table of Contents

goals). Accelerated exercisability and lapse of restricted periods will, to the extent practicable, occur at a time that allows participants to participate in the change in control. In the event of a change of control, all incomplete performance periods will end, the administrator will determine the extent to which performance goals have been met, and such awards will be paid based upon the degree to which performance goals were achieved.

*Clawback policy.* Awards granted under the Equity Incentive Plan are subject to any clawback policy adopted by the Company and to the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as amended, and the rules, regulations and binding, published guidance thereunder, which legislation provides for the clawback and recovery of incentive compensation in the event of certain financial statement restatements.

*Nontransferability.* In general, each award granted under the Equity Incentive Plan may be exercisable only by a participant during the participant's lifetime or, if permissible under applicable law, by the participant's legal guardian or representative. Except in very limited circumstances, no award may be assigned, alienated, pledged, attached, sold or otherwise transferred or encumbered by a participant other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and any such purported assignment, alienation, pledge, attachment, sale, transfer or encumbrance will be void and unenforceable against us. However, the designation of a beneficiary will not constitute an assignment, alienation, pledge, attachment, sale, transfer or encumbrance.

*Section 409A.* The provisions of the Equity Incentive Plan and the awards granted under the Equity Incentive Plan are intended to comply with or be exempt from the provisions of Section 409A of the Code and the regulations thereunder so as to avoid the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code.

***Registration Rights***

We are a party to a registration rights agreement pursuant to which we have granted certain registration rights to entities affiliated with Warburg Pincus LLC ("Warburg Pincus") that received shares of our common stock in the corporate reorganization consummated prior to our IPO.



Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Fiscal Year-End**

The following table provides information concerning restricted stock awards, stock option awards and performance unit awards that had not vested for our named executive officers as of December 31, 2016.

**Outstanding equity awards table as of December 31, 2016**

Name	Grant date	Restricted shares not vested(1)	Market value of shares not vested(2)	Share-settled performance units not vested(3)	Market value of share-settled	Stock options not exercisable(4)	Stock options exercisable	Exercise price	Expiration date
					units not vested(2)(3)				
Randy A. Foutch	5/25/2016	194,408	\$ 2,748,929	777,634	\$ 10,995,745	310,111		\$ 4.10	2/19/2026
	2/27/2015	53,653	\$ 758,653	320,318	\$ 4,529,297	125,928	41,976	\$ 11.93	2/27/2025
	2/27/2014	13,194	\$ 186,563	58,215	\$ 823,160	48,020	48,020	\$ 25.60	2/27/2024
	2/15/2013		\$		\$	32,175	96,534	\$ 17.34	2/15/2023
	2/3/2012		\$		\$		62,868	\$ 24.11	2/3/2022
Richard C. Buterbaugh	5/25/2016	86,095	\$ 1,217,383	344,380	\$ 4,869,533	137,335		\$ 4.10	2/19/2026
	2/27/2015	23,761	\$ 335,981	141,854	\$ 2,005,816	55,769	18,589	\$ 11.93	2/27/2025
	2/27/2014	5,843	\$ 82,620	25,781	\$ 364,543	21,266	21,266	\$ 25.60	2/27/2024
	2/15/2013		\$		\$	10,738	32,223	\$ 17.34	2/15/2023
Daniel C. Schooley	5/25/2016	45,825	\$ 647,966	183,300	\$ 2,591,862	73,098		\$ 4.10	2/19/2026
	5/18/2016	13,636	\$ 192,813		\$			\$	
	2/27/2015	12,647	\$ 178,829	75,504	\$ 1,067,627	29,683	9,894	\$ 11.93	2/27/2025
	2/27/2014	3,110	\$ 43,975	13,722	\$ 194,029	11,318	11,320	\$ 25.60	2/27/2024
	2/24/2014	871	\$ 12,316		\$			\$	
	2/15/2013		\$		\$	3,011	9,039	\$ 17.34	2/15/2023
	2/3/2012		\$		\$		6,975	\$ 24.11	2/3/2022
Patrick J. Curth	5/25/2016	52,768	\$ 746,140	211,072	\$ 2,984,558	84,173		\$ 4.10	2/19/2026
	2/27/2015	14,564	\$ 205,935	86,944	\$ 1,229,388	34,181	11,393	\$ 11.93	2/27/2025
	2/27/2014	3,580	\$ 50,621	15,801	\$ 223,426	13,034	13,034	\$ 25.60	2/27/2024
	2/15/2013		\$		\$	8,331	24,999	\$ 17.34	2/15/2023
	2/3/2012		\$		\$		21,131	\$ 24.11	2/3/2022
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	5/25/2016	48,602	\$ 687,232	194,408	\$ 2,748,929	77,528		\$ 4.10	2/19/2026
	3/6/2015	20,000	\$ 282,800		\$			\$	
	2/27/2015	13,414	\$ 189,674	80,080	\$ 1,132,331	31,482	10,494	\$ 11.93	2/27/2025
	2/27/2014	3,298	\$ 46,634	14,554	\$ 205,794	12,004	12,006	\$ 25.60	2/27/2024
	2/15/2013		\$		\$	6,587	19,761	\$ 17.34	2/15/2023
	2/3/2012		\$		\$		13,971	\$ 24.11	2/3/2022

- (1) The restricted shares contingently granted on February 19, 2016, which were subsequently approved when our stockholders voted in favor of an amendment to the Equity Incentive Plan on May 25, 2016, vest 33%, 33% and 34% on a time basis per year beginning on the first anniversary date of February 19, 2016. The 13,636 shares of restricted stock awarded to Mr. Schooley on May 18, 2016 have a three-year cliff vest. Restricted shares granted in 2015 and 2014 vest 33%, 33% and 34% on a time basis per year beginning on the first anniversary date of the grant, with the exception that the 20,000 shares of restricted stock awarded to Mr. Dornblaser on March 6, 2015 have a three-year cliff vest.
- (2) Market value is based on the \$14.14 per share closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on December 30, 2016, the last trading day of the year.
- (3) The share-settled performance unit awards granted February 27, 2014 had a performance period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 and, as their performance and vesting criteria were satisfied, resulted in a TSR Modifier of 75% based on the Company finishing in the 50th percentile of its peer group for relative total shareholder return, and 75% of the granted units were issued in common stock on February 27, 2017. For the February 27, 2015 and May 25, 2016 share-settled performance unit awards, disregarding the potential cap of 150% on the TSR modifier upon the vesting of the May 25, 2016 awards, the potential TSR Modifier pursuant to the next highest performance level was at "maximum," resulting in a TSR Modifier of 200%

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

based on their actual performance through December 31, 2016 attaining "target" and "maximum" performance levels, respectively. See page 32 for discussion of these awards' TSR Modifier. The share-settled performance unit awards granted February 27, 2015 have a performance period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017 and any shares earned under such awards are expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2018 if the performance and vesting criteria are met. The share-settled performance unit awards granted May 25, 2016 have a performance period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018 and any shares earned under such awards are expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2019 if the performance and vesting criteria are met.

(4)

Stock option awards contingently granted on February 19, 2016, which were subsequently approved when our stockholders voted in favor of an amendment to the Equity Incentive Plan on May 25, 2016, vest and become exercisable in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of February 19, 2016. Stock option awards granted in 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 vest and become exercisable in four equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the date of the grant.

Table of Contents**Stock Vestings, Option Exercises and Performance Unit Vestings in Fiscal Year 2016**

The following table provides information concerning the vesting of stock awards (referred to in the table collectively as "stock awards"), during fiscal year 2016 on an aggregated basis with respect to each of our named executive officers.

**Stock vestings, option exercises and performance unit vestings for the year ended December 31, 2016**

Name	Stock awards		Stock options		Share-settled
	Shares acquired on vesting(1)	Value realized on vesting(2)	Shares acquired on exercise(3)	Value realized on exercise(4)	performance units Value realized on vesting(2)
Randy A. Foutch	56,046	\$ 284,993		\$	\$
Richard C. Buterbaugh	22,987	\$ 116,311		\$	\$
Daniel C. Schooley	17,843	\$ 91,334		\$	\$
Patrick J. Curth	15,002	\$ 76,219		\$	\$
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	13,249	\$ 67,131		\$	\$

- (1) Represents the number of vested shares of common stock in the Company.
- (2) The value realized upon vesting was calculated utilizing the closing stock price on the vesting date.
- (3) Represents the number of acquired shares of common stock in the Company upon exercise.
- (4) The value realized on exercise was calculated by multiplying the number of exercised stock options by the difference between the exercise price and the closing stock price on the date of exercise.
- (5) Represents the number of share-settled performance units that vested and were exchanged for common stock in the Company based on the Company's performance in comparison to its peer group for relative total shareholder return.

The share-settled performance unit awards granted February 27, 2014 had a performance period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 and, as their performance and vesting criteria were satisfied, resulted in a TSR Modifier of 75% based on the Company finishing in the 50th percentile of its peer group for relative total shareholder return, and 75% of the granted units were issued in common stock on February 27, 2017. The following table provides information concerning these awards issued in 2017.

Name	Share-settled performance units	
	Units(1)	Value realized on vesting(2)
Randy A. Foutch	58,215	\$ 809,771
Richard C. Buterbaugh	25,781	\$ 358,614
Daniel C. Schooley	13,722	\$ 190,873
Patrick J. Curth	15,801	\$ 219,792
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	14,554	\$ 202,446

- (1)

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Represents the number of share-settled performance units that vested and were exchanged for common stock in the Company based on the Company's performance in comparison to its peer group for relative total shareholder return.

(2)

The value realized upon vesting was calculated utilizing the closing stock price on the vesting date.

Table of Contents

***Pension Benefits***

We maintain a 401(k) Plan for our employees, including our named executive officers, but at this time we do not sponsor or maintain a pension plan for any of our employees.

***Nonqualified Deferred Compensation***

We do not provide a deferred compensation plan for our employees at this time.

***Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control***

*Severance*

As described above, we do not maintain individual employment agreements. The Company has adopted the Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Change in Control Executive Severance Plan, which provides severance payments and benefits to our named executive officers and eligible persons with the title of vice president and above, as determined by our Compensation Committee. The policy provides an eligible participant with a lump sum cash severance payment and continued health benefits in the event that the participant experiences a qualifying termination within the 18-month period following the occurrence of a qualifying change in control event. In the event that an eligible executive's employment is terminated without cause by the employer or for good reason by the executive within the 18-month period following the occurrence of a change in control, the executive would become entitled to receive 100% (in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, 300%, and in the case of our other named executive officers, 200%) of the executive's base salary and 200% (in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, 300%) of the executive's target bonus and prorated amount of such target bonus for the fiscal year in which the change of control payment is triggered. In addition, the executive would receive company paid COBRA continuation coverage for up to 18 months following the date of termination. The policy contains a modified cutback provision whereby payments payable to an executive may be reduced if doing so would put the executive in a more advantageous after-tax provision than if payments were not reduced and the executive became subject to excise taxes. In order to be eligible for severance benefits under the policy, our named executive officers have executed a confidentiality, non-disparagement and non-solicitation agreement.

*Restricted Stock*

The restricted stock may be affected by a named executive officer's termination of employment or the occurrence of certain corporate events. In the event of the termination of a named executive officer's employment by the Company, with or without cause, or the named executive officer's resignation for any reason, the named executive officer will forfeit all restricted stock to us.

If the named executive officer's employment with the Company is terminated upon the death of the named executive officer or because the named executive officer is determined to be disabled by the board of directors, then all of his restricted stock will automatically vest. A named executive officer will be considered to have incurred a "disability" in the event of the officer's inability to perform, even with reasonable accommodation, on a full-time basis the employment duties and responsibilities due to accident, physical or mental illness, or other circumstance; provided, however, that such inability continues for a period exceeding 180 days during any 12-month period.

In the event of a change of control, all restricted stock awards will become fully vested as of the date of the change of control, provided that the named executive officer remains employed by the Company through the date of such change of control. For purposes of these restricted stock awards, a "change of control" generally means: (i) any person acquires beneficial ownership of our securities representing 40% or more of the combined voting power of our outstanding securities (provided, however, that if the surviving entity becomes a subsidiary of another entity, then the outstanding

Table of Contents

securities shall be deemed to refer to the outstanding securities of the parent entity), (ii) a majority of the members of the board of directors who were directors as of the date of the corporate reorganization no longer serve as directors; or (iii) the consummation of a merger or consolidation of our company with any other entity, other than a merger or consolidation which would result in our voting securities outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent more than 40% of the combined voting power of our voting securities outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation.

*Stock Options*

Stock option awards may be affected by a named executive officer's termination of employment or the occurrence of certain corporate events. The unvested portion of a stock option award shall expire upon termination of employment, and the vested portion of a stock option award shall remain exercisable for (i) one year following termination of employment by reason of the holder's death or disability, but not later than the expiration of the option period, or (ii) 90 days following termination of employment for any reason other than the holder's death or disability, and other than the holder's termination of employment for cause. Both the unvested and the vested but unexercised portion of a stock option award shall expire upon the termination of the option holder's employment or service by the Company for cause.

In the event of a change of control (which for these purposes is the same as described above), provided that the named executive officer remains employed by the Company through the date of such change of control, all stock option awards will become fully vested and exercisable with respect to all shares of common stock covered thereby as of the date of the change of control.

*Performance Unit Awards*

Performance unit awards may be affected by a named executive officer's termination of employment or the occurrence of certain corporate events. If the executive's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company for any reason, with or without cause, or the executive resigns (in either case, other than by reason of death or disability) prior to the maturity date of the performance unit award, then no amount shall be paid in respect of the award. If, prior to the maturity date, the executive's employment with the Company terminates either by reason of death or because the executive is determined by the board of directors or the Compensation Committee to be subject to a disability, then the executive shall be eligible to receive a pro-rated performance unit award, taking into account the time that the executive was employed during the performance period prior to the date of such termination. The performance units granted to each recipient in 2015, 2016 and 2017 are payable in common stock of the Company. The performance and vesting criteria for the performance units awarded to each recipient in 2014 were satisfied, and 75% of the awarded units were issued in common stock on February 27, 2017.

In the event of a change of control (which for these purposes is the same as described above), provided that the named executive officer remains employed by the Company through the date of such change of control, the "performance periods" in effect on the date the change of control occurs shall end on such date, and either the board of directors or the Compensation Committee shall determine the extent to which the performance goals with respect to each such performance period have been met, based upon such audited or unaudited financial information or other information then available as it deems relevant. The board of directors or Compensation Committee shall then cause each holder of performance unit awards to receive partial or full payment of such awards for each performance period, based on the board of directors' or Compensation Committee's determination of the degree of attainment of the performance goals or that the applicable "target" levels of performance have been attained or on such other basis determined by the board of directors or Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

***Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control Table for Fiscal Year 2016***

The information set forth in the table below is based on the assumption that the applicable triggering event under the Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Change in Control Executive Severance Plan or the applicable restricted stock award, stock option award or performance unit award agreement to which each named officer was a party occurred on December 30, 2016, the last business day of fiscal year 2016. Accordingly, the information reported in the table indicates the amount of cash severance and benefits that would be payable, and the value of restricted stock, stock options and performance units that would vest or become exercisable, by reason of a termination under the circumstances described above, or upon a change in control, and is our best estimation of our obligations to each named executive officer and will only be determinable with any certainty upon the occurrence of the applicable event. For purposes of determining the value of the restricted stock awards, the fair market value per share of our common stock was \$14.14 on December 30, 2016. For purposes of determining the value of the stock options, we utilized the Black-Scholes option pricing model at grant date. For purposes of determining the value of the 2016 and 2015 performance units that are payable in stock, we assessed the total shareholder return through December 30, 2016 (without consideration of any potential impact such change of control event itself may have on such return) and determined that the performance was above "maximum" resulting in TSR Modifiers of 200% and 118.18%, respectively. For purposes of determining the value of the accelerated vesting of the 2014 performance units that were payable in stock, we used the actual TSR Modifier of 75% based on the Company finishing in the 50th percentile of its peer group for relative shareholder return for the performance period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016. As their performance and vesting criteria were satisfied, 75% of the awarded units were issued in common stock on February 27, 2017.

Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

Name	Termination without cause/for good reason outside of a change in control	Change in control (must be coupled with Termination without cause/for good reason)(1)	Change in control only	Termination for cause	Termination due to death or disability
<b>Randy A. Foutch</b>					
Salary	\$	\$	2,400,000	\$	\$
Bonus			3,000,000		
Accelerated Equity RS(2)			3,694,146	3,694,146	3,694,146
Accelerated Equity Options(2)			4,753,602	4,753,602	
Accelerated Equity PS(2)(3)			14,495,268	14,495,268	14,495,268
Continued Medical			20,883		
Total	\$	\$	28,363,899	\$ 22,943,016	\$ 18,189,414
<b>Richard C. Buterbaugh</b>					
Salary	\$	\$	930,000	\$	\$
Bonus			837,000		
Accelerated Equity RS(2)			1,635,984	1,635,984	1,635,984
Accelerated Equity Options(2)			2,071,231	2,071,231	
Accelerated Equity PS(2)(3)			6,419,320	6,419,320	6,419,320
Continued Medical			20,883		
Total	\$	\$	11,914,418	\$ 10,126,535	\$ 8,055,304
<b>Dan C. Schooley</b>					
Salary	\$	\$	760,000	\$	\$
Bonus			646,000		
Accelerated Equity RS(2)			1,075,898	1,075,898	1,075,898
Accelerated Equity Options(2)			1,076,271	1,076,271	
Accelerated Equity PS(2)(3)			3,416,761	3,416,761	3,416,761
Continued Medical			27,420		
Total	\$	\$	7,002,350	\$ 5,568,930	\$ 4,492,659
<b>Patrick J. Curth</b>					
Salary	\$	\$	760,000	\$	\$
Bonus			646,000		
Accelerated Equity RS(2)			1,002,696	1,002,696	1,002,696
Accelerated Equity Options(2)			1,286,378	1,286,378	
Accelerated Equity PS(2)(3)			3,934,441	3,934,441	3,934,441
Continued Medical			20,883		
Total	\$	\$	7,650,398	\$ 6,223,515	\$ 4,937,137



Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Kenneth E. Dornblaser					
Salary	\$	\$	700,000	\$	\$
Bonus			595,000		
Accelerated Equity RS(2)			1,206,340	1,206,340	1,206,340
Accelerated Equity Options(2)			1,174,306	1,174,306	
Accelerated Equity PS(2)(3)			3,623,827	3,623,827	3,623,827
Continued Medical			20,883		
Total	\$	\$	7,320,356	\$ 6,004,473	\$ 4,830,167

(1)

Our Change in Control Executive Severance Plan, which was applicable to each of the named executive officers at December 31, 2016, provides that in the event that during the 18-month period following a change in control the employment of a named executive officer is terminated by the employer without cause or by the named executive officer for good reason, then the named executive officer is entitled to 200% (300% in the case of Mr. Foutch) of such named executive officer's base salary and 200% (300% in the case of Mr. Foutch) of such named executive officer's target bonus, plus company paid COBRA continuation coverage for up to 18 months. In addition, the Equity Incentive Plan provides that in the event of a change in control, (i) with respect to restricted stock awards, the restricted period shall expire and restrictions applicable to outstanding restricted stock awards shall lapse and such awards shall become fully vested; (ii) with respect to stock option awards, all options will become fully vested and exercisable with respect to all shares of common stock covered thereby as of the date of the change of control; and (iii) with respect to performance units, the "performance periods" in effect on the date the change of control occurs shall end on such date, and either the board of directors or the Compensation Committee shall determine the extent to which the performance goals with respect to each such performance period have been met and shall then cause each holder of performance unit awards to receive partial or full payment of such awards for each performance period. For purposes of this table, it is assumed that all outstanding performance units are awarded at a 100% level.

Table of Contents

- (2) At December 31, 2016, the only forms of equity awards held by the named executive officers consisted of restricted stock, stock options and performance units. Each such award may be impacted by the termination of the holder's employment by the Company, depending on the reason for such termination, as follows: (i) the named executive officers' restricted stock awards provide that if the named executive officer's employment is terminated for any reason other than death or a determination of disability, then the named executive officer forfeits his unvested shares. In the event of termination by death or disability, all unvested shares automatically vest; (ii) the stock option awards provide that the unvested portion of a stock option award shall expire upon termination of employment, and the vested portion of a stock option award shall remain exercisable for (a) one year following termination of employment by reason of the holder's death or disability, but not later than the expiration of the option period, or (b) 90 days following termination of employment for any reason other than the holder's death or disability, and other than the holder's termination of employment for cause; provided both the unvested and the vested but unexercised portion of a stock option award shall expire upon the termination of the option holder's employment or service by the Company for cause; and (iii) the performance unit awards provide that if the executive's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company for any reason, with or without cause, or the executive resigns (in either case, other than by reason of death or disability) prior to the maturity date of the performance unit award, then no amount shall be paid in respect of the award. If, prior to the maturity date the executive's employment with the Company either by reason of death or because the executive is determined by the board of directors or the Compensation Committee to be subject to a disability, then the executive shall be eligible to receive a pro-rated performance unit award, taking into account the time that the executive was employed during the performance period prior to the date of such termination.
- (3) For the purposes of this table, the performance period was assumed to have ended on December 31, 2016 for the 2016 and 2015 share-settled performance unit awards, and actually did end on December 31, 2016 for the 2014 share-settled performance unit awards. At December 31, 2016 (without consideration of any potential impact such change of control event may have), the relative rankings of the 2016, 2015 and 2014 share-settled performance unit awards' total shareholder returns were 81.82%, 63.64% and 50.00%, respectively, resulting in TSR Modifiers of 200.00%, 118.18% and 75.00%, respectively. See page 32 for discussion of these awards' TSR Modifier.

***Compensation of Directors***

Based on a competitive review by FW Cook of outside director compensation paid by our peers, which also included consideration of the significant time commitment our board of directors provides to the Company, in 2016 the non-employee members of our board of directors were paid based on the compensation arrangements described below.

Annual Cash Retainer \$60,000 (directors can elect to have their cash retainer paid in the form of restricted stock awards); this award is payable ratably following each quarterly meeting of the board of directors.

**Committee Chairman Fees**

Chairman of Audit Committee: \$20,000/year paid in restricted stock awards; this fee is paid annually following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders.

Chairman of Compensation Committee: \$15,000/year paid in restricted stock awards; this fee is paid annually following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders.

Chairman of Other Committees: \$12,500/year paid in restricted stock awards; this fee is paid annually following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders.

Annual Stock Grant Equivalent value of \$138,000 in restricted stock awards; this fee is paid annually following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders.

Lead Independent Director Fee \$20,000/year paid restricted stock awards; this fee is paid annually following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders.

Entitled to receive up to 50% of their annual compensation in the form of cash (in part to provide the cash needed to pay taxes on restricted stock awards that vest), assuming their individual stock ownership guidelines had been satisfied at the

time of such election; this allows directors to potentially take a portion of their Annual Stock Grant in the form of cash.

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

A limitation on the number of shares of common stock that may be issued in respect of awards granted in a single calendar year of 1,435,000 shares.

Participation in Charitable Matching Gift Program Directors are permitted to participate in our charitable matching gift program. For more information, see "Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Other Benefits."

In February 2016, the board of directors determined to take a 10% reduction (\$22,000) in its members' annual cash retainer and annual stock grants, with the reduction to be taken from the payment of the annual stock grant. Therefore, following the board meeting that accompanied our annual meeting of stockholders in May 2016, the annual stock grant payment made to the board of directors was \$138,000. In September 2016, based in part on the performance of the Company and in part on the overall industry in general, the board of directors determined to reinstate the compensation of its members back to the prior levels. Therefore, following the board meeting that accompanies our annual meeting of stockholders in May 2017, the annual stock grant payments to be made to the board of directors will be \$160,000.

Directors who are also employees of the Company will not receive any additional compensation for serving on our board of directors. Accordingly, the "Summary compensation table" reflects the total compensation received by Randy A. Foutch.

The following table summarizes, with respect to our non-employee directors, information relating to the compensation earned for services rendered as directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

#### *Director compensation table for the year ended December 31, 2016*

Name	Stock awards(1)(2)	Fees earned or paid in cash(2)(3)	Total
Peter R. Kagan	\$ 197,979	\$ 21	\$ 198,000
James R. Levy	\$ 197,979	\$ 21	\$ 198,000
B.Z. (Bill) Parker	\$ 197,979	\$ 21	\$ 198,000
Pamela S. Pierce	\$ 212,984	\$ 16	\$ 213,000
Ambassador Francis Rooney(4)	\$ 180,479	\$ 21	\$ 180,500
Dr. Myles W. Scoggins	\$ 197,979	\$ 21	\$ 198,000
Edmund P. Segner, III	\$ 177,996	\$ 60,004	\$ 238,000
Donald D. Wolf	\$ 197,979	\$ 21	\$ 198,000

(1) The amounts reported as "Stock awards" represent the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock awards granted to Laredo's directors for services rendered for 2016, based on the closing price of our stock on the NYSE on the grant date, in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

(2) Fees earned during the fourth quarter of each year are paid during the first quarter of the next year.

(3) The amounts shown represent either the value of fractional shares paid in cash to those directors electing to take restricted stock awards in lieu of cash, or in the case of Mr. Segner, his elections to receive the applicable \$15,000 cash payment with respect to each quarterly meeting.

(4) On September 6, 2016, Ambassador Francis Rooney resigned from the board of directors for personal reasons to focus on his election campaign for a Florida congressional seat and not due to any disagreement with the Company. The Company appreciates Ambassador Rooney's distinguished service on the board of directors since February 2010. Ambassador Rooney was Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a member of the Compensation Committee.

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

The following table summarizes, with respect to our non-employee directors, information relating to the outstanding unvested restricted shares of common stock earned by each director for services rendered. Restricted shares granted in 2016 have a one-year cliff vest.

Name	Grant date	Restricted stock shares not vested
Peter R. Kagan	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	12,378
	2/10/2016	2,654
James R. Levy	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	12,378
	2/10/2016	2,654
B.Z. (Bill) Parker	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	12,378
	2/10/2016	2,654
Pamela S. Pierce	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	13,592
	2/10/2016	2,654
Dr. Myles W. Scoggins	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	12,378
	2/10/2016	2,654
Edmund P. Segner, III	5/25/2016	14,401
Donald D. Wolf	11/18/2016	1,040
	8/18/2016	1,163
	5/25/2016	12,378

Our independent directors are reimbursed for their expenses to attend board meetings.

Table of Contents***Securities Authorized for Issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan***

At December 31, 2016, a total of 24,350,000 shares of common stock were authorized for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan. In the table below, we describe certain information about these shares and the Equity Incentive Plan that provides for their authorization and issuance. You can find a description of the Equity Incentive Plan under " Laredo Petroleum, Inc. Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan."

<b>Plan category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding outstanding options)(1)(2)</b>
Equity compensation plan approved by security holders(1)	2,369,503	\$ 12.54	13,488,098
Equity compensation plan not approved by security holders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,369,503</b>		<b>13,488,098</b>

(1) See " Laredo Petroleum, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan" for more information.

(2) The share-settled performance unit awards granted February 27, 2014 had a performance period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 and, as their performance and vesting criteria were satisfied, resulted in a TSR Modifier of 75% based on the Company finishing in the 50th percentile of its peer group for relative total shareholder return, and 75% of the granted units were issued in common stock on February 27, 2017. The formula for calculating the number of securities remaining available for future issuance incorporates this and also assumes the February 27, 2015 and May 25, 2016 share-settled performance units outstanding result in a maximum performance period level, resulting in a TSR Modifier of 200%, even though the actual performance period through December 31, 2017 for the 2015 Performance Share Awards, and through December 31, 2018 for the 2016 Performance Share Awards, are not complete. If the February 27, 2015 and May 25, 2016 share-settled performance unit awards were included at a TSR Modifier of 100%, the number of securities remaining available for issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding outstanding options), as of December 31, 2016 would be 15,612,839. See page 32 for discussion of these awards' TSR Modifier.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

No member of the Compensation Committee has been at any time an employee of Laredo. None of the Company's executive officers serve on the board of directors or compensation committee of a company that has an executive officer that serves on the Company's board of directors or Compensation Committee. No member of the Company's board of directors is an executive officer of a company in which one of the Company's executive officers serves as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of that company.

Table of Contents

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Company has determined that: (i) Messrs. Segner, Parker and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce are independent, as defined in Section 10A of the Exchange Act and under the standards set forth by the NYSE; and (ii) all current Audit Committee members are financially literate. In addition, Messrs. Segner and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce qualify as an audit committee financial expert under the applicable rules promulgated pursuant to the Exchange Act.

During the last fiscal year, and earlier this year in preparation for the filing with the SEC of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, the Audit Committee:

reviewed and discussed the Company's audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016 with management and with the independent registered public accountants;

considered the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and the quality of its financial reporting, and discussed these matters with management and with the independent registered public accountants;

reviewed and discussed with the independent registered public accountants (i) their judgments as to the quality of the Company's accounting policies, (ii) the written disclosures and letter from the independent registered public accountants required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Independence Rules, and the independent registered public accountants' independence, and (iii) the matters required to be discussed by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Auditing Standard No. 16, Communications with Audit Committees;

discussed with management and with the independent registered public accountants the process by which the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer make the certifications required by the SEC in connection with the filing with the SEC of the Company's periodic reports, including reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q;

pre-approved all auditing services and non-audit services to be performed for the Company by the independent registered public accountants as required by the applicable rules promulgated pursuant to the Exchange Act, considered whether the rendering of non-audit services was compatible with maintaining Grant Thornton LLP's independence, and concluded that Grant Thornton LLP's independence was not compromised by the provision of such services (details regarding the fees paid to Grant Thornton LLP in fiscal year 2016 for audit services, tax services and all other services, are set forth in "Audit and Other Fees" below); and

based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, recommended to the board of directors that the audited consolidated financial statements referred to above be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

As recommended by the NYSE's corporate governance rules, the Audit Committee also considered whether, to assure continuing auditor independence, it would be advisable to regularly rotate the audit firm itself. The Audit Committee has concluded that the current benefits to the Company from continued retention of Grant Thornton LLP warrant retaining the firm at this time. The Audit Committee will, however, continue to review this issue on an annual basis.

Notwithstanding the foregoing actions and the responsibilities set forth in the Audit Committee Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's consolidated financial statements are complete and accurate and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Management is responsible for the Company's financial reporting process, including its system of internal controls, and for the preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The independent registered public accountants are responsible for expressing an opinion on those

Table of Contents

financial statements. Audit Committee members are not employees of the Company or accountants or auditors by profession. Therefore, the Audit Committee has relied, without independent verification, on management's representation that the consolidated financial statements have been prepared with integrity and objectivity and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and on the representations of the independent registered public accountants included in their report on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

The Audit Committee meets regularly with management and the independent auditors, including private discussions with the independent registered public accountants, and receives the communications described above. The Audit Committee has also established procedures for (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by the Company's employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. However, this oversight does not provide us with an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or policies, or appropriate internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, our considerations and discussions with management and the independent registered public accountants do not assure that the Company's consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or that the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

Edmund P. Segner, III, Chair  
B.Z. (Bill) Parker, Member  
Donald D. Wolf, Member  
Dr. Myles W. Scoggins, Member  
Pamela S. Pierce, Member

*The information contained in this Audit Committee Report and references in this Proxy Statement to the independence of the Audit Committee members shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates such information by reference in such filing.*



Table of Contents

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Corporate Governance Guidelines**

The board of directors believes that its fundamental responsibility is to promote the best interests of the Company and its stockholders by overseeing the management of the Company's business and affairs. Directors must exercise their business judgment and act in what they reasonably believe to be the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. The board of directors is elected by the stockholders to oversee management and to ensure that the long-term interests of the stockholders are being served. Directors must fulfill their responsibilities consistent with their fiduciary duties to the stockholders and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The board of directors believes that sound governance practices and policies provide an important framework to assist it in fulfilling its duty to the Company's stockholders. The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines cover the following principal subjects:

Board of Directors Composition and Selection; Director Qualifications

Board of directors size

Selection of members of the board of directors

Determination of independence of directors

Selection of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Term limits

Retirement

Other directorships

Change in status of directors

Committees of the board of directors

Board of Directors Meetings; Director Responsibilities

Board of directors meetings and agenda

Access to management and advisers

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Executive sessions

Director orientation and education

Annual performance evaluations

Succession planning

Director compensation

Stock ownership guidelines

Shareholder communications with the board of directors

Board of directors communications with third parties

The "Corporate Governance Guidelines" are posted on our website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com). The Corporate Governance Guidelines are being reviewed annually by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and any proposed additions to or amendments of the Corporate Governance Guidelines will be presented to the board of directors for its approval.

Table of Contents

The NYSE has adopted rules that require listed companies to adopt governance guidelines covering certain matters. The Company believes that the Corporate Governance Guidelines comply with the NYSE rules.

**Code of Conduct and Business Ethics**

The board of directors has adopted a Code of Conduct and Business Ethics applicable to our employees, directors and officers and a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers, in accordance with applicable U.S. federal securities laws and the corporate governance rules of the NYSE. Any waiver of these codes may be made only by our board of directors and will be promptly disclosed as required by applicable U.S. federal securities laws and the corporate governance rules of the NYSE. A copy of the Code of Conduct and Business Ethics and Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is available on our website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com).

**Board of Directors Leadership**

Mr. Foutch is Laredo's founder and has served as Laredo's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since its inception. He also served as Laredo's President from October 2006 to July 2008.

The board of directors believes the combined role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer promotes unified leadership and direction for the Company, which allows for a single, clear focus for management to execute the Company's strategy and business plans. As Chief Executive Officer, the Chairman is best suited to ensure that critical business issues are brought before the board of directors, which enhances the board of director's ability to develop and implement business strategies.

To ensure a strong and independent board of directors, as discussed herein, the board of directors has affirmatively determined that all directors of the Company, other than Mr. Foutch, are independent within the meaning of the NYSE listing standards currently in effect. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that non-management directors shall meet in regular executive session without management present, and that the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Mr. Segner who serves as our lead independent director, shall act as the Chairman of such meetings. Additionally, Mr. Segner actively participates in establishing and setting board meeting agendas.

Until November 2013, Warburg Pincus owned a majority of the Company's outstanding common stock. As such, prior to that time, the Company was a "controlled company" as that term is set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual. Under the NYSE rules, a "controlled company" may elect not to comply with certain NYSE corporate governance requirements, including: (i) the requirement that a majority of the Company's board of directors consist of independent directors, (ii) the requirement that the Company's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee be composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities, and (iii) the requirement that the Company's Compensation Committee be composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities. While these requirements did not apply to the Company during the period it remained a "controlled company," the Company's board of directors nonetheless during all of 2013 consisted of a majority of independent directors and its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Compensation Committee consisted entirely of independent directors within the meaning of the NYSE listing standards currently in effect. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Compensation Committee each have a written charter addressing such committee's purpose and responsibilities in accordance with NYSE listing standards.

**Communications with the Board of Directors**

Stockholders or other interested parties can contact any director, any committee of the board of directors, or the Company's non-management directors as a group, by writing to them at Laredo

Table of Contents

Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119. Comments or complaints relating to the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters will also be referred to members of the Audit Committee. All such communications will be forwarded to the appropriate member(s) of the board of directors.

**Director Independence**

The board of directors annually reviews and determines the independence of each director. In making its determination, the board of directors carefully considers all facts and circumstances it deems relevant to the determination. Members of the board of directors have an affirmative obligation to promptly inform the Company's General Counsel of changes in their circumstances or any transactions or relationships that may impact their designation by the board of directors as "independent."

The board of directors has assessed the independence of each non-employee director under the Company's guidelines and the independence standards of the NYSE. The board of directors affirmatively determined that all seven of the non-employee directors (Messrs. Kagan, Levy, Parker, Segner and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce) are independent under the Company's guidelines and independence standards of the NYSE. This determination included specifically consideration of Warburg Pincus' stock ownership in the Company and Messrs. Kagan's and Levy's relationship with Warburg Pincus. Under the standards of the NYSE, the concern is "independence from management" and, therefore, the ownership of even a significant amount of stock is not, by itself, a bar to an independence finding.

In connection with its assessment of the independence of each non-employee director, the board of directors also determined that Messrs. Segner, Parker and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce meet the additional independence standards of the NYSE and SEC applicable to members of the Audit Committee. Those standards require that the director not be an affiliate of the Company and that the director not receive from the Company, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fees except for fees for services as a director.

**Executive Sessions of the Board of Directors**

Our independent directors meet regularly in executive session without management to review the performance of management and our Company and any related matters. The Chairman of our Audit Committee, Mr. Segner, serves as the Chair and lead independent director of such meetings. Generally, executive sessions are held in conjunction with regularly scheduled meetings of our board of directors. We expect our board of directors to have at least four executive sessions each year.

**Financial Literacy of Audit Committee and Designation of Financial Experts**

As a part of its annual self-assessment process, the board of directors evaluated each of the members of the Audit Committee for financial literacy and the attributes of a financial expert during its November 2016 meeting. The board of directors determined that each of the Audit Committee members is financially literate and each of Messrs. Segner and Wolf, Dr. Scoggins and Ms. Pierce qualify as a financial expert as defined by the SEC.

**Oversight of Risk Management**

The board of directors oversees an enterprise-wide approach to risk management, designed to support the achievement of the Company's objectives and to maintain stockholder value. The Audit Committee is primarily responsible for overseeing the Company's exposure to financial risk and reviewing the steps the Company's management has taken to monitor and control such exposure. The Audit Committee meets at least four times per year, in addition to periodic meetings with management and internal and independent auditors to accomplish its purpose. Additionally, each of the committees

Table of Contents

of the board of directors considers the risks within its area of responsibilities. We believe that the leadership structure of our board of directors supports its effective oversight of the Company's risk management.

**Attendance at Annual Meetings**

The board of directors encourages all directors to attend the annual meetings of stockholders, if practicable. All of our incumbent directors attended our last annual meeting. We anticipate that all of our directors will attend the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock as of March 13, 2017 by (i) beneficial owners of five percent or more of the Company's common stock, (ii) each director of the Company, (iii) each named executive officer of the Company and (iv) all of the Company's directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise noted, the mailing address of each person or entity named below is c/o Laredo Petroleum, Inc., 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119.

<b>Name of person or identity of group</b>	<b>Number of shares</b>	<b>Percentage of class(1)</b>
Warburg Pincus Private Equity IX, L.P.(2)	36,215,078	14.9%
Warburg Pincus Private Equity X O&G, L.P.(2)	40,163,657	16.6%
Warburg Pincus X Partners, L.P.(2)	1,291,411	*
SailingStone Capital Partners LLC(3)	29,588,857	12.2%
SPO Advisory Corp.(4)	14,059,005	5.8%
Vanguard Group Inc.(5)	12,328,597	5.1%
Capital Research Global Investors(6)	12,286,000	5.1%
Randy A. Foutch(7)(8)	1,721,300	*
Peter R. Kagan(2)(9)	77,901,359	32.1%
James R. Levy(2)(9)	77,763,408	32.1%
B.Z. (Bill) Parker	132,253	*
Pamela S. Pierce	140,471	*
Dr. Myles W. Scoggins(10)	69,044	*
Edmund P. Segner, III	58,117	*
Donald D. Wolf(11)	79,911	*
Richard C. Buterbaugh	258,856	*
Daniel C. Schooley	154,990	*
Patrick J. Curth	209,599	*
Kenneth E. Dornblaser	155,359	*
Directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons)(12)	3,369,601	1.4%

\* Denotes less than 1% beneficially owned.

(1) Based upon an aggregate of 242,584,430 shares outstanding as of March 13, 2017.

(2) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13D Amendment No. 2 filed on February 27, 2017 by Warburg Pincus Private Equity IX, L.P. The stockholders are (i) Warburg Pincus Private Equity IX, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP IX"), including an affiliated partnership, (ii) Warburg Pincus Private Equity X O&G, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP X O&G"), and (iii) Warburg Pincus X Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP X Partners"). Warburg Pincus IX GP L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP IX GP") is the general partner of WP IX. Warburg Pincus X, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP X GP"), is the general partner of each of WP X O&G and WP X Partners. Warburg Pincus X GP L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP X LP"), is the general partner of WP X GP. WPP GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("WPP GP"), is the general partner of WP IX GP and WP X LP. Warburg Pincus Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("WP Partners"), is the managing member of WPP GP. Warburg Pincus Partners GP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("WP Partners GP"), is the general partner of WP Partners. Warburg Pincus & Co., a New York general partnership ("WP"), is the managing member of WP Partners GP. Warburg Pincus LLC, a New York limited liability company ("WP LLC"), manages each of WP IX, WP X O&G and WP X Partners. Charles R. Kaye and Joseph P. Landy are each Managing General Partners of WP and Managing Members and Co-Chief Executive Officers of WP LLC and may be

## Edgar Filing: Laredo Petroleum, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

deemed to control the Warburg Pincus entities. Messrs. Kaye and Landy disclaim beneficial ownership of all shares held by the Warburg Pincus entities. The address of the Warburg Pincus entities is 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

- (3) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G Amendment No. 4 filed on February 10, 2017 by SailingStone Capital Partners LLC, which disclosed that such entity possesses sole voting and dispositive power of the reported shares. The address of SailingStone Capital Partners LLC is One California Street, 30th Floor, San Francisco, California 94111.
- (4) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G Amendment No. 2 filed on February 14, 2017 by SPO Advisory Corp., which disclosed that such entity possesses sole voting and dispositive power of the reported shares. The address of SPO Advisory Corp. is 591 Redwood Highway, Suite 3215, Mill Valley, California 94941.
- (5) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G filed on February 10, 2017 by Vanguard Group Inc., which disclosed that such entity possesses sole voting and dispositive power of the reported shares. The address of Vanguard Group Inc. is 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.
- (6) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G Amendment No. 1 filed on February 13, 2017 by Capital Research Global Investors, which disclosed that such entity possesses sole voting and dispositive power of the reported shares. The address of Capital Research Global Investors is 333 South Hope Street, 55th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071.
- (7) Randy A. Foutch, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the board of directors, is a limited partner of certain affiliates of Warburg Pincus.
- (8) Includes (i) 451,340 shares held by Lariat Ranch, an entity of which Mr. Foutch owns approximately 80% and has shared voting power, (ii) 360,148 shares held equally among four family trusts and (iii) 500 shares held by Mr. Foutch's daughter.
- (9) Peter R. Kagan and James R. Levy, directors of the Company, are Partners of WP and Members and Managing Directors of WP LLC. 77,670,146 of the shares indicated as owned by Messrs. Kagan and Levy are included because of their affiliation with the Warburg Pincus entities. Messrs. Kagan and Levy disclaim beneficial ownership of all shares held by the Warburg Pincus entities.
- (10) Includes 5,000 shares held in a joint account for which Dr. Scoggins shares voting and dispositive powers with his spouse.
- (11) Includes 3,000 shares held by the Donald D. Wolf 2007 Irrevocable Trust.
- (12) Does not include shares of common stock held by WP IX, WP X O&G and WP X Partners (as defined in footnote 2) in which Messrs. Kagan and Levy may be deemed to have an indirect pecuniary interest (within the meaning of Rule 16a-1 under the Exchange Act).

Table of Contents

**SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

The executive officers and directors of the Company and persons who own more than 10% of the Company's common stock are required to file reports with the SEC, disclosing the amount and nature of their beneficial ownership in common stock, as well as changes in that ownership. Based solely on our review of reports and written representations that the Company has received, the Company believes that all required reports were timely filed during 2016.

**TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS**

**Procedures for Review, Approval and Ratification of Related Person Transactions**

A "Related-Party Transaction" is a transaction, arrangement or relationship in which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was, is or will be a participant, the amount of which involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any related person had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest. A "Related Person" means:

any person who is, or at any time during the applicable period was, one of the Company's executive officers or one of its directors;

any person who is known by the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than 5.0% of the Company's common stock;

any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons, which means any child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law of a director, executive officer or a beneficial owner of more than 5.0% of the Company's common stock; and

any entity in which any of the foregoing persons (i) has direct or indirect control, (ii) is a partner or principal or in a similar position, (iii) has a 10.0% or greater beneficial ownership interest or (iv) is employed if (a) the person is directly involved in the negotiation of the Related-Party Transaction or will share or have primary responsibility for such transaction or (b) the person's compensation from the entity is directly tied to such transaction.

The board of directors has determined that the Audit Committee is best suited to review and approve Related-Party Transactions, although the board of directors may instead determine that a particular Related-Party Transaction should be reviewed and approved by a majority of disinterested directors. No member of the Audit Committee shall participate in the review or approval of any Related-Party Transaction with respect to which such member is a Related Person. In reviewing and approving any Related-Party Transaction, the Audit Committee shall:

Satisfy itself that it has been fully informed as to the material facts of the Related Person's relationship and interest and as to the material facts of the proposed Related-Party Transaction;

Take into account the extent of the Related Person's interest in the Related-Party Transaction; and

Determine that the Related-Party Transaction is fair to the Company and that the Related-Party Transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to an unaffiliated third party under the same or similar circumstances.

At each Audit Committee meeting, management shall recommend any Related-Party Transactions, if applicable, to be entered into by the Company. After review, the Audit Committee shall approve or disapprove such transactions and at each subsequently scheduled meeting, management shall update the Audit Committee as to any material change to those proposed transactions. The Audit Committee shall establish such guidelines as it determines are necessary or appropriate for management to follow in its dealings with Related Persons in Related-Party Transactions.





Table of Contents

Each director is required to affirmatively disclose any changes in his or her related party status in accordance with a standing agenda item at each committee meeting and each meeting of the board of directors. If management becomes aware of a proposed Related-Party Transaction or an existing Related-Party Transaction that has not been pre-approved by the Audit Committee, management shall promptly notify the Chairman of the Audit Committee and such transactions shall be submitted to the Audit Committee for their review, consideration and determination of whether to approve or ratify, as applicable, such transaction if the Audit Committee determines it is fair to the Company. If management, in consultation with the Company's Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer, determines that it is not practicable to wait until the next Audit Committee meeting, the Chairman of the Audit Committee has the delegated authority during the period between Audit Committee meetings, to review, consider and determine whether any such transaction is fair to the Company and whether the transaction should be approved, or ratified, as the case may be. The Chairman of the Audit Committee shall report to the Audit Committee any transactions reviewed by him pursuant to this delegated authority at the next Audit Committee meeting.

Additional information relating to the Company's policies regarding Related-Party Transactions is set forth in the "Policy Statement Regarding Related-Party Transactions" that is posted on the Company's website at [www.laredopetro.com](http://www.laredopetro.com).

**Registration Rights**

On December 20, 2011, in connection with the closing of its initial public offering, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement (the "Registration Rights Agreement") with affiliates of Warburg Pincus and the other former unitholders of Laredo LLC. Under the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement, Warburg Pincus is the only remaining holder of registration rights under the Registration Rights Agreement. The Registration Rights Agreement requires the Company to file, within 30 days of receipt of a demand notice issued by Warburg Pincus, a registration statement with the SEC permitting the public offering of registrable securities. In addition, the Registration Rights Agreement grants Warburg Pincus the right to join the Company, or "piggyback", in certain circumstances, if the Company is selling its common stock in an offering at any time after its initial public offering. The Registration Rights Agreement also includes customary provisions dealing with indemnification, contribution and allocation of expenses.

**Other Related-Party Transactions**

On January 1, 2013, we entered into a Non-Exclusive Aircraft Lease Agreement (as amended, the "Aircraft Lease") with Lariat Ranch for a term of one year, automatically renewable for subsequent one-year terms subject to the parties' termination rights. The Aircraft Lease was amended effective January 1, 2014 and again effective January 1, 2015. Under the Aircraft Lease in 2016, we leased an airplane owned by Lariat Ranch at a rate of \$1,508.75 per flight hour, subject to quarterly redetermination by the parties, and are also responsible for all operating costs associated with our use of the aircraft, including flight crew costs and airport charges. Laredo incurred approximately \$415,297 in expenses for the year ended December 31, 2016 for business trips pursuant to this policy. In connection with the Aircraft Lease, our board of directors adopted a revised aircraft use policy, which also covers our reimbursement of expenses related to flight training and certification of Mr. Foutch and other related expenses, which are included under "All other compensation," in our "Summary compensation table" above.

Mr. Foutch and Company employees travel extensively for Company business, often on short notice and to areas that have limited access to direct commercial flights. Therefore, our board of directors has determined that the ability to have access when necessary to Lariat's dedicated aircraft is an efficient, safer and cost-effective option that is beneficial to us. Although Mr. Foutch is a fully qualified pilot with a single pilot rating and has flown his aircraft solo for business while working for other companies in the past, we believe it is in our best interest to require the presence of a fully-licensed and qualified co-pilot with him, or two pilots, and certain specified safety and mechanical inspections to assure the airworthiness of the aircraft.

Table of Contents**ITEM TWO****RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The Audit Committee of the board of directors has selected Grant Thornton LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for 2017. Grant Thornton LLP has audited Laredo's consolidated financial statements since its inception in 2006.

The board of directors is submitting the selection of Grant Thornton LLP for ratification at the Annual Meeting. The submission of this matter for approval by stockholders is not legally required, but the board of directors and the Audit Committee believe the submission provides an opportunity for stockholders through their vote to communicate with the board of directors and the Audit Committee about an important aspect of corporate governance. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider the selection of that firm as the Company's auditors.

The Audit Committee has the sole authority and responsibility to retain, evaluate and replace the Company's auditors. The stockholders' ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP does not limit the authority of the Audit Committee to change auditors at any time.

**Audit and Other Fees**

The table below sets forth the aggregate fees billed to Laredo by Grant Thornton LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, for the last two fiscal years:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Audit fees(1)	\$ 585,000	\$ 809,750
Tax fees(2)	35,455	19,161
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 620,455</b>	<b>\$ 828,911</b>

---

(1) Audit fees represent fees for professional services provided in connection with: (a) the annual audit of Laredo's consolidated financial statements; (b) the review of Laredo's quarterly consolidated financial statements; and (c) review of Laredo's other filings with the SEC, including review and preparation of registration statements, comfort letters, consents and research necessary to comply with generally accepted auditing standards for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

(2) Tax fees represent review of tax return and consultation on tax matters for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

The Audit Committee Charter and its pre-approval policy require that the Audit Committee review and pre-approve the plan and scope of Grant Thornton LLP's audit and tax services. Laredo's Audit Committee pre-approved 100% of the services described above under the captions "Audit fees" and "Tax fees" for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

The Company expects that representatives of Grant Thornton LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to appropriate questions and to make a statement if they desire to do so.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE *FOR* THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF GRANT THORNTON LLP AS THE AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY FOR 2017.**

Table of Contents

**ITEM THREE**

**ADVISORY VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

As required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act, which was added under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, we are seeking stockholder approval on an advisory, non-binding basis of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in the section of this Proxy Statement titled "Executive Compensation." In this proposal, stockholders are being asked to vote on the following advisory resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402(m) through (q) of Regulation S-K, including the compensation tables and the other narrative executive compensation disclosure in the Proxy Statement for our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders."

Stockholders are urged to read the "Executive Compensation" section of this Proxy Statement, which discusses in detail how our compensation policies and procedures implement our compensation philosophy, and to refer to the related executive compensation tables. The compensation of our named executive officers is based on a philosophy that ties a substantial portion of an executive's compensation to our attainment of financial and other performance measures that, our board of directors believes, promote the creation of long-term stockholder value and position our company for long-term success. As described more fully in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," the mix of fixed- and performance-based compensation, as well as the terms of restricted stock awards, stock option awards and performance unit awards are designed to enable our Company to attract and retain top talent while, at the same time, creating a close relationship between our Company's performance and overall stockholder return and the named executive officers' compensation. Our Compensation Committee and board of directors believe that the philosophy of the program, and hence the compensation awarded to named executive officers under the current program, fulfills this objective.

Although the vote is advisory and non-binding, our board of directors and Compensation Committee value the opinions that our stockholders express in their votes and will consider the voting results in connection with their ongoing evaluation of our compensation program.

The affirmative "FOR" vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting is required to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers. Unless otherwise instructed on the proxy, properly executed proxies will be voted in favor of approving the advisory, non-binding basis of the compensation of our named executive officers.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE *FOR* THE ADVISORY RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**

Table of Contents

**STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS; IDENTIFICATION OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES**

Stockholders who, in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, wish to present proposals for inclusion in the proxy materials to be distributed in connection with the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders must submit their proposals so that they are received at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on November 20, 2017, or, in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting, within a reasonable time before the Company begins to print and mail the proxy materials for the 2018 annual meeting. As the SEC rules make clear, simply submitting a proposal does not guarantee that it will be included in the Company's proxy materials.

In addition, stockholders who wish to introduce a proposal from the floor of the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders (outside the processes of Rule 14a-8), must submit that proposal in writing to the Company's Secretary at our principal executive offices no earlier than January 4, 2018 and no later than February 5, 2018, or, in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting, not later than the later of (i) the 90th day before the 2018 annual meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the annual meeting is first made by the Company.

To be in proper form, a stockholder's notice must include the information required by our bylaws with respect to each proposal submitted. The Company may refuse to consider any proposal that is not timely or otherwise does not meet the requirements of our bylaws or the SEC's rules with respect to the submission of proposals. You may obtain a copy of our bylaws by submitting a request to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119.

Directors may be nominated by the board of directors or by stockholders in accordance with the bylaws of the Company. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will review all nominees for the board of directors, including proposed nominees of stockholders, in accordance with its charter. In evaluating the suitability of candidates, the board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee take into account many factors, including the nominee's judgment, experience, independence, character, business acumen and such other factors as the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee concludes are pertinent in light of the current needs of the board of directors. The board of directors believes that its membership should reflect a diversity of experience, gender, race, ethnicity and age. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will select qualified nominees and review its recommendations with the board of directors, which will decide whether to invite the nominees to join the board of directors. When evaluating the suitability of an incumbent director for nomination or re-election, the board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also consider the director's past performance, including attendance at meetings and participation in and contributions to the activities of the board of directors.

The board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believe they have achieved the sought after balance described above through the representation on the board of directors of members having experience in the oil and gas industry, accounting and investment analysis, among other areas. The board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee do not discriminate based upon race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, citizenship or any other legally protected status.

In identifying potential director candidates, the board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee rely on any source available for the identification and recommendation of candidates, including current directors and officers. In addition, the board of directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee from time to time may engage a third-party search firm to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying or evaluating potential candidates, for which the third party search firm will be paid a fee.

Table of Contents

The board of directors and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will also consider any nominee recommended by stockholders for election at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2018 if that nomination is submitted in writing, between January 4, 2018 and February 5, 2018, or in the event the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders is advanced or delayed more than 30 days from the date of the Annual Meeting, not later than the later of (i) the 90th day before the 2018 annual meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the annual meeting is first made by the Company. In the event that the number of directors to be elected to the board of directors is increased and there has been no public announcement naming all of the nominees for director or indicating the increase made by the Company at least 10 days before the last day a stockholder may deliver a notice of nomination in accordance with the preceding sentence, a stockholder's notice will be considered timely, but only with respect to nominees for any new positions created by such increase, if it is received by the Secretary at the principal executive offices of the Company not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the day on which such public announcement is first made by the Company.

As set forth in the Company's bylaws, with respect to each such nominee, the following information must be provided to the Company with the written nomination:

- a) the nominee's name, address and age;
- b) the nominee's written consent to serve as a director if elected;
- c) the name and address of the nominating stockholder;
- d) the number of shares of each class and series of stock of the Company held by the nominating stockholder; and
- e) all other information required to be disclosed pursuant to Regulation 14A of the Exchange Act.

Each submission must also include a statement of the qualifications of the nominee, a notarized consent signed by the nominee evidencing a willingness to serve as a director, if elected, and a written representation and agreement that such person (i) is not and will not become a party to any voting agreement or compensation agreement that has not been disclosed to the Company or that could limit or interfere with the nominee's ability to comply with their fiduciary duties under applicable law and (ii) will comply with all of the Company's applicable corporate governance, conflict of interest, confidentiality and stock ownership and trading policies and guidelines.

Written requests for inclusion of any stockholder proposal should be addressed to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119. The Company suggests that any such proposal be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

**SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

Solicitation of proxies may be made over the Internet, by mail, personal interview or telephone by officers, directors and regular employees of the Company. The Company may also request banking institutions, brokerage firms, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward solicitation material to the beneficial owners of the common stock that those companies or persons hold of record, and the Company will reimburse the forwarding expenses.

**STOCKHOLDER LIST**

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company will maintain at its corporate offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a list of the stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

The list will be open to the examination of any stockholder, for purposes germane to the Annual Meeting, during ordinary business hours for 10 days before the Annual Meeting.

**PROXY MATERIALS, ANNUAL REPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The Company's 2016 Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2016 is being made available to stockholders concurrently with this Proxy Statement and does not form part of the proxy solicitation material.

Table of Contents

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR  
THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 10, 2017**

A COPY OF THE PROXY STATEMENT, THE FORM OF PROXY AND  
THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT  
<http://materials.proxyvote.com/516806>

A copy of the 2016 Annual Report, as filed with the SEC, will be sent to any stockholder without charge upon written request. One copy of the Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and our 2016 Annual Report (the "Proxy Materials") will be sent to stockholders who share an address, unless they have notified the Company that they want to continue receiving multiple packages. A copy of the Proxy Materials will also be sent upon written or oral request to any stockholder of a shared address to which a single copy of the Proxy Materials was delivered. If two or more stockholders with a shared address are currently receiving only one copy of the Proxy Materials, then the stockholders may request to receive multiple packages in the future, or if a stockholder is currently receiving multiple packages of the Proxy Materials, then the stockholder may request to receive a single copy in the future. Such requests may be made by writing to Laredo Petroleum, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 15 W. Sixth Street, Suite 900, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 or by calling (918) 513-4570. The 2016 Annual Report is also available at the SEC's website in its EDGAR database at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**Internet and Phone Voting**

Internet and phone voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholder identities, to allow stockholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that stockholders' instructions have been recorded properly. Stockholders voting by Internet should remember that the stockholder must bear costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.

For shares of stock that are registered in a street name (the stockholder owns shares in the name of a bank, broker or other holder of record on the books of the Company's transfer agent), you will receive instructions with your proxy materials that you must follow in order to have your shares voted. Please review your proxy or voting instruction card to determine whether you can vote electronically or by phone.

**SUBMIT A PROXY BY INTERNET [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)**

For shares of stock that are registered in your name, you may vote by Internet or phone using the following procedures. To vote by Internet, please access [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com), and enter your 11 digit control number located in the upper right-hand portion of your proxy material. Votes submitted by Internet or phone must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 9, 2017. The giving of such a proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Annual Meeting.

**SUBMIT A PROXY BY PHONE 1-800-690-6903**

To vote by phone, please dial 1-800-690-6903 and enter your 11 digit control number located in the upper right-hand portion of your proxy material. Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time on May 9, 2017.

**VOTE BY MAIL**

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided.



Table of Contents

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS**

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by us in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access proxy materials electronically in future years.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON, YOU ARE URGED TO VOTE BY INTERNET, BY PHONE OR, IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED PAPER COPIES OF THE PROXY MATERIAL, BY COMPLETING, SIGNING AND RETURNING THE PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.**

Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 21, 2017

**By Order of the Board of Directors,**

Kenneth E. Dornblaser  
*Senior Vice President, General Counsel and  
Secretary*

73

---











