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PICO HOLDINGS INC /NEW
Form 11-K
July 27, 2001

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington DC 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the plan year ended September 30, 2000

OR

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

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 0-18786

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

PICO HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
875 PROSPECT STREET, SUITE 301
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

Index to Exhibits appears on Page 13
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REQUIRED INFORMATION

The following financial statements and schedules for PICO Holdings, Inc. Employees 401(k) Retirement Plan and Trust are being filed herewith:

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Signature

Independent Auditors' Report

Financial Statements:

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits, September 30, 2000 and 1999

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended September 30, 2000

Notes to the Financial Statements

Supplemental Schedules:

Schedule H Item 4i - Schedule of Assets Held for Investment Purposes, September 30, 2000

Schedule H Item 4j - Schedule of Reportable Transactions for the Year Ended September 30, 2000

Index to Exhibits

Exhibit 1 - Consent of Independent Auditors

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SIGNATURE

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PICO HOLDINGS, INC. EMPLOYEES 401(k)
RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

/s/ Maxim C.W. Webb

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date: July 27, 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

PICO Holdings, Inc.

Employees 401(k) Retirement Plan and Trust
Columbus, Ohio:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of PICO Holdings, Inc. Employees 401(k) Retirement Plan and Trust (the "Plan") as of September 30, 2000 and 1999, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended September 30, 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of September 30, 2000 and 1999, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended September 30, 2000 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules identified in the index are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedules are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Such supplemental schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

June 20, 2001

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000 AND 1999

| ASSETS | 2000 | 1999 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| INVESTMENTS: | | |
| Mutual funds | \$6,619,553 | \$6,468,597 |
| Participant loans | 22,946 | 25,350 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total investments | 6,642,499 | 6,493,947 |
| RECEIVABLES: | | |
| Employer's matching contributions | 20,238 | 8,835 |
| Participants' contributions | 20,472 | 10,573 |
| Investment fund transfer | 242,902 | 19,409 |
| Profit sharing contributions | 466,034 | 543,658 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total receivables | 749,646 | 582,475 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS | \$7,392,145 | \$7,076,422 |
| | ===== | ===== |

See notes to financial statements.

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

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ADDITIONS:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Additions to net assets attributed to: | |
| Net depreciation in fair value of investments | \$ (36,317) |
| Interest and dividends | 288,513 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Total | 252,196 |
|-------|---------|

Contributions:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Participant | 623,839 |
| Employer | 793,796 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Total additions | 1,669,831 |
|-----------------|-----------|

DEDUCTIONS:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Deductions from net assets attributed to benefits paid to participants | (1,354,108) |
| | ----- |

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Net increase | 315,723 |
|--------------|---------|

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Beginning of year | 7,076,422 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| End of year | \$ 7,392,145 |
| | ===== |

See notes to financial statements.

PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000 AND 1999

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the PICO Holdings, Inc. Employees 401(k) Retirement Plan and Trust (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

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GENERAL - The Plan is a defined contribution 401(k) profit sharing plan covering eligible employees, as defined in the Plan Agreement, of PICO Holdings, Inc. (the Plan Sponsor). The Plan was adopted to provide retirement benefits to employees of the Plan Sponsor. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and has been determined to be qualified for tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Plan has been amended since receiving the IRS determination letter. However, the Plan Sponsor believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

CONTRIBUTIONS - Each year, participants may contribute up to 5% of pretax annual compensation, as defined in the Plan, not to exceed \$8,000 (based on Section 401(a) (17) compensation limit of \$160,000 as indexed). The Plan Sponsor matches 100% of the elective deferral of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan. The Plan Sponsor's matching contribution does not begin until the first day of the quarter after an employee completes one year of service. Additional amounts which represent profit sharing, as defined in the Plan, may be contributed at the option of the Plan Sponsor's Board of Directors.

PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, employer matching contributions, earnings, and withdrawals, as applicable, and allocations of (a) the Plan Sponsor's discretionary profit sharing contributions and (b) Plan earnings, and debited with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant compensation, as defined. Forfeited balances of terminated participants' nonvested accounts are used to first reinstate previously forfeited account balances of reemployed participants and any remainder will be used to reduce the Plan Sponsor's discretionary profit sharing contribution for the current or subsequent Plan year in which the forfeiture occurs.

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VESTING - Participants are immediately vested in their contributions, the employer matching contributions, plus earnings thereon. Vesting in the Plan Sponsor's discretionary profit sharing contribution portion of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of credited service in accordance with the following schedule:

| YEARS OF SERVICE | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------|------------|
| Less than three | 0% |
| 3 | 20% |
| 4 | 40% |
| 5 | 60% |
| 6 | 80% |
| 7 or more | 100% |

INVESTMENT OPTIONS - Effective June 1, 2000, upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct 100% of elective deferrals, employer match and discretionary profit sharing amounts. A participant chooses from a number of different mutual fund options. In addition, participants are able to invest in the stock of PICO Holdings, Inc., the Plan Sponsor.

LOANS TO PARTICIPANTS - Loans to participants are not permitted under the Plan. However, under Citation Insurance Group Salary Reduction Profit Sharing Plan (the "Citation Plan") which was approved to merge into the Plan effective December 31, 1997, participant loans were permitted to roll

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over.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS - Upon termination of service, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or annual installments. If the value of the participants' account is \$5,000 or less, the Trustee shall distribute the entire vested account to the participant. Amounts payable to such participants at September 30, 2000 and 1999 were \$61,595 and \$142,498, respectively.

PLAN TERMINATION - While the Plan Sponsor has not expressed any intent to discontinue the Plan or their contributions thereto, they have the right to do so at any time, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of partial or total termination of the Plan, participants' account balances become fully vested and the disposition of the net assets must be made for the benefit of the participants or their beneficiaries.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION - The accounting records of the Plan are maintained on the accrual basis. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date. Interest income is recorded as earned and dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

INVESTMENT VALUATION - Investments are valued as follows: Mutual funds, money market funds and PICO Holdings, Inc. common stock are valued at quoted market prices.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - The Plan's expenses are paid by the Plan Sponsor.

USE OF ESTIMATES - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets and the changes in net assets during the

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reporting period and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Plan has adopted Statement of position 99-3, "Accounting for and Reporting of Certain Deferred Contribution Plan Investments and Other Disclosure Matters." Accordingly, the financial statements do not disclose by-fund information.

3. INVESTMENTS

The Plan's investments which exceeded 5% of net assets available for benefits as of September 30 consisted of the following:

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Smith Barney Money Market Government Portfolio | \$1,797,729 | |
| American Century Ultra Fund | 877,492 | \$ 783,945 |
| Neuberger Focus Trust Fund | 662,668 | |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| PICO Stock Fund | 651,362 | 544,041 |
| Dreyfus Founders Discovery Fund | 566,382 | |
| Strong Government Securities | 517,538 | |
| Scudder International Fund | 443,836 | |
| Separate Account B - Profit Sharing | | 540,295 |
| Separate Account B | | 337,192 |
| Separate Account A | | 695,801 |
| Guaranteed Fund - Profit Sharing | | 1,072,643 |
| Guaranteed Fund | | 1,256,821 |
| American Century Select Fund | | 979,746 |

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Plan investments include common stock of PICO Holdings, Inc. and Smith Barney Money Market Government Portfolio. PICO Holdings, Inc. is the Plan Sponsor and Salomon Smith Barney is the Plan Custodian and record keeper.

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5. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| | SEPTEMBER 30 1999 |
| Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements | \$7,076,422 |
| Contribution receivable | (10,443) |
| | ----- |
| Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500 | \$7,065,979 ===== |

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

SCHEDULE H ITEM 4i - SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF ASSETS
HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES, SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

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| DESCRIPTION | NUMBER OF SHARES | COST |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| INVESTMENTS: | | |
| Alleghany Montag & Caldwell Growth - N Share | 3,502 | \$ 111,53 |
| American Century Ultra Fund | 19,889 | 902,43 |
| Citi S&P 500 Index Funds | 6,716 | 102,63 |
| Dreyfus Founders Discovery | 12,353 | 559,98 |
| Dreyfus Premier Core Value | 2,882 | 89,77 |
| PICO Stock Fund | 50,953 | 591,45 |
| Huntington Treasury Market Fund IV | 467 | 46 |
| Gabelli Growth Fund | 2,838 | 141,99 |
| Loomis Sayles Bond Fund | 702 | 8,14 |
| Mercury HW International Value | 1,017 | 27,87 |
| Neuberger Berman Focus Trust | 19,670 | 653,08 |
| Pilgrim GNMA Income Fund | 6,696 | 55,08 |
| Pilgrim Emerging Countries Fund Class A | 13,206 | 142,94 |
| Royce Premier Fund | 33,600 | 354,29 |
| Scudder International Fund | 8,202 | 474,91 |
| Smith Barney Money Market - Government Portfolio | 1,797,729 | 1,797,72 |
| Strong Government Securities | 50,295 | 515,65 |
| Warburg Pincus Global Fixed Income Fund | 9,217 | 90,41 |
| Participant loans - 9.25% to 9.75%, maturing January 16, 2001 to December 31, 2025 | | 22,94 |
| | | ----- |
| TOTAL | | \$ 6,643,35 |
| | | ===== |

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

SCHEDULE H ITEM 4j - SCHEDULE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

PURCHASES/
TRANSFERS IN SALES COST O
ASSETS

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| | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|----------|
| IN SERIES (including individual transactions) - Guaranteed Fund | \$ 559,458 | \$ 2,888,922 | \$ 2,888 |
|--|------------|--------------|----------|

INDIVIDUAL:

There were no individual transactions which exceeded 5% of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

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PICO HOLDINGS, INC.
EMPLOYEES 401(k) RETIREMENT PLAN & TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 11-K

FOR PLAN YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

INDEX TO THE EXHIBITS

| EXHIBIT NUMBER ----- | DESCRIPTION ----- |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Auditors |

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