

LASALLE CAPITAL GROUP, L.P.

PRINCIPALS IN THE LEVERAGED ACQUISITION OF LOWER-MIDDLE MARKET COMPANIES

RECENT ACQUISITION

June 29, 2005

Chicago, IL— **LaSalle Capital Group, L.P.** (“LaSalle Capital”) together with **Robert Abramowitz, John Nowacki, and Merit Capital Partners** are pleased to announce the acquisition of **Advanced H2O, Inc.** of Seattle, WA. Advanced H2O was founded by Bob Abramowitz in 1998 and has grown into one of the leading private label bottled water companies in the western United States. The company bottles both purified and spring water for leading national retailers, under the retailers own “store brands”. Additionally, the company produces a premium quality, high ph water under its own brand, *Zaqua*, for the health food and natural food store retail segment.



Bob Abramowitz, founder and CEO, will continue to lead the company along with his entire senior management team. “We are excited to partner with LaSalle Capital to complete this recapitalization of our business” adding “this transaction helps us complete two major strategic objectives for our company: simplify and consolidate our ownership structure; and secondly, provide additional financial resources to meet the needs of our rapidly growing business.” In this regard and concurrent with the acquisition, Advanced H2O will be adding additional state of the art bottling capacity and warehouse space to continue providing the highest quality products, and industry leading service to its customers.

Advanced H2O represents LaSalle Capital’s second food related platform company, joining Violet Packing Company, which was acquired in October, 2004. “We’re happy to partner with Bob and his talented management team. Under Bob’s leadership the company is a leading regional private label beverage supplier to many of the nation’s most respected retailers. We’re excited to have Advanced H2O as a portfolio company and look forward to servicing its quality customers with water and related beverage products and expand with them geographically,” says LaSalle Capital Group, L.P., Principal, Jeff Walters.

- \$115 million fund
- Management buyouts and recapitalizations
- Extensive experience in the lower middle-market
- Focus on niche consumer and industrial manufacturing, distribution and service businesses

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