

EMERGING VISION INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 15, 2006  
**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark one)

☒ Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006

OR

☐ Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 1-14128

**EMERGING VISION, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

**NEW YORK**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**11-3096941**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**100 Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard**

**Garden City, NY 11530**

(Address and Zip Code of Principal Executive Offices)

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**Telephone Number: (516) 390-2100**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days:

Yes ☒

No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☐

Accelerated filer ☐

Non accelerated filer ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act):

Yes ☐

No ☒

As of May 15, 2006, there were 70,323,698 outstanding shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Financial Statements**

**EMERGING VISION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS**

**(In Thousands, Except Share Data)**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<b>March 31, 2006 (unaudited)</b>	<b>December 31, 2005</b>
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,269	\$ 816
Franchise receivables, net of allowance of \$190 and \$195, respectively	2,069	1,936
Other receivables, net of allowance of \$2 and \$2, respectively	308	219
Current portion of franchise notes receivable, net of allowance of \$169 and \$150, respectively	171	158
Inventories, net	371	407
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	366	395
Deferred tax asset, current portion	677	-
Total current assets	5,231	3,931
Property and equipment, net	645	610
Franchise notes receivable, net of allowance of \$40 and \$41, respectively	164	129
Deferred tax asset, net of current portion	623	-
Goodwill	1,266	1,266
Other assets	237	263
Total assets	\$ 8,166	\$ 6,199

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,063	\$ 4,012
Payables associated with proxy contest and related litigation	-	46
Accrual for store closings	37	37
Related party borrowings	44	43
Total current liabilities	4,144	4,138

Long-term debt	385	385
Related party borrowings	179	191
Franchise deposits and other liabilities	635	667

Contingencies

Shareholders' equity:

Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share; 5,000,000 shares authorized: Senior Convertible Preferred Stock, \$100,000 liquidation preference per share; 0.74 shares issued and outstanding

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Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share; 150,000,000 shares authorized; 70,506,035 share issued and 70,323,698 shares outstanding

Treasury stock, at cost, 182,337 shares	705	705
	(204)	(204)
Additional paid-in capital	126,430	126,389
Accumulated deficit	(124,182)	(126,146)
Total shareholders' equity	2,823	818
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 8,166	\$ 6,199

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



**EMERGING VISION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (UNAUDITED)**

**(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)**

	<b>For the Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Net sales	\$ 2,050	\$ 1,925
Franchise royalties	1,753	1,749
Other franchise related fees	85	66
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>3,740</b>
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>		
Cost of sales	286	262
Selling, general and administrative expenses	3,145	3,048
<b>Total costs and expenses</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>3,310</b>
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>Other income (expense):</b>		
Interest on franchise notes receivable	11	23
Gain on sale of company-owned store to franchisee	218	-
Other income	11	9
Interest expense	(10)	(15)
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Income before benefit from income taxes</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>Income tax benefit</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 1,964</b>	<b>\$ 447</b>
<b>Net income per share:</b>		
Basic	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.01
Diluted	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.00
<b>Weighted-average number of common shares outstanding:</b>		
Basic	70,324	70,324
Diluted	106,927	112,164

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

## EMERGING VISION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	For the Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 1,964	\$ 447
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	62	65
Provision for doubtful accounts	25	70
Deferred tax benefit	(1,300)	-
Non-cash compensation charges related to options and warrants	41	36
Gain on the sale of company-owned store to franchisee	(218)	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Franchise and other receivables	(243)	(355)
Inventories	36	5
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	29	95
Other assets	26	(24)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	51	(36)
Payables associated with proxy contest and related litigation	(46)	(42)
Franchise deposits and other liabilities	(32)	(1)
Net cash provided by operating activities	395	260
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Franchise notes receivable issued	(77)	-
Proceeds from franchise and other notes receivable	50	61
Proceeds from the sale of company-owned store to franchisee	200	-
Purchases of property and equipment	(104)	(44)
Net cash provided by investing activities	69	17
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Payments on borrowings	(11)	(9)
Net cash used in financing activities	(11)	(9)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>880</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents end of period</b>	<b>\$ 1,269</b>	<b>\$ 1,148</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:</b>		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest	\$ 2	\$ 3
Taxes	\$ 25	\$ 34



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

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## **EMERGING VISION, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

### **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(UNAUDITED)**

#### **NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION:**

The accompanying Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements of Emerging Vision, Inc. and subsidiaries (collectively, the Company) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted for interim financial statement presentation and in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted for complete financial statement presentation. In the opinion of management, all adjustments for a fair statement of the results of operations and financial position for the interim periods presented have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. This financial information should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005. There have been no changes in significant accounting policies since December 31, 2005.

#### **NOTE 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:**

##### **Stock-Based Compensation**

Beginning with stock options and warrants granted in 2003, the Company has accounted for stock-based compensation in accordance with the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) SFAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, which provided guidance for the recognition of compensation expense as it related to the issuance of stock options and warrants. In addition, the Company adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 148, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation Transition and Disclosure an amendment of SFAS No. 123. SFAS No. 148 amended SFAS No. 123 to provide alternative methods of transition for a voluntary change to the fair value based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation provided by SFAS No. 123. As permitted by SFAS No. 148, the Company has adopted the fair value method recommended by SFAS No. 123 to effect a change in accounting for stock-based employee compensation. In addition, the Company adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 123R, Share-Based Payment, which revised SFAS No. 123 to require all share-based payments to

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employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized based on their fair values.

Stock-based compensation cost of approximately \$41,000 and \$36,000 is reflected in selling, general and administrative expenses on the accompanying Consolidated Condensed Statements of Income for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The Company determined the fair value of options and warrants issued using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following assumptions: 1 to 2 year expected lives; 10-year expiration period, risk-free interest rate ranging from 3.00% to 4.32%, stock price volatility ranging from 80.00% to 98.22%, with no dividends over the expected life.

### Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenues in accordance with SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin ( SAB ) No. 104, Revenue Recognition, which superseded SAB No. 101, Revenue Recognition in Financial Statements. Accordingly, revenues are recorded when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, the Company's prices to buyers are fixed or determinable, and collectibility is reasonably assured.

The Company derives its revenues from the following three principal sources:

*Net sales* Represents sales from eye care products and related services;

*Franchise royalties* Represents continuing franchise royalty fees based upon a percentage of the gross revenues generated by each franchised location;

*Other franchise related fees* Represents the net gains from the sale of Company-owned store assets to

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franchisees; and certain fees collected by the Company under the terms of franchise agreements (including, but not limited to, initial franchise fees, transfer fees and renewal fees).

Continuing franchise royalties are based upon a percentage of the gross revenues generated by each franchised location. To the extent that collectibility of royalties is not reasonably assured, the Company recognizes such revenue when the cash is received. Initial franchise fees, which are non-refundable, are recognized when the related franchise agreement is signed. Membership fees generated by VisionCare of California, Inc. ( VCC ), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, are for optometric services provided to individual patients (members). A portion of membership fee revenues is deferred when billed and recognized ratably over the one-year term of the membership agreement. Interest on franchise notes represents interest charged to franchisees pursuant to promissory notes issued in connection with their acquisition of the assets of a Sterling Store or a qualified financing of their obligations to the Company. To the extent that collectibility of promissory note payments is not reasonably assured, the Company recognizes such income when the cash is received.

The Company also follows the provisions of Emerging Issue Task Force ( EITF ) Issue 01-09, Accounting for Consideration Given by a Vendor to a Customer (Including a Reseller of the Vendor's Products), and accordingly, accounts for discounts, coupons and promotions (that are offered to its customers) as a direct reduction of sales.

### NOTE 3 PER SHARE INFORMATION:

In accordance with SFAS No. 128, Earnings Per Share, basic earnings per common share ( Basic EPS ) is computed by dividing the net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per common share ( Diluted EPS ) is computed by dividing the net income by the weighted-average number of common shares and dilutive common share equivalents and convertible securities then outstanding. SFAS No. 128 requires the presentation of both Basic EPS and Diluted EPS on the face of the Company's Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations. Common share equivalents totaling 17,781,019 and 3,160,653, respectively, were excluded from the computation for the three months ended March 31, 2006 and 2005, as their impact would have been anti-dilutive.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted per share information:

	<b>For the Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>March 31,</b>	
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
<b><u>Numerator:</u></b>		
Net income	\$ 1,964	\$ 447
<b><u>Denominator:</u></b>		
Weighted-average common shares outstanding	70,324	70,324
Dilutive effect of stock options and warrants	36,603	41,840
Weighted-average common shares outstanding, assuming dilution	106,927	112,164
<b><u>Net Income Per Share:</u></b>		
Basic	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.01
Diluted	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.00

**NOTE 4 CREDIT FACILITY:**

On August 19, 2005, the Company entered into a Credit Agreement (the Credit Agreement ) with Manufacturers and Traders Trust Corporation ( M&T ), establishing a revolving credit facility (the Credit Facility ), for aggregate borrowings of up to \$2,000,000, which may be used for general working capital needs and certain

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permitted acquisitions. The initial term of the Credit Facility expires in August 2007, but the term may be renewed in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement. Borrowing are payable in August 2007 with interest accruing at the variable rate of LIBOR plus 2.75% per annum in accordance with the terms of a Grid Note.

The Credit Facility includes various financial covenants including minimum net worth, maximum funded debt and debt service ratio requirements. As of March 31, 2006, the Company had no outstanding borrowings under the Credit Facility and was in compliance with all of the financial covenants.

### NOTE 5 - CONTINGENCIES:

#### Litigation

In 1999, Apryl Robinson commenced an action in Kentucky against, among others, the Company, seeking an unspecified amount of damages and alleging numerous claims, including fraud and misrepresentation. The claims that are the subject of this action were subsequently tried in an action in New York that resulted in a judgment in favor of the Company, and against Ms. Robinson and Dr. Larry Joel, a co-defendant in such action. Subsequently, Ms. Robinson and Dr. Joel filed for bankruptcy in Kentucky, and received a discharge from the trustee. Presently, there is a motion pending in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to vacate Dr. Joel's discharge based upon, among other things, fraud on the Bankruptcy Court. The Court has postponed a trial on this motion.

In 1999, Berenter Greenhouse and Webster, an advertising agency previously utilized by the Company, commenced an action, against the Company, in the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, for amounts alleged to be due for advertising and related fees. The amounts claimed by the plaintiff are in excess of \$200,000. In response to this action, the Company filed counterclaims of approximately \$500,000, based upon estimated overpayments allegedly made by the Company pursuant to the agreement previously entered into between the parties. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were still in the discovery stage. The Company has not recorded an accrual for a loss in this action, as the Company does not believe it is probable that the Company will be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims.

In July 2001, the Company commenced an Arbitration Proceeding, in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, against Eye-Site, Inc. and Eye Site (Ontario), Ltd., as the makers of two promissory notes (in the aggregate original principal amount of \$600,000) made by one or more of the makers in favor of the Company, as well as against Mohammed Ali, as the guarantor of the obligations of each maker under each note. The notes were issued, by the makers, in connection with the makers' acquisition of a Master Franchise Agreement for the Province of Ontario, Canada, as well as their purchase of the assets of, and a Sterling Optical Center Franchise for, four of the Company's retail optical stores then located in Ontario, Canada. In response, the defendants counterclaimed for damages, in the amount of \$1,500,000, based upon, among other items, alleged misrepresentations made by representatives of the Company in connection with these transactions. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to each counterclaim. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage. The Company has not recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of defendant's counterclaims, as the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible.

In February 2002, Kaye Scholer, LLP, the law firm previously retained by the Company as its outside counsel, commenced an action in the New York State Supreme Court seeking unpaid legal fees of approximately \$122,000. The Company answered the complaint in such action, and has heard nothing since. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such claim. Although the Company has recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims, the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible, or, if there is a loss, the Company does not believe that it is reasonably possible that such loss would exceed the amount recorded.

On May 20, 2003, Irondequoit Mall, LLC commenced an action against the Company and Sterling Vision of Irondequoit, Inc. ( SVI ) alleging, among other things, that the Company had breached its obligations under its guaranty of the lease for the former Sterling Optical store located in Rochester, New York. The Company and SVI believe that they have a meritorious defense to such action. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage. Although the Company has recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims, the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible, or, if there is a loss, the Company does not believe that it is reasonably possible that such loss would exceed the amount recorded.

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In January 2005, the Company commenced an action against Cherello, Inc., Theodore Cherofsky and Jimmy Choello, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, injunctive relief and monetary damages, in an amount not less than \$100,000, as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreement (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties. The defendants then asserted counterclaims against the Company, seeking, among other things, money damages under such Franchise Agreement, as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreements. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such claims. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage. The Company has not recorded an accrual for a loss in this action, as the Company does not believe it is probable that the Company shall be held liable in respect of defendant's counterclaims.

In February 2005, the Company commenced an action against Abell Vision, Inc., Excel of Beaver Dam, Inc., The Visions Group, Inc., John Bellotti and Anne Bellotti, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, monetary damages, in the approximate amount of \$100,000, as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreements (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties. The Defendants then asserted counterclaims against the Company, seeking, among other things, rescission of such Franchise Agreements, and money damages thereunder, as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreements, as well as applicable franchise laws. In May 2006, this action was settled, the terms of which included the defendants' payment (a portion of which was paid on the date of settlement, and the remaining portion of which is payable over a period of two years), to the Company, of the aggregate, approximate sum of \$283,000, the dismissal of the action with prejudice, and the exchange of mutual releases.

In June 2005, an action was commenced against the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Sterling Vision of Beaver Dam, Inc., in the Circuit Court, Dodge County, State of Wisconsin, in which Beaver Dam Mall limited Partnership, as the landlord of the Company's Sterling Optical Center located in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, is seeking, among other things, damages against the Company (and its subsidiary), in the approximate amount of \$25,000, in respect of alleged unpaid rent payable under the lease of the premises. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such action. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage. Although the Company has recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims, the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible, or, if there is a loss, the Company does not believe that it is reasonably possible that such loss would exceed the amount recorded.

In July 2005, an action was commenced against the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Sterling Vision of Eastland, Inc., in the North Carolina General Court of Justice, in which Charlotte Eastland Mall, LLC, as the Landlord of the Company's former Sterling Optical Center located in Charlotte, North Carolina, sought, among other things, damages against the Company, in the approximate amount of \$81,000, under its Limited Guaranty of the Tenant's obligations under the Lease for such Center. On March 30, 2006, the Company and such subsidiary settled this action, the material terms of which include the payment, to the Landlord, of the aggregate sum of \$32,500, and the exchange of mutual general releases of all parties to this. In April 2006, such settlement payment was made.

In August 2005, the Company commenced an action against H&M Optical, Ltd. and Michael Ausiello, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, monetary damages, in the approximate amount of \$110,000, as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreement (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties. The Defendants then asserted counterclaims against the Company, seeking, among other things, money damages arising under the Franchise Agreement and Sublease with the Company, as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreement and Sublease. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such claims. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage. The Company has not recorded an accrual for a loss in this action, as the Company does not believe it is probable that the Company will be held liable in respect of defendants' counterclaims.

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In October 2005, the Company commenced an action against Main Place Optical, Inc., Am-Clar Optical, Inc., Am-Ton Optical, Inc., Dennis Osiak, Eugene Boryszak and Richard Tarbell, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, monetary damages in excess of \$100,000 as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreements (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties, and injunctive relief prohibiting the defendants from violating the terms of the restrictive covenants in such Franchise Agreements. The Defendants then asserted one counterclaim against the Company seeking money damages under the Franchise Agreements as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreements. In April 2006, this action was settled, the terms of which included the defendants' payment, to the Company, of the aggregate, approximate sum of \$172,000, the corporate defendants' execution of new ten year franchise agreements for each their franchise locations, the dismissal of the action with prejudice, and the exchange of mutual releases.

In January 2006, Imperial Sterling Ltd. commenced an action against the Company and Sterling Vision of Rego Park, Inc. in the State of New York, County of New York, alleging, among other things, that the Company had breached its obligations under its guaranty of the lease for the former Sterling Optical store located in Rego Park, New York. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such action. As of the date hereof, these proceedings were in the discovery stage, and the plaintiff in such action has filed a motion for summary judgment against the Company. Although the Company has recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims, the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible, or, if there is a loss, the Company does not believe that it is reasonably possible that such loss would exceed the amount recorded.

In or about March 2006, McIntyre Square Associates commenced an action against the Company in the State of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, alleging, among other things, that the Company had breached its obligations under its guaranty of the lease for the former Sterling Optical/Singer Specs store located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Company believes that it has a meritorious defense to such action. As of the date hereof, the Company's time to answer the complaint has not expired. Although the Company has recorded an accrual for probable losses in the event that the Company shall be held liable in respect of plaintiff's claims, the Company does not believe that any such loss is reasonably possible, or, if there is a loss, the Company does not believe that it is reasonably possible that such loss would exceed the amount recorded.

In or about December, 2005, Ann Borriceno-Pickett, a former employee of the Company's subsidiary VisionCare of California, Inc., commenced an action against such subsidiary and the Company, in the Superior Court California, County of San Diego, alleging, among other things, that the Company breached an alleged employment agreement with the plaintiff, age and sex discrimination, and seeks an unspecified monetary sum as damages resulting therefrom. The Company and its subsidiary believe that they have meritorious defenses to the plaintiff's claims. The Company and such subsidiary's time to answer the complaint has not yet expired.

In addition to the foregoing, in the ordinary course of business, the Company is a defendant in certain lawsuits alleging various claims incurred, certain of which claims are covered by various insurance policies, subject to certain deductible amounts and maximum policy limits. In the opinion of management, the resolution of these claims should not have a material adverse effect, individually or in the aggregate, upon the Company's business or financial condition. Other than as set forth above, management believes that there are no other legal proceedings, pending or threatened, to which the Company is, or may be, a party, or to which any of its properties are or may be subject to, which, in the opinion of management, will have a material adverse effect on the Company.

### **Guarantees**

As of March 31, 2006, the Company was a guarantor of certain leases of retail optical stores franchised and subleased to its franchisees. In the event that all of such franchisees defaulted on their respective subleases, the Company would be obligated for aggregate lease obligations of



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approximately \$3,164,000. The Company continually evaluates the credit-worthiness of its franchisees in order to determine their ability to continue to perform under their respective subleases. Additionally, in the event that a franchisee defaults under its sublease, the Company has the right to take over operation of the respective location.

### **NOTE 6 INCOME TAX BENEFIT:**

The benefit from income taxes consists of the following:

**For the Three Months Ended**

**March 31,**

**(In thousands)**

	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Current	\$ (23)	\$ -
Deferred	1,300	-
Total income tax benefit	\$ 1,277	\$ -

The deferred tax benefit on the accompanying Consolidated Condensed Statements of Income as of March 31, 2006 is a result of the reduction in the valuation allowance of \$1,600,000 less deferred tax expense of \$277,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006. Management, based on current operations and future projections, estimates that deferred tax benefits, arising principally from net operating loss carryforwards, will be realized through December 31, 2007. The Company has a remaining valuation allowance of approximately \$15,900,000 as of March 31, 2006. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had federal net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$46,000,000.

**NOTE 7 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:**

On April 27, 2006, the Company's Compensation Committee granted an aggregate of 300,000 stock options to certain of the Company's independent, non-employee directors, all at an exercise price of \$0.12, which was the closing price on the date of grant. The stock options vested immediately. The Company will incur a non-cash charge to earnings of approximately \$12,000 during the second quarter of 2006. All of these options expire 10 years from the date of grant.



**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

This Report contains certain forward-looking statements and information relating to the Company that is based on the beliefs of the Company's management, as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the Company's management. When used in this Report, the words anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, there can be no assurance, may, could, would, might, intends and similar expressions, as they relate to the Company or the Company's management, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the view of the Company at the date they are made with respect to future events, are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to various risks and uncertainties as identified in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and those described from time to time in previous and future reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein with the forward-looking statements referred to above and as set forth in the Form 10-Q. The Company does not intend to update these forward-looking statements for new information, or otherwise, for the occurrence of future events.

**Results of Operations**

**For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2006, as Compared to the Comparable Period in 2005**

Net sales for Company-owned stores increased by approximately \$146,000, or 13.7%, to \$1,214,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$1,068,000 for the comparable period in 2005. This increase was due, in part, to a higher average number of Company-owned stores in operation (approximately 9.5 in 2006 vs. 9.0 in 2005) during the same comparable periods as well as an increase in same store sales. As of March 31, 2006, there were 9 Company-owned stores, as compared to 9 Company-owned stores as of March 31, 2005. On a same store basis (for those stores the Company operated during both comparable periods), comparative net sales increased by \$181,000, or 24.1%, to \$934,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$753,000 for the comparable period in 2005. Management believes that this increase was a direct result of the Company modifying the product mix in such stores and promoting a new advertising campaign around the new product mix, which generated positive results. Additionally, there were more favorable weather conditions experienced in the upstate New York market during the quarter ended March 31, 2006, where the majority of the Company-owned stores are located.

Revenues generated by the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, VisionCare of California, Inc. (VCC), a specialized health care maintenance organization licensed by the State of California Department of Managed Health Care, decreased by approximately \$31,000, or 3.6%, to \$829,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$860,000 for the comparable period in 2005. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in membership fees generated by VCC during the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to the same period in 2005.

Franchise royalties increased by \$4,000, or 0.2%, to \$1,753,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$1,749,000 for the comparable period in 2005. Management believes this increase was a result of increased levels of field support to franchisees, the success of the Company's audits of franchise locations, which generated additional revenues, and an increase in franchise sales for the stores that were open during both of the comparable periods, offset by a lower average number of stores in operation during the same comparable periods. As of March 31, 2006, there were 148 franchised stores, as compared to 155 stores in operation as of March 31, 2005.

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Other franchise related fees (which includes initial franchise fees, renewal fees and fees related to the transfer of store ownership from one franchisee to another) increased by \$19,000, or 28.8%, to \$85,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$66,000 for the comparable period in 2005. This increase was primarily attributable to the Company recognizing franchise fees on 2 franchise agreement renewals and 3 new franchise agreements in 2006, as compared to 2 franchise agreement renewals, 2 new franchise agreements and 1 franchise agreement transfer in 2005. During the 2nd quarter of 2005, the Company increased the cost to renew or enter into a new franchise agreement from \$10,000 to \$20,000. In the future, other franchise related fees are likely to fluctuate depending on the timing of franchise agreement expirations, new store openings and franchise store transfers.

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Excluding revenues generated by VCC, the Company's gross profit margin increased by 1.3%, to 72.7%, for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to 71.4% for the comparable period in 2005. In the future, the Company's gross profit margin may fluctuate depending upon the extent and timing of changes in the product mix in Company-owned stores, competitive pricing, and promotional incentives, among other things.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased by \$97,000, or 3.2%, to \$3,145,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, as compared to \$3,048,000 for the comparable period in 2005. The increase was partially a result of increases in payroll and related benefits of \$17,000, facility charges of \$26,000 and other overhead charges of \$11,000, which was mainly due to a higher average number of Company stores in operation during 2006. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses was also attributable to an increase in professional fees of \$61,000 relating to proactive litigation to enforce franchise agreements. These increases were offset, in part, by a decrease in certain travel and other related expenses of \$24,000.

Gain on sale of company-owned store to franchisee related to the sale of an existing company-owned store in upstate New York for a purchase price of \$225,000, which included the net fixed assets of such store (such assets having a net book value of \$7,000).

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of March 31, 2006, the Company had working capital of \$1,087,000 and cash on hand of \$1,269,000. During the three months ended March 31, 2006, cash flows provided by its operating activities were \$395,000. This was principally due to net income of \$1,964,000 and non-cash items of \$128,000, offset, in part, by an increase in franchise and other receivables of \$243,000, an increase in deferred tax assets of \$1,300,000, and the gain on the sale of one of the company-owned stores of \$218,000. The Company believes it will continue to improve its operating cash flows through franchisee audits, and through new marketing strategies and increased gross margins, among other things, for its company-owned stores.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, cash flows provided by investing activities were \$69,000 due to proceeds received on the sale of one of the company-owned stores and proceeds received on certain franchise notes issuance of franchise promissory notes, offset by capital expenditures (which included the Company's new accounting system, as well as the remodeling of one of the Company-owned stores) made by the Company during 2006 and the issuance of new franchise notes.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, cash flows used in financing activities were \$11,000 due to the repayment of the Company's related party borrowings.

### **Credit Facility**

On August 19, 2005, the Company entered into a Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with Manufacturers and Traders Trust Corporation ("M&T"), establishing a revolving credit facility (the "Credit Facility"), for aggregate borrowings of up to \$2,000,000, which may be used for general working capital needs and certain permitted acquisitions. The initial term of the Credit Facility expires in August 2007, but the term may be renewed in accordance with the terms of the Credit Agreement. Borrowing is payable in August 2007 with interest accruing at the variable

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rate of LIBOR plus 2.75% per annum in accordance with the terms of a Grid Note. The Credit Facility includes various financial covenants including minimum net worth, maximum funded debt and debt service ratio requirements. As of March 31, 2006, the Company had no outstanding borrowings under the Credit Facility and was in compliance with all of the financial covenants.

## Future Contractual Obligations

Payments due under contractual obligations as of March 31, 2006 were as follows (in thousands):

	Within 1 year	1-3 years	After 3 years	Total
Long-term debt (a)	\$ 44	\$ 564	\$ -	\$ 608
Interest on long-term debt (a)	-	125	-	125
Operating leases	3,872	5,136	3,404	12,412
	3,916	5,825	3,404	13,145

- (a) Effective April 14, 2003, in connection with certain Rescission Transactions consummated by the Company on December 31, 2003, the Company signed numerous promissory notes with certain of its shareholders, two of whom are also directors of the Company. The notes, which aggregate \$520,000, bear interest at a rate of 6% per annum, and all sums (principal and interest) under the notes are due and payable in April 2007.

## Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The Company presently has outstanding certain equity instruments with beneficial conversion terms. Accordingly, the Company, in the future, could incur non-cash charges to equity (as a result of the exercise of such beneficial conversion terms), which would have a negative impact on future per share calculations.

The Company believes that the level of risk related to its cash equivalents is not material to the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

The Company is exposed to interest rate risk under its Credit Facility with M&T Bank. Any increase in the LIBOR rate would lead to higher interest expense, if the Company borrows against the Credit Facility. The Company has not borrowed from the inception of the Credit Facility on August 19, 2005.

## Item 4. Controls and Procedures

- (a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures



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Based on their evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, the Company's Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and Chief Financial Officer ( CFO ) have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the CEO and CFO, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. The Company's management has not yet completed, and is not yet required to have completed, the assessment about the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

### (b) Changes in Internal Controls

There were no changes that occurred during the fiscal quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

## **PART II - OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

In February 2005, the Company commenced an action against Abell Vision, Inc., Excel of Beaver Dam, Inc., The Visions Group, Inc., John Bellotti and Anne Bellotti, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, monetary damages, in the approximate amount of \$100,000, as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreements (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties. The Defendants then asserted counterclaims against the Company, seeking, among other things, rescission of such Franchise Agreements, and money damages thereunder, as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreements, as well as applicable franchise laws. In May 2006, this action was settled, the terms of which included the defendants' payment (a portion of which was paid on the date of settlement, and the remaining portion of which is payable over a period of two years), to the Company, of the aggregate, approximate sum of \$283,000, the dismissal of the action with prejudice, and the exchange of mutual releases.

In July 2005, an action was commenced against the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Sterling Vision of Eastland, Inc., in the North Carolina General Court of Justice, in which Charlotte Eastland Mall, LLC, as the Landlord of the Company's former Sterling Optical Center located in Charlotte, North Carolina, sought, among other things, damages against the Company, in the approximate amount of \$81,000, under its Limited Guaranty of the Tenant's obligations under the Lease for such Center. On March 30, 2006, the Company and such subsidiary settled this action, the material terms of which include the payment, to the Landlord, of the aggregate sum of \$32,500, and the exchange of mutual general releases of all parties to this. In April 2006, such settlement payment was made.

In October 2005, the Company commenced an action against Main Place Optical, Inc., Am-Clar Optical, Inc., Am-Ton Optical, Inc., Dennis Osiak, Eugene Boryszak and Richard Tarbell, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, seeking, among other things, monetary damages in excess of \$100,000 as a result of the defendants' alleged breach of the terms of the Sterling Optical Center Franchise Agreements (and related documents) with the Company to which they are parties, and injunctive relief prohibiting the defendants from violating the terms of the restrictive covenants in such Franchise Agreements. The Defendants then asserted one counterclaim against the Company seeking money damages under the Franchise Agreements as a result of the Company's alleged violation of such Franchise Agreements. In April 2006, this action was settled, the terms of which included the defendants' payment, to the Company, of the aggregate, approximate sum of \$172,000, the corporate defendants' execution of new ten year franchise agreements for each their franchise locations, the dismissal of the action with prejudice, and the exchange of mutual releases.

In or about December, 2005, Ann Borriceno-Pickett, a former employee of the Company's subsidiary, VisionCare of California, Inc., commenced an action against such subsidiary and the Company, in the Superior Court California, County of San Diego, alleging, among other things, that the Company breached an alleged employment agreement with the plaintiff, age and sex discrimination, and seeks an unspecified monetary sum as damages resulting therefrom. The Company and its subsidiary believe that they have meritorious defenses to the plaintiff's claims. The Company and such subsidiary's time to answer the complaint has not yet expired.

### **Item 1a. Risk Factors**

Not applicable.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

Not applicable.

**Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

Not applicable.

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**Item 5. Other Information**

Not applicable.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act

31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act

32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002



**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

EMERGING VISION, INC.  
(Registrant)

BY: /s/ Christopher G. Payan  
Christopher G. Payan

Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)

BY: /s/ Brian P. Alessi  
Brian P. Alessi  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Dated: May 15, 2006