

SABINE ROYALTY TRUST

Form 10-Q

May 01, 2009

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

**Form 10-Q**

Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2009

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: 1-8424

**SABINE ROYALTY TRUST**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or  
organization)

75-6297143  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

U.S. Trust, Bank of America  
Private Wealth Management  
Bank of America Plaza  
901 Main Street  
17th Floor  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(Zip Code)

(214) 209-2400  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to

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submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one): Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

Number of units of beneficial interest outstanding at May 1, 2009: 14,579,345

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**SABINE ROYALTY TRUST**

**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

*Item 1. Financial Statements.*

The condensed financial statements included herein have been prepared by Bank of America, N.A. (as successor to NationsBank, N.A.), as Trustee (the Trustee) of Sabine Royalty Trust (the Trust), pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in annual financial statements have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although the Trustee believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. The condensed financial statements of the Trust presented herein are unaudited. It is suggested that these condensed financial statements and notes thereto be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Trust's latest annual report on Form 10-K. The December 31, 2008 condensed balance sheet is derived from the audited balance sheet as of that date. In the opinion of the Trustee, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the assets, liabilities and trust corpus of the Trust as of March 31, 2009, the distributable income and the changes in trust corpus for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, have been included. The distributable income for such interim periods is not necessarily indicative of the distributable income for the full year.

The condensed financial statements as of March 31, 2009 and for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, included herein, have been reviewed by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report appearing herein.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Unit Holders of Sabine Royalty Trust and  
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee  
Dallas, Texas

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed statement of assets, liabilities and trust corpus of Sabine Royalty Trust (the Trust ) as of March 31, 2009, and the related condensed statements of distributable income and changes in trust corpus for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Trustee.

We conducted our reviews in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole.

Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

As described in Note 2 to the condensed financial statements, these condensed financial statements have been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to such condensed interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

We have previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the statement of assets, liabilities, and trust corpus of Sabine Royalty Trust as of December 31, 2008, and the related statements of distributable income and changes in trust corpus for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated February 25, 2009, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed statement of assets, liabilities and trust corpus as of December 31, 2008 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the statement of assets, liabilities, and trust corpus from which it has been derived.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Dallas, TX

May 1, 2009

**Table of Contents****SABINE ROYALTY TRUST****CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND TRUST CORPUS (UNAUDITED)**

|  | Note | March 31,<br>2009   | December 31,<br>2008 |
|--|------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Assets   |      |                     |                      |
| Cash and short-term investments  |      | \$ 4,639,696        | \$ 6,383,892         |
| Royalty interests in oil and gas properties (less accumulated amortization of \$21,683,213 and \$21,660,941 at March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008) |      | 711,972             | 734,244              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |      | <b>\$ 5,351,668</b> | <b>\$ 7,118,136</b>  |
| Liabilities and Trust Corpus   |      |                     |                      |
| Trust expenses payable   |      | \$ 211,209          | \$ 143,197           |
| Other payables   | 4    | 1,009,332           | 239,674              |
|  |      | 1,220,541           | 382,871              |
| Contingencies  | 6    |                     |                      |
| Trust corpus 14,579,345 units of beneficial interest authorized and outstanding  |      | 4,131,127           | 6,735,265            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |      | <b>\$ 5,351,668</b> | <b>\$ 7,118,136</b>  |

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

**Table of Contents****SABINE ROYALTY TRUST****CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF DISTRIBUTABLE INCOME (UNAUDITED)**

|  |       | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |               |
|--|-------|---------------------------------|---------------|
|  | Notes | 2009                            | 2008          |
| Royalty Income                                   |       | <b>\$ 10,876,919</b>            | \$ 18,856,155 |
| Interest Income                                  |       | <b>19,155</b>                   | 81,376        |
| Total  |       | <b>10,896,074</b>               | 18,937,531    |
| General and administrative expenses              |       | <b>(619,558)</b>                | (556,031)     |
| Distributable Income                             |       | <b>\$ 10,276,516</b>            | \$ 18,381,500 |
| Distributable Income per unit (14,579,345 units) | 1,3,5 | <b>\$ .70</b>                   | \$ 1.26       |

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



**Table of Contents****SABINE ROYALTY TRUST****CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN TRUST CORPUS (UNAUDITED)**

|   |      | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |              |
|---|------|---------------------------------|--------------|
|   | Note | 2009                            | 2008         |
| Trust corpus, beginning of period         |      | \$ 6,735,265                    | \$ 5,822,655 |
| Amortization of royalty interests         |      | (22,272)                        | (25,733)     |
| Distributable income                      |      | 10,276,516                      | 18,381,500   |
| Distributions                             | 3    | (12,858,382)                    | (17,306,121) |
| Trust corpus, end of period               |      | \$ 4,131,127                    | \$ 6,872,301 |
| Distributions per unit (14,579,345 units) | 3    | \$ .88                          | \$ 1.19      |

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

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**SABINE ROYALTY TRUST**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)**

**1. TRUST ORGANIZATION AND PROVISIONS**

Sabine Royalty Trust (the Trust) was established by the Sabine Corporation Royalty Trust Agreement (the Trust Agreement), made and entered into effective as of December 31, 1982, to receive a distribution from Sabine Corporation (Sabine) of royalty and mineral interests, including landowner's royalties, overriding royalty interests, minerals (other than executive rights, bonuses and delay rentals), production payments and any other similar, nonparticipatory interests, in certain producing and proved undeveloped oil and gas properties located in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas (the Royalties).

Certificates evidencing units of beneficial interest (the Units) in the Trust were mailed on December 31, 1982 to Sabine's shareholders of record on December 23, 1982, on the basis of one Unit for each share of Sabine's outstanding common stock. In May 1988, Sabine was acquired by Pacific Enterprises (Pacific), a California corporation. Through a series of mergers, Sabine was merged into Pacific Enterprises Oil Company (USA) (Pacific (USA)), a California corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Pacific, effective January 1, 1990. This acquisition and the subsequent mergers had no effect on the Units. Pacific (USA), as successor to Sabine, has assumed by operation of law all of Sabine's rights and obligations with respect to the Trust. The Units are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

In connection with the transfer of the Royalties to the Trust upon its formation, Sabine had reserved to itself all executive rights, including rights to execute leases and to receive bonuses and delay rentals. In January 1993, Pacific (USA) completed the sale of substantially all its producing oil and gas assets to a third party. The sale did not include executive rights relating to the Royalties, and Pacific (USA)'s ownership of such rights was not affected by the sale.

Bank of America, N.A. (the Trustee), acts as trustee of the Trust. In 2007 the Bank of America private wealth management group officially became known as U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. The legal entity that serves as the Trustee of the Trust did not change, and references in this Form 10-Q to U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management shall describe the legal entity Bank of America, N.A. The terms of the Trust Agreement provide, among other things, that:

The Trust shall not engage in any business or commercial activity of any kind or acquire assets other than those initially transferred to the Trust.

The Trustee may not sell all or any part of its assets unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding Units in which case the sale must be for cash and the proceeds, after satisfying all existing liabilities, promptly distributed to Unit holders.

The Trustee may establish a cash reserve for the payment of any liability that is contingent or uncertain in amount or that otherwise is not currently due or payable.

The Trustee will use reasonable efforts to cause the Trust and the Unit holders to recognize income and expenses on monthly record dates.

The Trustee is authorized to borrow funds to pay liabilities of the Trust provided that such borrowings are repaid in full before any further distributions are made to Unit holders.

The Trustee will make monthly cash distributions to Unit holders of record on the monthly record date (see Note 3).

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Because of the passive nature of the Trust and the restrictions and limitations on the powers and activities of the Trustee contained in the Trust Agreement, the Trustee does not consider any of the officers and employees of the Trustee to be officers or executive officers of the Trust as such terms are defined under applicable rules and regulations adopted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The proceeds of production from the Royalties are receivable from hundreds of separate payors. In order to facilitate creation of the Trust and to avoid the administrative expense and inconvenience of daily reporting to Unit holders, the conveyances by Sabine of the Royalties located in five of the six states provided for the execution of an escrow agreement by Sabine and the initial trustee of the Trust, in its capacities as trustee of the Trust and as escrow agent. The conveyances by Sabine of the Royalties located in Louisiana provided for the execution of a substantially identical escrow agreement by Sabine and a Louisiana bank in the capacities of escrow agent and of trustee under the name of Sabine Louisiana Royalty Trust. Sabine Louisiana Royalty Trust, the sole beneficiary of which is the Trust, was established in order to avoid uncertainty under Louisiana law as to the legality of the Trustee's holding record title to the Royalties located in Louisiana. The Trust now only has one escrow agent, which is the Trustee, and a single escrow agreement.

Pursuant to the terms of the escrow agreement and the conveyances of the properties by Sabine, the proceeds of production from the Royalties for each calendar month, and interest thereon, are collected by the Trustee, as escrow agent, and are paid to and received by the Trust only on the next monthly record date. The Trustee, as escrow agent, has agreed to endeavor to assure that it incurs and pays expenses and fees for each calendar month only on the next monthly record date. The Trust Agreement also provides that the Trustee is to endeavor to assure that income of the Trust will be accrued and received and expenses of the Trust will be incurred and paid only on each monthly record date. Assuming that the escrow agreement is recognized for Federal income tax purposes and that the Trustee is able to control the timing of income and expenses, as stated above, cash and accrual basis Unit holders should be treated as realizing income only on each monthly record date. The Trustee is treating the escrow agreement as effective for tax purposes. However, for financial reporting purposes, royalty and interest income are recorded in the calendar month in which the amounts are received by either the escrow agent or the Trust.

Distributable income as determined for financial reporting purposes for a given quarter will not usually equal the sum of distributions made during that quarter. Distributable income for a given quarter will approximate the sum of the distributions made during the last two months of such quarter and the first month of the next quarter.

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**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Trust are prepared on the following basis and are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ):

Royalty income, net of severance and ad valorem tax, and interest income are recognized in the month in which amounts are received by the Trust (see Note 1).

Trust expenses, consisting principally of routine general and administrative costs, include payments made during the accounting period. Expenses are accrued to the extent of amounts that become payable on the next monthly record date following the end of an accounting period. Reserves for liabilities that are contingent or uncertain in amount may also be established if considered necessary.

Royalties that are producing properties are amortized using the unit-of-production method. This amortization is shown as a reduction of Trust corpus.

Distributions to Unit holders are recognized when declared by the Trustee (see Note 3).

The financial statements of the Trust differ from financial statements prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America because of the following:

Royalty income is recognized in the month received rather than in the month of production.

Expenses other than those expected to be paid on the following monthly record date are not accrued.

Amortization of the Royalties is shown as a reduction to Trust corpus and not as a charge to operating results.

Reserves may be established for contingencies that would not be recorded under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

This comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP corresponds to the accounting permitted for royalty trusts by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as specified by Staff Accounting Bulletin Topic 12:E, Financial Statements of Royalty Trusts.

In December 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released Final Rule, *Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting*. The new disclosure requirements include provisions that permit the use of new technologies to determine proved reserves if those technologies have been demonstrated empirically to lead to reliable conclusions about reserves volumes. The new requirements also will allow companies to disclose their probable and possible reserves to investors. In addition, the new disclosure requirements require companies to: (a) report the independence and qualifications of its reserves preparer or auditor; (b) file reports when a third party is relied upon to prepare reserves estimates or conducts a reserves audit; and (c) report oil and gas reserves using an average price based upon the prior 12-month period rather than year-end prices. The new disclosure requirements are effective for financial statements for fiscal years ending on or after December 31, 2009. The effect of adopting the SEC rule has not been determined, but it is not expected to have a significant effect on the Trust's reported financial position or distributable income.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the basis of accounting described above requires the Trustee to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of certain assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses as of and for the reporting periods. Actual results may differ from such estimates.

#### Impairment

The Trustee routinely reviews the Trust's royalty interests in oil and gas properties for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If an impairment event occurs and it is determined that the carrying value of the Trust's royalty interests may not be recoverable, an impairment will be recognized as measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the royalty interests exceeds the fair value of these assets, which would likely be measured by discounting projected cash flows. As of March 31, 2009, no impairment is required.

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New Accounting Standards

In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48 ( FIN 48 ), *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements in accordance with SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. This statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities-Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115*. This statement permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In December 2007 the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*. This statement requires the acquiring entity in a business combination to recognize the full fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction (whether a full or partial acquisition); establishes the acquisition-date fair value as the measurement objective for all assets acquired and liabilities assumed; requires expensing of most transaction and restructuring costs; and requires the acquirer to disclose to investors and other users all of the information needed to evaluate and understand the nature and financial effect of the business combination. This statement applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2009. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements - an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51*. This statement requires reporting entities to present noncontrolling (minority) interests as equity (as opposed to as a liability or mezzanine equity) and provides guidance on the accounting for transactions between an entity and noncontrolling interests. This statement applies prospectively as of January 1, 2009, except for the presentation and disclosure requirements which will be applied retrospectively for all periods presented. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 (SFAS No. 161), effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early adoption allowed. SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133 with the intent to provide users of financial statements with an enhanced understanding of an entity's use of derivative instruments and the effect of those derivative instruments on an entity's financial statements. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. This statement identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP, and is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing amendments to AU section 411, *The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The Trustee does not believe that the adoption of this statement will have a material effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP FAS115-2 and FAS 124-2, Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments. This FASB Staff Position amends the other-than-temporary impairment guidance in U.S. GAAP for debt securities to make the guidance more operational and to improve the presentation and disclosure of other-than-temporary impairments on debt and equity securities in the financial statements. This FSP does not amend existing recognition and measurement guidance related to other-than-temporary impairments of equity securities. This statement is effective for interim and annual reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. The adoption of these statements did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

#### Distributable Income per Unit

Basic distributable income per Unit is computed by dividing distributable income by the weighted average Units outstanding. Distributable income per Unit assuming dilution is computed by dividing distributable income by the weighted average number of Units and equivalent Units outstanding. The Trust had no equivalent Units outstanding for any period presented. Therefore, basic distributable income per Unit and distributable income per Unit assuming dilution are the same.



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### Federal Tax Considerations

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Trust is classified as a grantor trust for Federal income tax purposes and therefore is not subject to taxation at the trust level. The Unit holders are considered, for Federal income tax purposes, to own the Trust's income and principal as though no trust were in existence. Accordingly, no provision for Federal income tax expense has been made in these financial statements. The income of the Trust will be deemed to have been received or accrued by each Unit holder at the time such income is received or accrued by the Trust (on the applicable monthly record date) if the escrow arrangement discussed in Note 1 to these financial statements is respected by the Internal Revenue Service. In the absence of the escrow arrangement, Unit holders would be deemed to receive or accrue income from production from the royalty properties (and interest income) on a daily basis, in accordance with their method of accounting, as the proceeds from production and interest thereon were received or accrued by the Trust. The Trustee is treating the escrow arrangement as effective for tax purposes and furnishes tax information to Unit holders on that basis.

Some Trust Units are held by middlemen, as such term is broadly defined in U.S. Treasury Regulations (and includes custodians, nominees, certain joint owners, and brokers holding an interest for a custodian in street name, referred to herein collectively as "middlemen"). Therefore, the Trustee considers the Trust to be a widely held fixed investment trust (WHFIT) for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, 901 Main Street, 17th Floor, Dallas, Texas, 75202, telephone number (214) 209-2400, is the representative of the Trust that will provide tax information in accordance with applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations governing the information reporting requirements of the Trust as a WHFIT. Tax information is also posted by the Trustee at [www.sbr-sabineroyalty.com](http://www.sbr-sabineroyalty.com). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the middlemen holding Trust Units on behalf of Unit holders, and not the Trustee of the Trust, are solely responsible for complying with the information reporting requirements under the U.S. Treasury Regulations with respect to such Trust Units, including the issuance of IRS Forms 1099 and certain written tax statements. Unit holders whose Trust Units are held by middlemen should consult with such middlemen regarding the information that will be reported to them by the middlemen with respect to the Trust Units.

Each Unit holder should consult his tax advisor regarding Trust tax compliance matters.

### State Tax Considerations

The Trust holds properties located in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Unit holders should consult the Trust's latest annual report on Form 10-K for a summary of state tax matters.

Unit holders should be advised that New Mexico imposes a withholding tax on payments of oil and gas proceeds derived from royalty interests. To reduce the administrative burden imposed by these rules, the Trustee has opted to allow the payors of oil and gas proceeds to withhold on royalty payments made to the Trust. The Trust will then file a New Mexico tax return, obtain a refund, and distribute that refund to Unit holders. Unit holders who transfer their Units before the New Mexico tax refund is received by the Trust or after the refund is received but before the next Monthly Record Date will not receive any portion of the refund. As a result, such Unit holders may incur a double tax first through the reduced distribution received from the trust as withholding at the Trust level reduces the amount of cash available for distribution and second by the tax payment made directly to New Mexico with the filing of their New Mexico income tax returns.

Effective January 1, 2008, Texas imposes a margin tax at a rate of 1% on gross revenues less certain deductions, as specifically set forth in the Texas margin tax statute. The Texas margin tax is a significant change in Texas tax law. The tax generally will be imposed on gross revenues in 2007 and thereafter. Entities subject to tax generally include trusts unless otherwise exempt, and most other types of entities having limited liability protection. Trusts that meet certain statutory requirements are generally exempt from the margin tax as "passive entities." The Trust should be exempt from Texas margin tax as a "passive entity." Since the Trust is exempt from the margin tax at the Trust level as a passive entity, each Unit holder that is a business entity subject to the Texas margin tax would generally include its

share of the Trust's revenue in its own Texas margin tax computation. The source of such income to a Unit holder would be Texas since the Trust's day-to-day operations are conducted in Texas.

Each Unit holder is urged to consult his own tax advisor regarding the requirements for filing state tax returns.

### **3. DISTRIBUTION TO UNIT HOLDERS**

The amount to be distributed to Unit holders ( Monthly Income Amount ) is determined on a monthly basis. The Monthly Income Amount is an amount equal to the sum of cash received by the Trust during a monthly period (the period commencing on the day after a monthly record date and continuing through and including the next succeeding monthly record date) attributable to the Royalties, any reduction in cash reserves and any other cash receipts of the Trust, including interest, reduced by the sum of liabilities paid and any increase in cash reserves. Unit holders of record as of the monthly record date (the 15th day of each calendar month except in limited circumstances) are entitled to have distributed to them the calculated Monthly Income Amount for such month on or before 10 business days after the monthly record date. The Monthly Income Amount per Unit is declared by the Trust no later than 10 days prior to the monthly record date.

The cash received by the Trust from purchasers of the Trust's oil and gas production consists of gross sales of production less applicable severance taxes.

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Other payables consist primarily of royalty receipts suspended pending verification of ownership interest or title.

The Trustee believes that these other payables represent an ordinary operating condition of the Trust and that such payables will be paid or released in the normal course of business.

**5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent to March 31, 2009, the Trust declared the following distributions:

| <b>Notification<br/>Date</b> | <b>Monthly<br/>Record<br/>Date</b> | <b>Payment<br/>Date</b> | <b>Distribution<br/>per Unit</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| April 3                      | April 15                           | April 29                | \$ .23787                        |

**6. CONTINGENCIES**

Contingencies related to the royalty properties that are unfavorably resolved would generally be reflected by the Trust as reductions to future royalty income payments to the Trust with corresponding reductions to cash distributions to Unit holders. The Trustee is not aware of any such items as of March 31, 2009.

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

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The Trust makes monthly distributions to the holders of Units of the excess of the preceding month's revenues received over expenses incurred. Upon receipt, royalty income is invested in short-term investments until its subsequent distribution. In accordance with the Trust Agreement, the Trust's only long-term assets consist of royalty interests in producing and proved undeveloped oil and gas properties. Although the Trust is permitted to borrow funds if necessary to continue its operations, borrowings are not anticipated in the foreseeable future.

**Results of Operations**

Distributable income consists of royalty income plus interest income plus any decrease in cash reserves established by the Trustee less general and administrative expenses of the Trust less any increase in cash reserves established by the Trustee. Distributable income for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$10,276,516, or \$0.70 per unit. Royalty income for the three months ended March 31, 2009 amounted to \$10,876,919 while interest income was \$19,155. General and administrative expenses totaled \$619,558 for the three months ended March 31, 2009.

Distributions during the period were \$.41550, \$.25441, and \$.21205 per Unit payable to Unit holders of record on January 15, February 17, and March 16, 2009, respectively.

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Royalty income for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 decreased approximately \$7,979,000 or 42% compared with the first quarter of 2008. This decrease was caused by decreases in the production of both oil and natural gas as well as decreases in the price of both oil and natural gas. Compared to the preceding quarter ended December 31, 2008, royalty income decreased approximately \$9,677,000, or 47%, due to decreases in the production of both oil and natural gas as well as decreases in the prices of both oil and natural gas.

The following tables illustrate average prices received for the periods discussed above and the related oil and gas production volumes:

|               | Quarter Ended     |                   |                         |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
|               | March 31,<br>2009 | March 31,<br>2008 | December<br>31,<br>2008 |
| Production    |                   |                   |                         |
| Oil (Bbls)    | 104,171           | 110,302           | 123,499                 |
| Gas (Mcf)     | 1,572,366         | 1,651,669         | 1,613,790               |
| Average Price |                   |                   |                         |
| Oil (per Bbl) | \$ 39.13          | \$ 85.89          | \$ 86.95                |
| Gas (per Mcf) | \$ 5.00           | \$ 6.60           | \$ 8.12                 |

Gas revenues received for the three months ended March 31, 2009, related primarily to production for October 2008 through December 2008. The average price of gas as reported by the Henry Hub for the same time period was \$5.77 per Mcf. The average price of gas for the Henry Hub was \$4.50 per Mcf for January 2009 through March 2009. Oil revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2009 related primarily to production for November 2008 through January 2009. The average price of oil as reported by Nymex for that time period was \$46.98 per barrel. The average price of oil was \$43.22 per barrel for January 2009 through March 2009. As of April 22, 2009, the average price of gas for the Henry Hub was \$3.16 per Mcf and the average price of oil reported by Nymex was \$46.51 per barrel. It is difficult to accurately estimate future prices of oil and gas, and any assumptions concerning future prices may prove to be incorrect.

Interest income for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 decreased approximately \$62,200 compared with the first quarter of 2008. Compared to the preceding quarter ended December 31, 2008, interest income decreased approximately \$50,200. Changes in interest income are the result of changes in interest rates and funds available for investment.

General and administrative expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2009 increased by approximately \$63,500 compared to the same quarter of 2008 primarily due to increases in professional fees, printing expenses and unitholder information services fees of approximately \$12,400, \$27,700 and \$25,400, respectively. Offsetting the increases was a decrease in escrow agent/trustee fees of approximately \$3,600. Compared to the previous quarter ended December 31, 2008, general and administrative expenses increased approximately \$152,500. This increase was primarily due to the timing of annual payments in the first quarter such as the annual New York Stock Exchange listing fee and expenses related to the printing and mailing of annual tax information of approximately \$38,000 and \$61,000, respectively; along with increases in the timing of invoices for auditing fees of approximately \$43,000. Escrow agent/trustee fees also increased approximately \$27,600. Offsetting these increases somewhat was a decrease in the timing of the receipt of fees for ad valorem tax rendition services of approximately \$19,000.



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Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The Trust's financial statements reflect the selection and application of accounting policies that require the Trust to make significant estimates and assumptions. The following are some of the more critical judgement areas in the application of accounting policies that currently affect the Trust's financial condition and results of operations.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Trust are prepared on the following basis and are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America:

Royalty income, net of severance and ad valorem taxes, and interest income are recognized in the month in which amounts are received by the Trust.

Trust expenses, consisting principally of routine general and administrative costs, include payments made during the accounting period. Expenses are accrued to the extent of amounts that become payable on the next monthly record date following the end of the accounting period. Reserves for liabilities that are contingent or uncertain in amount may also be established if considered necessary.

Royalties that are producing properties are amortized using the unit-of-production method. This amortization is shown as a reduction of Trust corpus.

Distributions to Unit holders are recognized when declared by the Trustee.

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The financial statements of the Trust differ from financial statements prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America because of the following:

Royalty income is recognized in the month received rather than in the month of production.

Expenses other than those expected to be paid on the following monthly record date are not accrued.

Amortization of the Royalties is shown as a reduction to Trust corpus and not as a charge to operating results.

Reserves may be established for contingencies that would not be recorded under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

This comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP corresponds to the accounting permitted for royalty trusts by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as specified by Staff Accounting Bulletin Topic 12:E, Financial Statements of Royalty Trusts.

### Revenue Recognition

Revenues from royalty interests are recognized in the period in which amounts are received by the Trust. Royalty income received by the Trust in a given calendar year will generally reflect the proceeds, on an entitlements basis, from natural gas produced for the twelve-month period ended September 30th in that calendar year.

### Reserve Disclosure

Independent petroleum engineers estimate the net proved reserves attributable to the royalty interests. In accordance with Statement of Financial Standards No. 69, Disclosures About Oil and Gas Producing Activities, estimates of future net revenues from proved reserves have been prepared using year-end contractual gas prices and related costs. Numerous uncertainties are inherent in estimating volumes and the value of proved reserves and in projecting future production rates and the timing of development of non-producing reserves. Such reserve estimates are subject to change as additional information becomes available. The reserves actually recovered and the timing of production may be substantially different from the reserve estimates. Other than those filed with the SEC, our estimated reserves have not been filed with or included in any reports to any Federal agency.

### Contingencies

Contingencies related to the royalty properties that are unfavorably resolved would generally be reflected by the Trust as reductions to future royalty income payments to the Trust with corresponding reductions to cash distributions to Unit holders. The Trustee is not aware of any such items as of March 31, 2009.

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the basis of accounting described above requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of certain assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses as of and for the reporting periods. Actual results may differ from such estimates.

### Impairment

The Trustee routinely reviews the Trust's royalty interests in oil and gas properties for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If an impairment event occurs and it is determined that the carrying value of the Trust's royalty interests may not be recoverable, an impairment will

be recognized as measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the royalty interests exceeds the fair value of these assets, which would likely be measured by discounting projected cash flows.

#### Pending Securities and Exchange Commission Rule

In December 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released Final Rule, *Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting*. The new disclosure requirements include provisions that permit the use of new technologies to determine proved reserves if those technologies have been demonstrated empirically to lead to reliable conclusions about reserves volumes. The new requirements also will allow companies to disclose their probable and possible reserves to investors. In addition, the new disclosure requirements require companies to: (a) report the independence and qualifications of its reserves preparer or auditor; (b) file reports when a third party is relied upon to prepare reserves estimates or conducts a reserves audit; and (c) report oil and gas reserves using an average price based upon the prior 12-month period rather than year-end prices. The new disclosure requirements are effective for financial statements for fiscal years ending on or after December 31, 2009. The effect of adopting the SEC rule has not been determined, but it is not expected to have a significant effect on the Trust's reported financial position or distributable income.



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New Accounting Standards

In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48 ( FIN 48 ), *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*, which clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements in accordance with SFAS No. 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. This statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities-Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115*. This statement permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. This statement is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In December 2007 the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*. This statement requires the acquiring entity in a business combination to recognize the full fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the transaction (whether a full or partial acquisition); establishes the acquisition-date fair value as the measurement objective for all assets acquired and liabilities assumed; requires expensing of most transaction and restructuring costs; and requires the acquirer to disclose to investors and other users all of the information needed to evaluate and understand the nature and financial effect of the business combination. This statement applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after January 1, 2009. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements - an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51*. This statement requires reporting entities to present noncontrolling (minority) interests as equity (as opposed to as a liability or mezzanine equity) and provides guidance on the accounting for transactions between an entity and noncontrolling interests. This statement applies prospectively as of January 1, 2009, except for the presentation and disclosure requirements which will be applied retrospectively for all periods presented. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133 (SFAS No. 161), effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early adoption allowed. SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133 with the intent to provide users of financial statements with an enhanced understanding of an entity's use of derivative instruments and the effect of those derivative instruments on an entity's financial statements. The adoption of this statement did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. This statement identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles used in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP, and is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing amendments to AU section 411, *The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The Trustee does not believe that the adoption of this statement will have a material effect on the Trust's financial statements.

In April 2009, the FASB issued FSP FAS115-2 and FAS 124-2, Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments. This FASB Staff Position amends the other-than-temporary impairment guidance in U.S. GAAP for debt securities to make the guidance more operational and to improve the presentation and disclosure of other-than-temporary impairments on debt and equity securities in the financial statements. This FSP does not amend existing recognition and measurement guidance related to other-than-temporary impairments of equity securities. This statement is effective for interim and annual reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009, with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. The adoption of these statements did not have an effect on the Trust's financial statements.

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**Other**

Forward Looking Statements

This Report includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are intended to be covered by the safe harbor created thereby. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this Report are forward-looking statements. Although the Trustee believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties and the Trustee can give no assurance that they will prove correct. There are many factors, none of which is within the Trustee's control, that may cause such expectations not to be realized, including, among other things, factors identified in the Trust's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K affecting oil and gas prices and the recoverability of reserves, general economic conditions, actions and policies of petroleum-producing nations and other changes in the domestic and international energy markets.

The Trust has an Internet website and has made available its annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to such reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act at <http://www.sbr-sabineroyalty.com> as soon as reasonably practicable after such information is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC.

*Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.*

The Trust invests in no derivative financial instruments, and has no foreign operations or long-term debt instruments. Other than the Trust's ability to periodically borrow money as necessary to pay expenses, liabilities and obligations of the Trust that cannot be paid out of cash held by the Trust, the Trust is prohibited from engaging in borrowing transactions. The amount of any such borrowings is unlikely to be material to the Trust. The Trust periodically holds short-term investments acquired with funds held by the Trust pending distribution to Unit holders and funds held in reserve for the payment of Trust expenses and liabilities. Because of the short-term nature of these borrowings and investments and certain limitations upon the types of such investments which may be held by the Trust, the Trustee believes that the Trust is not subject to any material interest rate risk. Currently, such funds are invested in Bank of America certificates of deposit which are backed by the good faith and credit of Bank of America, N.A., but are only insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000. Each Unit holder should independently assess the creditworthiness of Bank of America, N.A. For more information about the credit rating of Bank of America, N.A., please refer to its periodic filings with the SEC. *See Item 1A Risk Factors Cash held by the trustee is not fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and future royalty income may be subject to risks relating to the creditworthiness of third parties.* The Trust does not engage in transactions in foreign currencies which could expose the Trust or Unit holders to any foreign currency related market risk.

*Item 4. Controls and Procedures.*

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Trustee carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15. Based upon that evaluation, the Trustee concluded that the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures are effective in timely alerting the Trustee to material information relating to the Trust required to be included in the Trust's periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. There has not been any change in the Trust's internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Trust's internal control over financial reporting.



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PART II OTHER INFORMATION

*Item 1. Legal Proceedings.*

Not applicable.

*Item 1A. Risk Factors.*

Except as set forth below, there have been no material changes in the risk factors disclosed under Part I, Item 1A of the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

***Cash held by the trustee is not fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and future royalty income may be subject to risks relating to the creditworthiness of third parties.***

Currently, cash held by the trustee as a reserve for liabilities and for the payment of expenses and distributions to unitholders is invested in Bank of America, N.A. certificates of deposit which are backed by the good faith and credit of Bank of America, N.A., but are only insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000. Each unitholder should independently assess the creditworthiness of Bank of America, N.A. For more information about the credit rating of Bank of America, N.A., please refer to its periodic filings with the SEC. The trust does not lend money and has limited ability to borrow money, which the trustee believes limits the trust's risk from the current tightening of credit markets. The trust's future royalty income, however, may be subject to risks relating to the creditworthiness of the operators of the underlying properties and other purchasers of crude oil and natural gas produced from the underlying properties, as well as risks associated with fluctuations in the price of crude oil and natural gas. Information contained in Bank of America, N.A.'s periodic filings with the SEC is not incorporated by reference into this quarterly report on Form 10-Q and should not be considered part of this report or any other filing that the trust makes with the SEC.

*Items 2-5 not applicable.*

*Item 6. Exhibits.*

Exhibit Number  
and Description

- 4(a)\* Sabine Corporation Royalty Trust Agreement effective as of December 31, 1982, by and between Sabine Corporation and InterFirst Bank Dallas, N.A., as trustee.
- (b)\* Sabine Corporation Louisiana Royalty Trust Agreement effective as of December 31, 1982, by and between Sabine Corporation and Hibernia National Bank in New Orleans, as trustee, and joined by InterFirst Bank Dallas, N.A., as trustee.

(31) Trustee Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

(32) Trustee Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

\* Exhibits 4(a) and 4(b) are incorporated herein by reference to Exhibits 4(a) and 4(b), respectively, of the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1993.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SABINE ROYALTY TRUST

By: Bank of America, N.A.  
Trustee

By: /s/ Ron E. Hooper  
Ron E. Hooper  
Senior Vice President and Trust  
Administrator

Date: May 1, 2009

(The Trust has no directors or executive officers.)