

# FORM 4

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

| OMB APPROVAL                                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| OMB Number:                                    | 3235-0287         |
| Expires:                                       | November 30, 2011 |
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person<br>Wright Christopher W |                                      | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>Pacific Ethanol, Inc. [PEIX]             |                                | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br>____ Director _____ 10% Owner<br>__X__ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)<br>VP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary |   |            |   |  |   |       |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---|--|---|-------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle)<br>400 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 2060         |                                      | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>08/01/2011                          |                                | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br>__X__ Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |   |            |   |  |   |       |
| (Street)<br>SACRAMENTO, CA 95814                                |                                      | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                                   |                                |   |   |            |   |  |   |       |
| (City) (State) (Zip)  |                                      | <b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b> |                                |   |   |            |   |  |   |       |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)                                 | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)                                      | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |       |
|   |                                      |   | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (A) or (D) |   |  |   | Price |
| Common Stock  | 08/01/2011                           |   | A                              |   | 20,000  | A          | \$ 0  | 60,245 (1)   | D   |       |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V |   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |                 |   |  |  |  |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                              |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                      | Other |
| Wright Christopher W<br>400 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 2060<br>SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 |               |           | VP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary |       |

## Signatures

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| /s/ Christopher W. Wright     | 08/02/2011 |
| Signature of Reporting Person | Date       |

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The share amounts reflect the Issuer's 1-for-7 reverse stock split which was effective June 8, 2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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