

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **March 10, 2020**

PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

000-21467

(Commission File Number)

41-2170618

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2060
Sacramento, California**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

95814

(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: **(916) 403-2123**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Trading Symbol(s) | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Common Stock, \$0.001 par value | PEIX | The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (Nasdaq Capital Market) |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2 of this chapter). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(b) On March 10, 2020, Larry Layne retired as a member of the board of directors of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (the “Company”). Mr. Layne did not retire as a result of any disagreement with the Company on any matter relating to the Company’s operations, policies or practices.

SIGNATURE

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 12, 2020

PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.

By: /S/ CHRISTOPHER W. WRIGHT
Christopher W. Wright,
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary