

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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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 KOEHLER NEIL M		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Pacific Ethanol, Inc. [PEIX]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) President & CEO						
(Last) (First) (Middle) 400 CAPITOL MALL #2060		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/24/2012								
(Street) SACRAMENTO, CA 95814		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person						
(City) (State) (Zip)		Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned								
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	08/24/2012		A		338,709 (1)	A	\$ 0.31	1,059,055	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	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
KOEHLER NEIL M 400 CAPITOL MALL #2060 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814	X		President & CEO	

Signatures

/s/ Neil M. Koehler	08/24/2012
<small>Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

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).

On August 21, 2012, Mr. Koehler and the other holders of Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock ("Preferred Stock") of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. entered into an agreement with Pacific Ethanol, Inc. to, among other things, settle an outstanding obligation through payment in shares of common stock of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. of a portion of the accrued and unpaid dividends on the Preferred Stock. The negotiated price of the common stock to be issued to Mr. Koehler and the other holders of the Preferred Stock was \$0.31 per share. On August 21, 2012, the last reported sales price of Pacific Ethanol's common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$0.3071 per share. On August 24, 2012, the transaction closed and Pacific Ethanol, Inc. issued to, and Mr. Koehler acquired, 338,709 shares of common stock of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. in satisfaction of \$104,999.90 in accrued and unpaid dividends on the Preferred Stock.

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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