

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
 Form 4  
 March 21, 2017

**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 \*  
 Machek Howard

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
 [CENT]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/17/2017

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Chief Accounting Officer

C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY, 1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 03/17/2017                           |  | M                              | 5,000   | A \$ 6.43   | 22,625   | D                                 |
| Class A Common Stock            | 03/17/2017                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               | 2,455   | D \$ 34.93  | 20,170   | D                                 |
| Units                           |                                      |  |                                |   |   | 1,951  | I By 401(k) Plan <sup>(2)</sup>   |

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

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(9-02)

**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. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 6.43  | 03/17/2017                           |  | M                              | 5,000   | <sup>(3)</sup> 03/31/2019                                | Class A Common Stock  | 5,000                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                          |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                  | Other |
| Machek Howard<br>C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY<br>1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600<br>WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597 |               |           | Chief Accounting Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ JoAnn Jonte, as Attorney-in-Fact for Howard Machek 03/21/2017

\_\_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).

Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price and withholding tax liability incurred upon the

(1) above-reported exercise of options. The amount of shares withheld is based on the respective average of the high and low sales prices on the date of exercise.

(2) The units represent interests in the CENTA Stock Fund in the Issuer's 401(k) Plan, which consists of shares of CENTA stock and cash.

(3) Options were granted on August 12, 2013 and all shares are vested & exercisable.

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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