

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO
 Form 4
 February 21, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
BROWN WILLIAM E

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)
 1340 TREAT BLVD., SUITE 600
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/17/2017

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

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) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/17/2017 | | M | | 285,608 | A | \$ 12.5 | 1,767,487 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/17/2017 | | F ⁽¹⁾ | | 193,468 | D | \$ 35.24 | 1,574,019 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | | | | | | | | 2,064,589 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | | | | | | | | 240,000 | I | By Irrevocable Trusts ⁽²⁾ |

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

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SEC 1474
(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) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 12.5 | 02/17/2017 | | M | 285,608 | (3) 04/15/2017 | Common Stock | 285,608 | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BROWN WILLIAM E 1340 TREAT BLVD., SUITE 600 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597 | | | X | |

Signatures

/s/ Sharon Bonner-Brown, as Attorney-in-Fact for William E. Brown
02/18/2017

**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).
- (1) Shares withheld by the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price and withholding tax liability incurred upon the 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 the exercise.
- (2) These securities are owned directly by various family Irrevocable Trusts and indirectly by the Reporting Person and his spouse as co-trustees of the Irrevocable Trusts. The Reporting Person and his spouse, as co-trustees, have and share investment control over the securities held in each of the Irrevocable Trusts but disclaim beneficial ownership of the reported securities held by the Irrevocable Trusts except to the extent of his and his wife's pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) On April 15, 2011, the Issuer's Compensation Committee granted the reporting person an option to purchase 357,010 shares of Common Stock of the Issuer at an exercise price of \$12.50 per share. The option vests in five equal annual installments beginning April 15, 2012

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based on the satisfaction of certain annual performance targets for each of the fiscal years ending September 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. 71,402 shares of Common Stock did not vest due to the non-satisfaction of a portion of the performance targets.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.