

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO  
 Form 4  
 February 18, 2016

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**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 \*  
 Reed Michael A

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  
 BOULEVARD, SUITE 600  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/16/2016

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Executive Vice President

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

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

(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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/16/2016                           |  | M                              | 37,500  | A   | \$ 9.54  | 193,662 D   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/16/2016                           |  | F(1)                           | 29,236  | D   | \$ 13.91   | 164,426 D   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/16/2016                           |  | M                              | 25,000  | A   | \$ 6.43  | 189,426 D   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/16/2016                           |  | F(1)                           | 15,234  | D   | \$   | 174,192 D   |

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|                      |            |   |        |   |          |         |   |
|----------------------|------------|---|--------|---|----------|---------|---|
| Common Stock         |            |   |        |   |          | 13.91   |   |
| Class A Common Stock | 02/18/2016 | S | 18,161 | D | \$ 14.32 | 156,031 | D |

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)                | \$ 9.54  | 02/16/2016                           |  | M                              | 37,500  | <u>(2)</u> 03/26/2018                                    | Class A Common Stock  | 37,500                        |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 6.43  | 02/16/2016                           |  | M                              | 25,000  | <u>(3)</u> 03/31/2019                                    | Class A Common Stock  | 25,000                        |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                          |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                  | Other |
| Reed Michael A<br>1340 TREAT BOULEVARD<br>SUITE 600<br>WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597 |               |           | Executive Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ JoAnn Jonte, as attorney-in-fact for Michael A.  
Reed

02/18/2016

\_\_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) On March 26, 2012, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 50,000 shares of Class A Common Stock of the Issuer. The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning March 26, 2013.
  - (3) On August 12, 2013, the Reporting Person was granted an option to purchase 50,000 shares of Class A Common Stock of the Issuer. The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning March 31, 2014.

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.