

Pacific Ethanol, Inc.  
 Form 3  
 April 20, 2006

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement		3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â CASCADE INVESTMENT LLC			(Month/Day/Year)		Pacific Ethanol, Inc. [PEIX]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	
2365 CARILLON POINT			(Check all applicable)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)	
(Street)			___ Director		_X_ 10% Owner	
KIRKLAND,Â WAÂ 98033			___ Officer		_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(give title below)		(specify below)	
					___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	

(Instr. 5)

Series A Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock	Â (1)	Â (1)	Common Stock	10,500,000 (1)	\$ (1)	D	Â
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## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CASCADE INVESTMENT LLC 2365 CARILLON POINT KIRKLAND, WA 98033	Â	Â X	Â	Â

## Signatures

William H. Gates III By: /s/ Michael Larson\*,  
Attorney-In-Fact

04/20/2006

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) See Below

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### Remarks:

(1) On April 13, 2006, Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade") acquired 5,250,000 shares of the issued and outstanding common stock of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. ("PEI").

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.