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

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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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses) 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * BALOUSEK JOHN				2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY [CENT]						5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) _X_ DirectorOfficer (give title below)Other (specify below)					
(Last) (First) (Middle) 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310				3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/09/2004											
(Street) LAFAYETTE, CA 94549				4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					_X_ F	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting PersonForm filed by More than One Reporting Person					
(City	(City) (State) (Zip)			Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acqu						quired,	tired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned				
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)		2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) any	ion Date, if	(Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		Own Tran	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)		6. Ownership Form:	Beneficial		
				(Month/Day/Year)		Code	v V	Amount (A)		Ì	(Instr. 3 and 4)			Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common	Stock		02/09/2004			A		297 A	\$ (2,84	2,843			D	
Reminder:	Report on a s	separate line for each	n class of securities	beneficia	lly owned	arrectly or	Person	s who respond in this factorial in this factorial in this factorial in the	orm ar	e not r	equired	to respond	d unless th		1474 (9-02)
1. Title of		3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Table II - 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	Derivative (e.g., put) 4. Transac Code	ve Securiti s, calls, wa 5. Nu of Deriv	tes Acquir nrants, oj mber 6. Ex ative ities ired r ssed	Person contair form di red, Dispo	s who respond in this splays a consed of, or Bonvertible sericisable and	eneficia curities 7. Ti of U Secu	e not ro valid (illy Owr	equired OMB conned Amount	to respond ntrol numbers	d unless th	of 10. Owners Form o y Derivat Security Direct (or Indir	11. Natu of Indire f Benefici- iv: (Instr. 4)
1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	Table II - 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	Derivative (e.g., put) 4. Transac Code	ve Securitis, calls, was securition of Deriv Securical Acquired (A) or Disposor of (D) (Instr	mber 6. Extractive ities ired r rssed) . 3, 4,)	Person contair form di form di ptions, contair Date Exempiration I	s who respond in this is splays a consect of, or Bonvertible servisable and Date if year)	eneficia curities 7. Ti of U Secu	e not revealed (ally Own) ittle and anderlyin inities ir. 3 and	equired OMB conned Amount	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number Derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported Transaction	of 10. Owners Form of Derivat Security Direct (or Indir	11. Natu of Indire f Benefici- iv: (Instr. 4)

Ī		Relationships				
	Reporting Owner Name / Address	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	
	BALOUSEK JOHN 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310 LAFAYETTE, CA 94549	X				

Signatures

/s/ John Balousek	02/10/2004
**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) One-third of the total options granted will become exercisable at each of 6 months, 18 months and 30 months after the date of the grant.

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.