SEC Form 4

# FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
| Estimated average burden hours per response: | 0.5 |

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

☐ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

☐ Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

Machek Howard

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600

(Street)

WALNUT CREEK | CA | 94597

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO [ CENT ]

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

11/05/2026

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director | 10% Owner

X Officer (give title below) | Other (specify below)

Chief Accounting Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

X 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 11/05/2026 | | M | | 4,968 | A | $35.216 | 52,912 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | 11/05/2026 | | F[1] | | 4,594 | D | $41.57 | 48,318 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 1,000 | D | |
| Units | | | | | | | | 7,446 | I | By 401(k) Plan[2] |

### 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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | $35.216[3] | 11/05/2026 | | M | | | 4,968[3] | [4] | 02/09/2027 | Class A Common Stock[3] | 4,968 | $0 | 0 | D | |

**Explanation of Responses:**

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 exercise.

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

3. This option was previously reported as an option for 3,975 shares of Class A Common Stock at an exercise price of $44.02 per share, but was adjusted to reflect the stock dividend declared by Company on December 7, 2023. As a result of the stock dividend, the option also entitled the Reporting Person to receive, upon exercise, 993 shares of Class A Common Stock for no additional consideration.

4. Options were granted on February 9, 2021, and all shares are vested and have been exercised.

Filomena Eickstaedt as Attorney-in-Fact for Howard Machek — 11/06/2026

** Signature of Reporting Person — Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

**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 Number.**