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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *<br><u>Machek Howard</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br>C/O CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY<br>1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600<br><br>(Street)<br>WALNUT CREEK CA 94597<br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>CENTRAL GARDEN &amp; PET CO [ CENT ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br>X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br>Chief Accounting Officer |
|   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>02/09/2024                             |   |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  |  |   |

**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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|---------|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price   |   |  |  |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/09/2024                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 373   | D          | \$37.52 | 63,745 <sup>(2)</sup>   | D  |  |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/09/2024                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 267   | D          | \$37.52 | 63,478  | D  |  |
| Class A Common Stock            | 02/09/2024                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 177   | D          | \$37.52 | 63,301  | D  |  |
| Units                           |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |         | 5,667   | I  | By 401(k) Plan <sup>(3)</sup>                |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |         | 1,000   | D  |  |

**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 |   |  |  |   |  |

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Shares delivered by Reporting Person in payment of the withholding tax liability upon vesting of restricted stock. The amount of shares withheld is based on the average of the high and low of the sales prices of CENTA on February 9, 2024.
- On December 7, 2023, Company declared a stock dividend, payable to all holders on record of Common Stock and Class A Common Stock as of January 8, 2024, of one share of Class A Common Stock for every four shares of Common Stock and Class A Common Stock outstanding. As a result, the Reporting Person received 12,420 shares of Class A Common Stock as of January 8, 2024.
- 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.

/s/Filomena Eickstaedt as  
Attorney-in-Fact for Howard      02/13/2024  
Machek  
 \*\* 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.