Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

NASDAQ: PEIX

First Quarter 2011 Financial Results Presentation

May 12, 2011

Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Cautionary Statements

With the exception of historical information, the matters discussed in this presentation including, without limitation: the ability of Pacific Ethanol to continue as the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States; expectations concerning future growth, market share, margins, operational efficiencies, profitability, cash flows and other financial or business metrics; the relative benefits of Pacific Ethanol's destination business model and logistical advantages related to the supply of corn; the mitigation of risks related to fluctuations in corn supplies; the ability of Pacific Ethanol to lock-in margins; the effectiveness of hedging strategies; the expected premium and demand for low-carbon ethanol; and the ability of Pacific Ethanol to resume production at the idle California plant, which is at the discretion of the third-party plant owner are forward-looking statements and considerations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The actual future results of Pacific Ethanol could differ from those statements. Pacific Ethanol refers you to the "Risk Factors" section contained in its most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2011.

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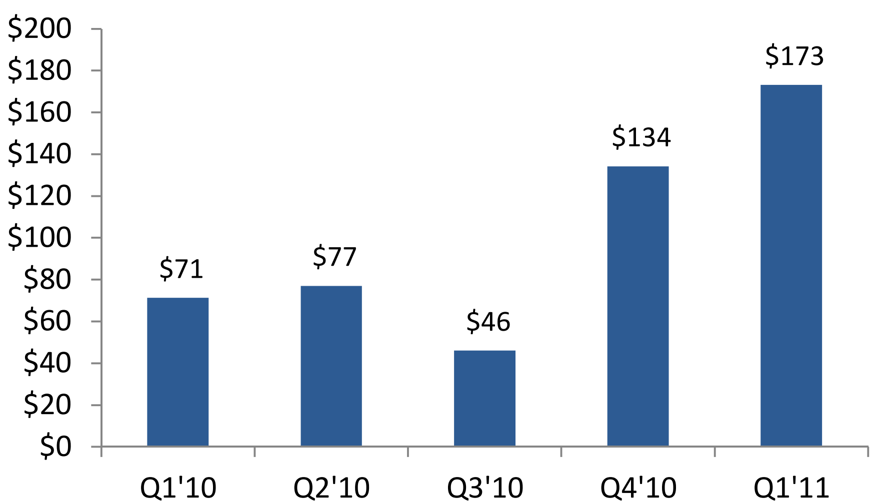
First Quarter 2011 Highlights

Improved Financial Performance for the 3 Mos. Ended Mar. 31, 2011

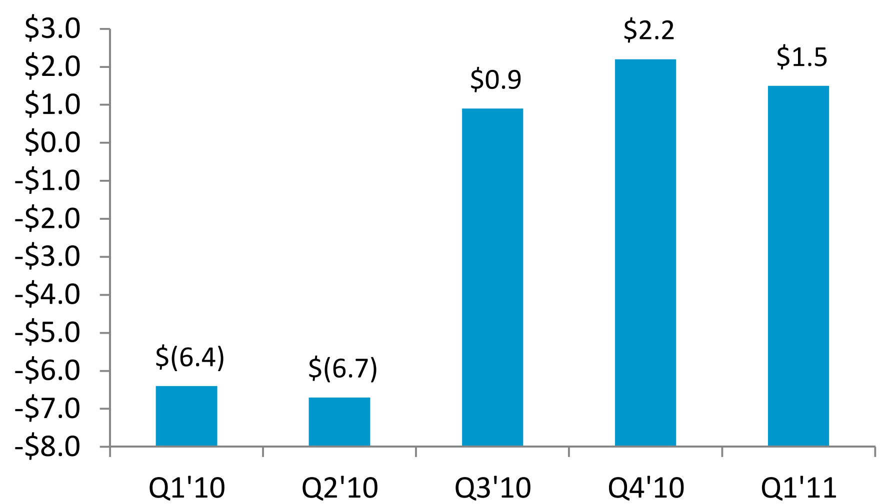
Net sales

($ in millions)



Adjusted EBITDA

($ in millions)



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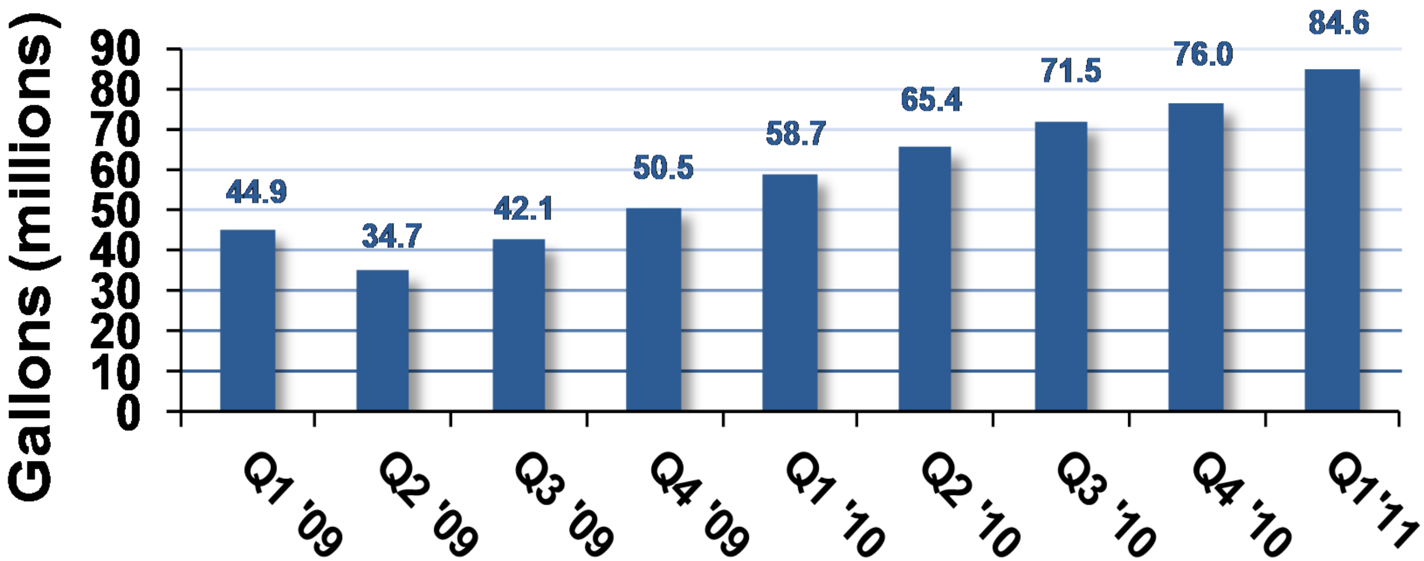
Total Gallons Sold

Continued Strong Growth Demonstrated in Q1'11



44% increase in total marketed ethanol gallons over Q1'10 & 11% growth sequentially
Represents seventh consecutive quarter of growth with a CAGR of 66%

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Adding Capacity to Meet Demand

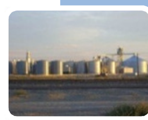
Recent reopening of the 60 MGY Stockton Plant contributed to growth

Q1'10
2 / 4 plants running

Columbia

Magic Valley

Q1'11
3 / 4 plants running

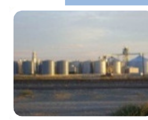


Columbia

Magic Valley

Stockton

Goal to have 4 / 4 plants in operation in 2011



Columbia

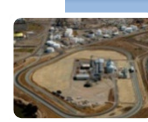
Operational:	Q3 2007
Op. Capacity:	40 MGY
Current Status:	Producing

Magic Valley

Operational:	Q2 2008
Op. Capacity:	60 MGY
Current Status:	Producing

Stockton

Operational:	Q3 2008
Op. Capacity:	60 MGY
Current Status:	Producing



Madera

Operational:	Q4 2006
Op. Capacity:	40 MGY
Current Status:	Idle

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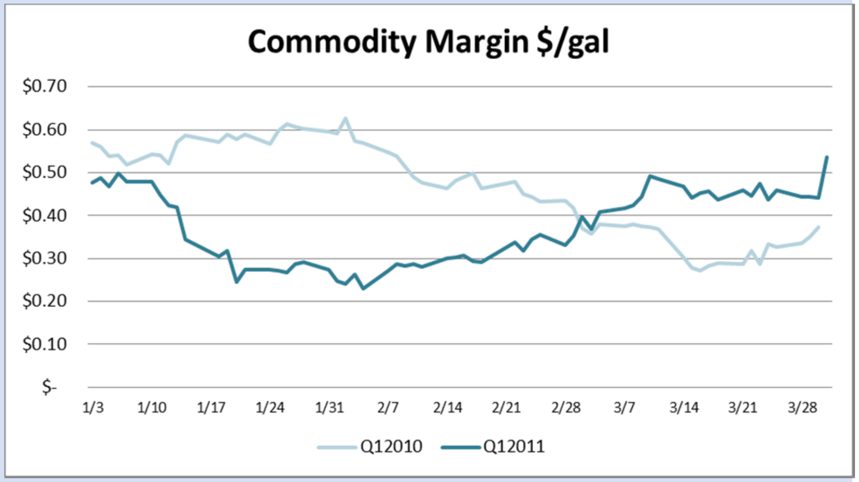
Favorable Supply Chain Logistics

Advantageous business model enables Pacific Ethanol to mitigate exposure risks around the fluctuating corn supply and price increases

- Pacific Ethanol Plants positioned to source corn from a variety of markets in the Midwest and/or local producers located near its production facilities
- Contracts with suppliers guarantee delivery of corn even in tightened conditions
- Hedging strategy aimed at locking in margins when possible and generating positive margins



Source: PEI Calculations

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Marketing

Kinergy

- Began marketing ethanol for AE Biofuels in Q2'11
- Growing market share in an expanding market
- Favorable ethanol blend economics
- Low-carbon fuel standards
- Differentiated marketing & distribution

Pacific Ag Products

- Value of WDG
- Additional service & logistics opportunities
- Marketing WDG from the recently restarted Stockton plant

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Carbon Intensity Reduction Mandates Require Low Carbon Solutions

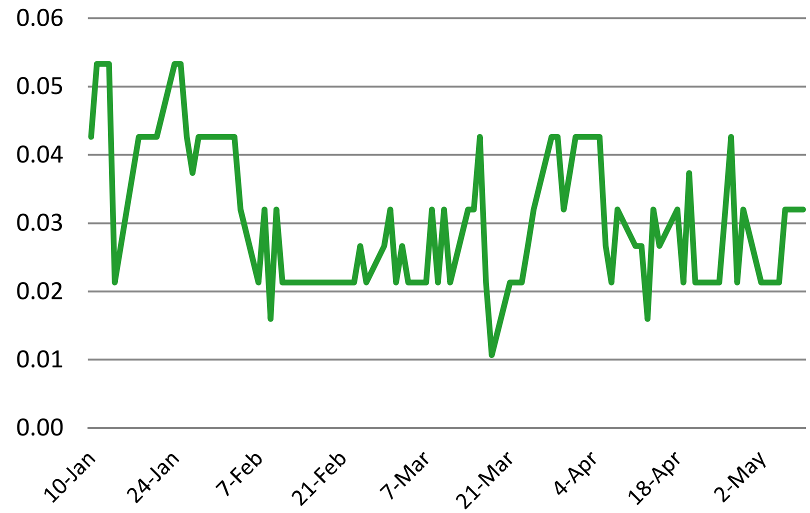
Pacific Ethanol Plants offer the most effective solutions for compliance with California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) provides carbon value spread, on a spot basis, of $0.002 per carbon point

Pacific Ethanol is at approximately 18 carbon points better than the average Midwest ethanol

Based on current spot market prices, that represents an approximate 3 – 4 cpg premium

CA plants CI Premium $/gal (compared to Midwest avg)



Pacific Ethanol provides among the lowest carbon rated ethanol commercially produced in the US according to the California Air Resources Board (CARB)

* Based on published CI values and OPIS LA daily close

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Improving Financial Results

	For the 3 mos. ended	
(thousands, unaudited)	Mar. 31, ‘11	Mar. 31, ‘10
Net sales	$ 173,148	$ 71,290
Gross profit (loss)	$ 2,564	$ (3,048)
SG&A	$ 4,188	$ 3,156
Operating loss	$ (1,624)	$ (6,204)
Net loss avail. to CS*	$ (294)	$ (11,686)
Adjusted EBITDA#	$ 1,450	$ (6,444)

- During the first quarter of 2011, the company recorded a non-cash gain of $0.9 million for fair value adjustment on convertible notes and warrants, representing their quarterly fair value adjustment.

Adjusted EBITDA reconciliation at the end of the presentation.

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Strengthening Balance Sheet

(thousands, unaudited)	Mar. 31, '11	Dec. 31, '10
Cash	$ 8,450	$ 8,736
Current Assets	$ 63,915	$ 57,324
Current Liabilities	$ 43,047	$ 47,831
Working Capital	$ 20,868	$ 9,493

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Executing Strategy to Build Shareholder Value

Pacific Ethanol's mission is to be the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States

- Capitalizing on business model, industry expertise, logistical advantages and strategy for growth
- Leveraging transformed balance sheet to grow revenues, increase cash flows and improve profitability
- Building leadership position in production, marketing and asset management
  - Increasing annual capacity to 200 MGY when market conditions permit
  - Maintaining the strong growth trajectory of our marketing business
  - Evaluating opportunities to improve efficiencies in operating assets

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Reconciling Table:
Adjusted EBITDA to Net Income (Loss)

	For the 3 mos. ended	
(in thousands, unaudited)	Mar. 31, '11	Mar. 31, '10
Net income (loss) attributed to PEI	$ 18	$ (10,896)
Adjustments: Interest expense*	1,534	1,592
Interest income*	–	–
Fair value adjustments on convertible notes and warrants	(926)	–
Depreciation and amortization expense*	824	2,860
Total adjustments	1,432	4,452
Adjusted EBITDA	$ 1,450	$ (6,444)

*** Adjusted for non-controlling interest in variable interest entities.**