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Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

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## **California State Board of Food and Agriculture Holds Forum on Opportunity for Ethanol and Other Biofuels. PEI Commends Board Activity.**

**FRESNO, Calif., July 28 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (Nasdaq: PEIX - News)** The California State Board of Food and Agriculture held an educational forum on the opportunity in California for ethanol and other biofuels yesterday. Bill Jones, Chairman of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (PEI) and Neil Koehler, CEO of PEI, were invited to speak at the forum. In addition to representatives of PEI, other invited guest speakers at the forum included former California State Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley, former California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Winston Hickox, and Environmental Entrepreneurs Co-Founder Bob Epstein.

Mr. Jones commended the State Board for its activity. "I would like to thank the California State Board of Food and Agriculture for recognizing the importance, urgency and opportunity for biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel here in California. We believe that California is positioned to be a world leader in biofuel production. In fact, today California leads the nation in ethanol use. With continued focus and support, we believe that California can lead the nation in biofuel production and reap the economic development and job rewards that other states have experienced as they have expanded biofuel production."

"Ethanol makes sense for California. Ethanol adds critical fuel volume at prices below that of gasoline. Also, importantly, the use of ethanol is a highly cost-effective method to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. The California Energy Commission has estimated that there is enough feedstock in California to produce over 3 billion gallons of ethanol per year. PEI is helping to build a robust biofuel industry to help satisfy the State's exhaustive energy needs."

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## About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Pacific Ethanol's mission is to produce and distribute renewable fuels to people around the world. Established in 2003, Pacific Ethanol, Inc. is planning to construct a large-scale ethanol production facility in Madera, California. Kinergy Marketing, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, is the largest West Coast-based marketer of renewable fuels. Once the Company has successfully constructed its ethanol production facility, it plans to identify and develop new renewable fuels and technologies such as cellulose-based ethanol production.

## **Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995**

With the exception of historical information, the matters discussed in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The actual future results of Pacific Ethanol could differ from those statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, the ability of Pacific Ethanol to obtain all necessary funding to complete construction of the planned ethanol production facility at its Madera County, California site and, assuming all such funding is obtained, the ability of Pacific Ethanol to successfully complete construction of the plant; the ability of Pacific Ethanol to successfully capitalize on its internal growth initiatives; the price of ethanol relative to the price of gasoline; the U.S. Senate's failure to adopt a version of the proposed national energy bill that results in an increase in demand for ethanol in the United States; and those factors contained in the "Risk Factors" section of Pacific Ethanol's Form 10-QSB for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2005.



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