



Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

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PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC. EXTENDS AND AMENDS MARKETING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Sacramento, CA, July 6, 2011 – Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEIXD), the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States, announced it has amended its marketing and asset management agreements for the four ethanol production facilities the company operates and whose ethanol the company markets. Pacific Ethanol is a 20% owner of New PE Holdco LLC, the holding company of the four plant owners. The amendments renew the agreements for an additional year and implement other changes to reflect current market conditions. The amended agreements are effective June 30, 2011.

Neil Koehler, PEI's president and CEO, stated, "Extending the marketing and asset management agreements is another positive step for Pacific Ethanol and reflects our continued strong working relationship with our lenders and fellow owners. These agreements further solidify our position as the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States. Our unique system of operations, supply, distribution and service in our western markets allows us to deliver premium value to ethanol plant owners and to our customers."

Additional terms and details of the amendments are more particularly described in a Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission today.

About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEIXD) is the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States. Pacific Ethanol also sells co-products, including wet distillers grain (WDG), a nutritional animal feed. Serving integrated oil companies and



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gasoline marketers who blend ethanol into gasoline, Pacific Ethanol provides transportation, storage and delivery of ethanol through third-party service providers in the Western United States, primarily in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. Pacific Ethanol has a 20% ownership interest in New PE Holdco LLC, the owner of four ethanol production facilities. Pacific Ethanol operates and manages the four ethanol production facilities, which have a combined annual production capacity of 200 million gallons. The facilities in operation are located in Boardman, Oregon, Burley, Idaho and Stockton, California, and one idled facility is located in Madera, California. The facilities are near their respective fuel and feed customers, offering significant timing, transportation cost and logistical advantages. Pacific Ethanol's subsidiary, Kinergy Marketing LLC, markets ethanol from Pacific Ethanol's managed plants and from other third-party production facilities, and another subsidiary, Pacific Ag. Products, LLC, markets WDG. For more information please visit www.pacificethanol.net.

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 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; and Pacific Ethanol's ability to deliver premium value to ethanol plant owners and to its customers 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 and in its most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 13, 2011.

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