

February 26, 2014

Pacific Ethanol to Restart Madera, California Plant

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Feb. 26, 2014 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --**Pacific Ethanol, Inc.** (Nasdaq:PEIX), the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States, announced plans to restart production at its 40 million gallon per year facility in Madera, California, which would bring the company's total operating production capacity to 200 million gallons per year. The company expects to begin ethanol production at Madera during the second quarter of 2014.

Neil Koehler, the company's president and CEO, stated: "We are excited to achieve this important milestone for the company. With all of our plants in production we can further benefit from strong industry fundamentals and help meet the growing demand for low-carbon fuels in California. We are pleased to be providing new jobs and economic development in the Central Valley of California."

About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (Nasdaq:PEIX) 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 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, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. Pacific Ethanol has a 91% 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; the ability of Pacific Ethanol to timely restart production at its Madera, California plant, which will require, among other things, permit renewals, significant capital and successful testing and start-up activities; and the effects of restarting production at Pacific Ethanol's Madera, California plant 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.

Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, adverse economic and market conditions, including for ethanol and its co-products, and in particular, low-carbon rated ethanol; raw material costs; changes in governmental regulations and policies; and other events, factors and risks previously and from time to time disclosed in Pacific Ethanol's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including, specifically, those factors set forth in the "Risk Factors" section contained in Pacific Ethanol's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 1, 2013.

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