

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2013-01-23** | Period of Report: **2013-01-18**
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REPORTING OWNER

WONG IRWIN

CIK: **1185635**

Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **000-18630** | Film No.: **13542104**

ISSUER

CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

CIK: **861842** | IRS No.: **954274680** | State of Incorporation: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
SIC: **6022** State commercial banks

Mailing Address
777 NORTH BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES CA 90012

Business Address
777 N BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES CA 90012
2136254700

FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person WONG IRWIN			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) EVP - Branch Administration	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/18/2013			
777 NORTH BROADWAY			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(Street)						
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012						
(City)	(State)	(Zip)				

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	01/18/2013		A		161 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$ 0	3,666	D	
Common Stock								10,509.66 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock								16,726	I	By ESOP

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 of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
Stock Option	\$24.8							11/20/2004 ⁽³⁾	11/20/2013	Common Stock	143,040	143,040	D	
Stock Option	\$37							02/17/2006 ⁽³⁾	02/17/2015	Common Stock	32,580	175,620	D	
Stock Option	\$36.24							01/25/2007 ⁽³⁾	01/25/2016	Common Stock	31,000	206,620	D	

Stock Option	\$23.37						02/21/2009 ⁽⁴⁾	02/21/2018	Common Stock	20,000		226,620	D	
Restricted Stock Units	(5)						(6)	(6)	Common Stock	3,840		230,460	D	
Restricted Stock Units	(5)						(7)	(7)	Common Stock	4,774		235,234	D	
Restricted Stock Units	(5)						(8)	(8)	Common Stock	3,810		239,044	D	
Restricted Stock Units	(5)						(9)	(9)	Common Stock	6,001		245,045	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Shares of Cathay General Banorp (the "Company") common stock acquired under the Company's 2005 Incentive Plan. As a condition to receiving these shares, the reporting person agreed to hold and not transfer, for the entire period during which the Company has any obligations outstanding under the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program (disregarding any warrants to purchase common stock of the Company that the U.S. Treasury may hold) (the "Restriction Period"), all of the shares received. These transfer restrictions will terminate upon the earlier of the end of the Restriction Period or the date of the reporting person's death or permanent disability.
- Includes 13.205 shares acquired through dividend reinvestment year-to-date.
- The option is fully exercisable.
- The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.
- Consists of long term restricted stock units within the meaning of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, as amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder ("EESA"). Each unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of CATY Common Stock.
- These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on March 23, 2013, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on December 15, 2013, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on May 8, 2014, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on December 20, 2014, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.

Signatures

Monica Chen, attorney-in-fact

** Signature of Reporting Person

01/23/2013

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.