CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP

Form 4 May 20, 2008

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31,

2005

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may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

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(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading **CHUNG NELSON** Issuer Symbol CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP (Check all applicable) [CATY] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 777 NORTH BROADWAY 05/16/2008 (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 5. Amount of 7. Nature of 1.Title of 3. 4. Securities Acquired 6. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Form: Direct Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned (D) or Ownership Following Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) Reported (Instr. 4) (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code Amount (D) Price Defined Common 05/16/2008 P 10,000 A 10,000 I Benefit Stock Plan

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	ve Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8 I S (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option	\$ 36.24					01/25/2007(1)	01/25/2016	Common Stock	3,500	
Stock Option	\$ 23.37					02/21/2009(2)	02/21/2018	Common Stock	3,500	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
1 6	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
CHUNG NELSON 777 NORTH BROADWAY	X					
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012						

Signatures

Nelson Chung 05/20/2008

**Signature of Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.
- (2) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Reporting Owners 2