

Tai Pin
Form 3
May 21, 2013

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *</p> <p>Â Tai Pin</p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p>CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP,Â 9650 FLAIR DRIVE</p> <p>(Street)</p> <p>EL MONTE,Â CAÂ 91731</p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p> | <p>2. Date of Event Requiring Statement</p> <p>(Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>05/16/2013</p> | <p>3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p>CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]</p> | <p>4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</p> <p>(Check all applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) EVP, Deputy CLO, Cathay Bank</p> | <p>5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)</p> | <p>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p> |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Common Stock | 1,664 | D | Â |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|---|---|--|---|---|--|

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Stock Option | 11/20/2004 ⁽¹⁾ | 11/20/2013 | Common Stock | 16,180 | \$ 24.8 | D | Â |
| Stock Option | 02/19/2005 ⁽¹⁾ | 02/19/2014 | Common Stock | 8,000 | \$ 28.695 | D | Â |
| Stock Option | 02/17/2006 ⁽¹⁾ | 02/17/2015 | Common Stock | 14,710 | \$ 37 | D | Â |
| Stock Option | 01/19/2007 ⁽¹⁾ | 01/19/2016 | Common Stock | 13,750 | \$ 36.9 | D | Â |
| Stock Option | 02/21/2009 ⁽¹⁾ | 02/21/2018 | Common Stock | 25,000 | \$ 23.37 | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | Â ⁽²⁾ | Â ⁽²⁾ | Common Stock | 4,938 | \$ ⁽³⁾ | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | Â ⁽⁴⁾ | Â ⁽⁴⁾ | Common Stock | 3,084 | \$ ⁽³⁾ | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | Â ⁽⁵⁾ | Â ⁽⁵⁾ | Common Stock | 3,981 | \$ ⁽³⁾ | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | Â ⁽⁶⁾ | Â ⁽⁶⁾ | Common Stock | 3,973 | \$ ⁽³⁾ | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Tai Pin CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP 9650 FLAIR DRIVE EL MONTE, CA 91731 | Â | Â | Â EVP, Deputy CLO, Cathay Bank | Â |

Signatures

Monica Chen,
attorney-in-fact

05/21/2013

 Signature of Reporting Person

 Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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 is fully exercisable.
- (2) 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.
- (3)

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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.

- (4) 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.
- (5) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on March 14, 2015, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.
- (6) These restricted stock units are scheduled to vest in a single installment on April 15, 2015, or earlier in the event of death or disability, and are subject to certain transfer restrictions under EESA.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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