

JAMES HAMILTON E  
Form 4  
January 19, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
JAMES HAMILTON E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP /NEW [COST]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
C/O BLACKSTONE GROUP, 345 PARK AVENUE

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/18/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Street)  
NEW YORK, NY 10154

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |  |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code V  | Amount  |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 01/18/2012                           |  | M                              | 12,000 A  | \$ 39.65  | 47,120   | D  |
| Common Stock                    | 01/18/2012                           |  | S                              | 12,000 D  | Ⓣ   | 35,120   | D  |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |        |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title  | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 39.65   | 01/18/2012                           |  | M                              | 12,000  | 04/01/2002 04/01/2012                                    | Common Stock  | 12,000 |                            |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| JAMES HAMILTON E<br>C/O BLACKSTONE GROUP<br>345 PARK AVENUE<br>NEW YORK, NY 10154 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Deanna K. Nakashima,  
attorney-in-fact

01/19/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting 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) Shares sold as follows: 10,688 @ 81.3900 412 @ 81.4000 900 @ 81.4100

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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