

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2004 or

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-14431

American States Water Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

95-4676679

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

630 East Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas, California

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

91773-1207

(Zip Code)

(909) 394-3600

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Not Applicable

(Former Name, Former Address and Former Fiscal Year, if Changed Since Last Report)

Commission file number 001-12008

Southern California Water Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

95-1243678

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

630 East Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas, California

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

91773-1207

(Zip Code)

(909) 394-3600

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Not Applicable

(Former Name, Former Address and Former Fiscal Year, if Changed Since Last Report)

Indicate by check mark whether Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

American States Water Company
Southern California Water Company

Yes No
Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

American States Water Company
Southern California Water Company

Yes No
Yes No

As of November 9, 2004, the number of Common Shares outstanding of American States Water Company was 16,689,482 shares.

As of November 9, 2004, all of the 122 outstanding Common Shares of Southern California Water Company were owned by American States Water Company.

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
and
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY
FORM 10-Q**

INDEX

	Page
Part I	
Financial Information	
Item 1: Financial Statements	2
Consolidated Balance Sheets of American States Water Company as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003	3-4
Consolidated Statements of Income of American States Water Company for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	5
Consolidated Statements of Income of American States Water Company for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	6
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow of American States Water Company for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	7
Consolidated Balance Sheets of Southern California Water Company as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003	8-9
Consolidated Statements of Income of Southern California Water Company for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	10
Consolidated Statements of Income of Southern California Water Company for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	11
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flow of Southern California Water Company for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003	12
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	13-28
Item 2: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	29-63
Item 3: Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risks	64
Item 4: Controls and Procedures	64
Part II	
Other Information	
Item 1: Legal Proceedings	65-67
Item 2: Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	68
Item 3: Defaults Upon Senior Securities	68
Item 4: Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	68
Item 5: Other Information	68
Item 6: Exhibits	69
Signature	70
Exhibit 10.26	
EXHIBIT 27	
Exhibit 28	
Exhibit 31.1	
Exhibit 31.2	
Exhibit 32.1	
Exhibit 32.2	

PART I

Item 1. Financial Statements

General

The basic financial statements included herein have been prepared by Registrant, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements, prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although Registrant believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of results for the interim period have been made.

It is suggested that these financial statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto in the latest Annual Report on Form 10-K of American States Water Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Southern California Water Company.

Filing Format

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q is a combined report being filed by two separate Registrants: American States Water Company (hereinafter “AWR”) and Southern California Water Company (hereinafter “SCW”). For more information, please see Note 1 to the *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements* and the heading entitled *General* in *Item 2 — Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*. References in this report to “Registrant” are to AWR and SCW collectively, unless otherwise specified. SCW makes no representations as to the information contained in this report relating to AWR and its subsidiaries, other than SCW.

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	September 30, 2004	December 31, 2003
Utility Plant, at cost		
Water	\$ 760,190	\$ 726,811
Electric	44,466	42,711
	804,656	769,522
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(238,803)	(222,567)
	565,853	546,955
Construction work in progress	77,634	55,343
Net utility plant	643,487	602,298
Other Property and Investments		
Goodwill	12,276	12,276
Other property and investments	9,845	9,844
Total other property and investments	22,121	22,120
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,602	12,775
Accounts receivable-customers (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$849 in 2004 and \$831 in 2003)	14,506	11,758
Unbilled revenue	16,475	12,714
Other accounts receivable	2,042	10,649
Materials and supplies, at average cost	1,485	1,346
Regulatory assets - current	4,278	5,331
Deferred income taxes - current	344	—
Prepayments	1,777	3,786
Total current assets	47,509	58,359
Regulatory and Other Assets		
Regulatory assets	57,204	57,704
Other accounts receivable	8,300	8,000
Other	8,260	8,994
Total regulatory and other assets	73,764	74,698
Total Assets	\$ 786,881	\$ 757,475

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	September 30, 2004	December 31, 2003
Capitalization		
Common shares, no par value, no stated value	\$163,749	\$127,699
Earnings reinvested in the business	90,554	84,788
Total common shareholders' equity	254,303	212,487
Long-term debt	229,258	229,799
Total capitalization	483,561	442,286
Current Liabilities		
Notes payable to banks	28,000	56,000
Long-term debt - current	820	820
Accounts payable	18,965	18,774
Taxes payable	9,208	2,784
Accrued employee expenses	4,320	3,925
Accrued interest	5,023	1,681
Deferred income taxes - current	198	1,217
Other	8,083	10,697
Total current liabilities	74,617	95,898
Other Credits		
Advances for construction	79,956	77,154
Contributions in aid of construction - net	68,404	64,297
Deferred income taxes	54,332	53,243
Unamortized investment tax credits	2,632	2,700
Accrued pension and other postretirement benefits	3,881	4,584
Regulatory liabilities	11,540	9,642
Other	7,958	7,671
Total other credits	228,703	219,291
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 8)	—	—
Total Capitalization and Liabilities	\$786,881	\$757,475

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Operating Revenues		
Water	\$62,455	\$57,574
Electric	6,208	5,906
Other	298	245
Total operating revenues	68,961	63,725
Operating Expenses		
Water purchased	15,339	13,740
Power purchased for pumping	2,971	3,330
Power purchased for resale	3,107	3,382
Unrealized loss on purchased power contracts	224	420
Groundwater production assessment	2,120	2,089
Supply cost balancing accounts	1,016	650
Other operating expenses	4,818	4,805
Administrative and general expenses	10,591	10,058
Depreciation and amortization	5,589	4,944
Maintenance	2,593	2,181
Taxes on income	5,692	3,915
Other taxes	2,235	2,032
Total operating expenses	56,295	51,546
Operating Income	12,666	12,179
Other Income (Loss)		
Other income (loss), net	(160)	127
Taxes on other income	76	1
Total other income (loss), net	(84)	128
Interest Charges		
Interest on long-term debt	4,047	4,229
Other interest and amortization of debt expense	517	282
Total interest charges	4,564	4,511
Net Income	8,018	7,796
Weighted Average Number of Shares Outstanding	15,318	15,202
Basic Earnings Per Common Share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51
Weighted Average Number of Diluted Shares	15,338	15,244
Fully Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51
Dividends Declared Per Common Share	\$ 0.221	\$ 0.221

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Operating Revenues		
Water	\$154,773	\$143,206
Electric	19,284	18,263
Other	899	749
Total operating revenues	174,956	162,218
Operating Expenses		
Water purchased	37,022	32,098
Power purchased for pumping	7,103	7,696
Power purchased for resale	10,474	10,052
Unrealized gain on purchased power contracts	(257)	(854)
Gain on sale of water rights	(5,675)	—
Groundwater production assessment	5,280	5,485
Supply cost balancing accounts	4,835	2,109
Other operating expenses	14,538	13,931
Administrative and general expenses	31,166	29,472
Depreciation and amortization	15,840	14,836
Maintenance	7,529	6,430
Taxes on income	11,720	7,700
Other taxes	6,566	6,110
Total operating expenses	146,141	135,065
Operating Income	28,815	27,153
Other Income (Loss)		
Other income, net	509	264
Taxes on other income	(138)	(105)
Total other income, net	371	159
Interest Charges		
Interest on long-term debt	12,149	12,704
Other interest and amortization of debt expense	1,163	911
Total interest charges	13,312	13,615
Net Income	\$ 15,874	\$ 13,697
Weighted Average Number of Shares Outstanding	15,264	15,198
Basic Earnings Per Common Share	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.90
Weighted Average Number of Diluted Shares	15,288	15,230
Fully Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.90
Dividends Declared Per Common Share	\$ 0.663	\$ 0.663

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$ 15,874	\$ 13,697
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortization	15,840	14,836
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits	608	5,385
Unrealized gain on purchased power contracts	(257)	(854)
Impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base	482	—
Non-cash compensation expense on stock units issued	794	—
Other - net	1,175	1,282
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable - customers	(2,748)	(2,360)
Unbilled revenue	(3,761)	(3,182)
Other accounts receivable	8,307	679
Materials and supplies	(139)	765
Prepayments	2,009	176
Regulatory assets - supply cost balancing accounts	4,835	2,109
Other assets	(789)	(3,593)
Accounts payable	191	(86)
Taxes payable	6,424	2,631
Other liabilities	(794)	1,868
Net cash provided	48,051	33,353
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Construction expenditures	(57,531)	(33,904)
Net cash used	(57,531)	(33,904)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of common shares, net of issuance costs	35,256	505
Receipt of advances for and contributions in aid of construction	8,308	7,687
Refunds on advances for construction	(2,947)	(3,165)
Cash received on financing portion of purchased power contracts	1,339	1,539
Repayment of long-term debt	(541)	(968)
Net change in notes payable to banks	(28,000)	(2,000)
Dividends paid	(10,108)	(10,076)
Net cash provided (used)	3,307	(6,478)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(6,173)	(7,029)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	12,775	18,397
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 6,602	\$ 11,368
Non-cash activities - supplemental disclosures:		
Adoption of new accounting standard for asset retirement obligations:		
Cumulative effect of adoption - Regulatory asset	—	\$ 2,495
Utility plant, net	—	223
Asset retirement obligations	—	(2,718)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY
BALANCE SHEETS
ASSETS
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	September 30, 2004	December 31, 2003
Utility Plant, at cost		
Water	\$ 718,129	\$ 688,079
Electric	44,466	42,711
	<u>762,595</u>	<u>730,790</u>
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(226,996)	(211,424)
	<u>535,599</u>	<u>519,366</u>
Construction work in progress	73,951	51,354
Net utility plant	<u>609,550</u>	<u>570,720</u>
Other Property and Investments	<u>7,469</u>	<u>7,471</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,528	8,306
Accounts receivable-customers (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$798 in 2004 and \$797 in 2003)	14,240	11,487
Unbilled revenue	16,179	12,484
Intercompany receivable	858	445
Other accounts receivable	1,875	10,516
Materials and supplies, at average cost	1,460	1,322
Regulatory assets - current	4,278	5,331
Deferred income taxes - current	471	—
Prepayments	1,634	3,638
Total current assets	<u>43,523</u>	<u>53,529</u>
Regulatory and Other Assets		
Regulatory assets	57,053	57,624
Other accounts receivable	8,300	8,000
Other	7,604	8,219
Total regulatory and other assets	<u>72,957</u>	<u>73,843</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 733,499</u>	<u>\$ 705,563</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY
BALANCE SHEETS
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	September 30, 2004	December 31, 2003
Capitalization		
Common shares, no par value	\$152,185	\$123,391
Earnings reinvested in the business	88,761	82,656
Total common shareholder's equity	240,946	206,047
Long-term debt	221,770	221,996
Total capitalization	462,716	428,043
Current Liabilities		
Long-term debt - current	260	260
Accounts payable	17,846	17,312
Intercompany payable	9,666	34,111
Taxes payable	12,837	4,382
Accrued employee expenses	4,253	3,828
Accrued interest	4,857	1,581
Deferred income taxes - current	198	1,057
Other	7,672	10,376
Total current liabilities	57,589	72,907
Other Credits		
Advances for construction	69,313	66,827
Contributions in aid of construction	68,078	64,023
Deferred income taxes	51,028	50,277
Unamortized investment tax credits	2,632	2,700
Accrued pension and other postretirement benefits	3,881	4,584
Regulatory liabilities	11,540	9,642
Other credits	6,722	6,560
Total other credits	213,194	204,613
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 8)		
	—	—
Total Capitalization and Liabilities	\$733,499	\$705,563

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

STATEMENTS OF INCOME
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Operating Revenues		
Water	\$60,506	\$55,777
Electric	6,208	5,906
Total operating revenues	66,714	61,683
Operating Expenses		
Water purchased	15,150	13,572
Power purchased for pumping	2,806	3,168
Power purchased for resale	3,107	3,383
Unrealized loss on purchased power contracts	224	420
Groundwater production assessment	2,120	2,089
Supply cost balancing accounts	1,016	650
Other operating expenses	4,467	4,441
Administrative and general expenses	8,712	8,602
Depreciation and amortization	5,346	4,709
Maintenance	2,472	2,101
Taxes on income	6,145	4,153
Other taxes	2,138	1,979
Total operating expenses	53,703	49,267
Operating Income	13,011	12,416
Other Income (Loss)		
Other income (loss), net	(161)	113
Taxes on other income	84	—
Total other income (loss), net	(77)	113
Interest Charges		
Interest on long-term debt	3,946	4,114
Other interest and amortization of debt expense	371	159
Total interest charges	4,317	4,273
Net Income	<u>\$ 8,617</u>	<u>\$ 8,256</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

STATEMENTS OF INCOME
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Operating Revenues		
Water	\$149,864	\$138,636
Electric	19,284	18,263
Total operating revenues	169,148	156,899
Operating Expenses		
Water purchased	36,479	31,566
Power purchased for pumping	6,741	7,339
Power purchased for resale	10,474	10,052
Unrealized gain on purchased power contracts	(257)	(854)
Gain on sale of water rights	(5,675)	—
Groundwater production assessment	5,280	5,485
Supply cost balancing accounts	4,835	2,109
Other operating expenses	13,474	12,959
Administrative and general expenses	25,866	25,609
Depreciation and amortization	15,118	14,140
Maintenance	7,100	6,203
Taxes on income	13,505	8,601
Other taxes	6,278	5,845
Total operating expenses	139,218	129,054
Operating Income	29,930	27,845
Other Income (Loss)		
Other income, net	503	240
Taxes on other income	(137)	(109)
Total other income, net	366	131
Interest Charges		
Interest on long-term debt	11,820	12,361
Other interest and amortization of debt expense	821	474
Total interest charges	12,641	12,835
Net Income	<u>\$ 17,655</u>	<u>\$ 15,141</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2003
(Unaudited)

(in thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$ 17,655	\$ 15,141
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortization	15,118	14,140
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits	303	4,833
Unrealized gain on purchased power contracts	(257)	(854)
Impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base	482	—
Non-cash compensation expense on stock units issued	794	—
Other - net	1,072	1,056
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable - customers	(2,753)	(2,294)
Unbilled revenue	(3,695)	(3,110)
Other accounts receivable	8,341	626
Materials and supplies	(138)	(590)
Prepayments	2,004	90
Regulatory assets - supply cost balancing accounts	4,835	2,109
Other assets	(741)	(2,219)
Accounts payable	534	309
Intercompany	(358)	596
Taxes payable	8,455	3,677
Other liabilities	(1,045)	1,647
Net cash provided	<u>50,606</u>	<u>35,157</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Construction expenditures	(54,793)	(31,974)
Net cash used	<u>(54,793)</u>	<u>(31,974)</u>
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of common shares	28,000	—
Receipt of advances for and contributions in aid of construction	7,922	7,576
Refunds on advances for construction	(2,576)	(2,811)
Cash received on financing portion of purchased power contracts	1,339	1,539
Repayment of long-term debt	(226)	(679)
Net change in intercompany borrowings	(24,500)	(2,000)
Dividends paid	(11,550)	(11,550)
Net cash used	<u>(1,591)</u>	<u>(7,925)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(5,778)	(4,742)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	8,306	11,677
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 2,528	\$ 6,935
Non-cash activities - supplemental disclosures:		
Adoption of new accounting standard for asset retirement obligations:		
Cumulative effect of adoption - Regulatory asset	—	\$ 2,479
Utility plant, net	—	221
Asset retirement obligations	—	(2,700)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
AND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)**

General:

American States Water Company (“AWR”), incorporated in 1998, is the parent company of Southern California Water Company (“SCW”), American States Utility Services, Inc. (“ASUS”) and Chaparral City Water Company (“CCWC”). More than 90% of AWR’s assets consist of the common stock of SCW. SCW, a California corporation formed in 1929, is a public utility company engaged principally in the purchase, production and distribution of water in California. In addition, SCW distributes and sells electric energy in several mountain communities in California. Unless otherwise stated in this report, the term Registrant applies to both AWR and SCW, collectively.

Note 1 - Basis of Presentation: The consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by Registrant, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for annual financial statements have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring items and estimates necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods, have been made. It is suggested that these consolidated financial statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 filed with the SEC. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year presentation.

[Table of Contents](#)

Note 2 - Regulatory Matters: In accordance with accounting principles for rate-regulated enterprises, Registrant records regulatory assets, which represent probable future revenue associated with certain costs that will be recovered from customers through the rate-making process, and regulatory liabilities, which represent probable future reductions in revenue associated with amounts that are to be credited to customers through the rate-making process. Regulatory assets, less regulatory liabilities, included in the consolidated balance sheets are as follows:

(In thousands)	September 30, 2004	December 31, 2003
SCW		
Supply cost balancing accounts	\$23,332	\$24,432
Costs deferred for future recovery on Aerojet case	15,703	16,177
Flow-through taxes, net	9,740	10,690
Transmission line abandonment costs	3,582	5,000
Asset retirement obligations	2,916	2,729
Low income balancing accounts	2,002	1,452
General rate case memorandum accounts	2,168	—
Refund of water right lease revenues	(5,760)	(6,177)
Revenues subject to refund	(3,487)	(3,465)
Supply cost memorandum accounts net over-collections	(2,293)	—
Other regulatory assets	1,888	2,475
Total SCW	<u>\$49,791</u>	<u>\$53,313</u>
CCWC		
Asset retirement obligations	\$ 47	\$ 40
Other regulatory assets	104	40
Total AWR	<u>\$49,942</u>	<u>\$53,393</u>

Supply Cost Accounts:

As permitted by the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”), SCW maintains electric supply balancing accounts and, prior to November 29, 2001, maintained water supply balancing accounts to account for under-collections and over-collections of revenues designed to recover such costs. Costs are recorded as expenses and charged to balancing accounts when such costs are incurred. The balancing accounts are reversed when such costs are recovered through rate adjustments or through refunds of previously incurred costs. SCW accrues interest on its supply cost balancing accounts at the prevailing rate for 90-day commercial paper. CCWC does not maintain a supply cost balancing account.

Water Memorandum Supply Cost Account – On November 29, 2001, the CPUC ordered water utilities with existing water supply balancing accounts to cease booking amounts to such accounts. In its place, water utilities are now required to establish a memorandum supply cost account. The over- or under-collection of water supply costs is recorded in this memorandum account in a manner similar to the balancing account. In a decision issued on June 19, 2003 related to the memorandum supply cost account, the CPUC concluded that: (i) if a utility is within its 3-year rate case cycle and does not earn in excess of its authorized rate of return, the utility is entitled to recover its costs in the memorandum supply cost account, subject to a reasonableness review by the CPUC; (ii) if a utility is either within or outside of its rate case cycle and earns in excess of its authorized rate-of-return, the utility’s recovery of expenses from the memorandum supply cost account will be reduced by the amount exceeding the authorized rate-of-return, and (iii) a utility is required to seek review of under and over collections by filing an advice letter annually.

Note 2 - Regulatory Matters (Continued):

On April 30, 2004, SCW filed advice letters for Regions I and II for the period from November 29, 2001 to December 31, 2003 with respect to an approximate \$1.4 million net over-collection, which has been recorded as a regulatory liability. An additional \$900,000 of net over-collection related to the nine months ended September 30, 2004 has also been recorded as a regulatory liability at September 30, 2004. SCW recently filed an advice letter with the CPUC for review of the activity in the Region III memorandum supply cost account for the period from November 29, 2001 to December 31, 2003. Region III had an under-collection balance of \$6.1 million and \$5.2 million at September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, which are subject to earnings tests. A regulatory asset with respect to this under-collection will not be recorded until receipt of a CPUC decision authorizing the recovery of the under-collection.

Electric Balancing Account – Electric power costs incurred by SCW’s Bear Valley Electric division continue to be charged to its electric supply cost balancing account. The under-collection in the electric balancing account is \$22.5 million at September 30, 2004. The CPUC has authorized SCW to collect a surcharge from its customers of 2.2¢ per kilowatt hour through August 2011, to enable SCW to recover the under-collection. SCW sold 32,084,995 and 30,069,062 kilowatt hours of electricity to its Bear Valley Electric division customers for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively, and 102,040,970 and 98,041,344 kilowatt hours for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. SCW anticipates electricity sales to be sufficient for it to recover the amount of the under-collection by August 2011. SCW is allowed to include only up to a weighted annual energy purchase cost of \$77 per MWh each year through August 2011 in its electric supply cost balancing account. To the extent that the actual weighted average annual cost for power purchased exceeds the \$77 per MWh amount, SCW will not be able to include these amounts in its balancing account and such amounts will be expensed. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, SCW has expensed approximately \$65,000 and \$290,000, respectively, for costs over \$77 per MWh.

During April 2001, SCW recorded a one-time sale of energy on the spot market that generated a \$644,000 gain which was recorded in the electric supply cost balancing account at that time. The gain was the subject of a complaint filed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) by Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, Inc. (Mirant Marketing) where Mirant Marketing, the purchaser of the energy, was seeking to be refunded all or a portion of the gain. In March 2004, the FERC ordered SCW to refund the \$644,000, plus interest, to Mirant Marketing. This refund increased the cost of power purchased for resale during the nine months ended September 30, 2004, with a corresponding decrease in the provision for supply cost balancing account. There was no net impact on earnings. The sale of excess energy on the spot market in 2001 resulted from a one-month overlap of energy purchase agreements. On November 1, 2004, the FERC issued another order, granting a request for clarification filed by the Western Systems Power Pool (“WSPP”) and supported by SCW in the complaint proceeding filed by Mirant in connection with the April 2001 sale. The order agrees with WSPP and SCW that the WSPP agreement allowed SCW to collect the WSPP agreement’s cost-based adder in addition to the SCW’s incremental cost of selling to Mirant. In the FERC’s original order, SCW was denied its request to charge the cost based adder. In the November 1, 2004 order, the FERC reversed this denial and stated that it denied SCW’s application of the adder to the Mirant sale premised solely on the view that the adder applied only in the case of owned resources. The result of this new order is to allow SCW to charge a \$21.11 per MWh adder on top of the \$95.00 per MWh. The amount of this adder results in a reduction in the amount refunded to Mirant in March 2004 by approximately \$253,000 inclusive of interest. SCW will apply any payments received by Mirant as a reduction to SCW’s unrecovered purchased power costs in its electric supply cost balancing account, with a corresponding decrease in the cost of power purchased for resale, thus resulting in no net impact on earnings.

Note 2 - Regulatory Matters (Continued):

Costs Deferred for Future Recovery on Aerojet Case:

SCW sued Aerojet-General Corporation (“Aerojet”) for causing the contamination of the Sacramento County Groundwater Basin, which affected certain SCW wells. On a related matter, SCW also filed a lawsuit against the State of California (the “State”). The CPUC authorized memorandum accounts to allow for recovery, from customers, of costs incurred by SCW in prosecuting the cases against Aerojet and the State, less any recovery from the defendants or others. As of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, approximately \$16 million had been recorded as a non-yielding regulatory asset representing primarily legal costs incurred to date in connection with prosecuting the cases. Management believes the recovery of these costs through rates is probable; however, it is management’s intention to offset any settlement proceeds from Aerojet that may occur from these actions against the balance in the memorandum accounts at the time of settlement. SCW expects to file for interim rate relief during the fourth quarter of 2004. This interim rate relief would provide for an increase in rates of approximately \$6 million over a 10 year period, subject to refund. Management cannot give assurance that the CPUC will ultimately allow recovery of all or any of these costs. See Note 8 for further discussion on the Aerojet matter.

Transmission Line Abandonment Costs:

The ability of SCW to deliver purchased power to customers in its Bear Valley Electric service area is limited by the ability of the transmission facilities owned by Southern California Edison Company (Edison) to transmit this power. SCW filed a lawsuit against Edison in 2000 for breach of contract as a result of delays in upgrading these transmission facilities as well as for other reasons. In March 2004, SCW and Edison agreed to settle this suit. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, SCW is to pay a \$5 million project abandonment fee to Edison. Edison then filed an application to the FERC for approval of the entire \$5 million settlement payment as abandoned project cost to be included in Edison’s wholesale rate charged to SCW. In addition, Edison is to sell the Goldhill substation and associated transmission line to SCW at its book value.

SCW made an initial lump sum payment of \$1.4 million to Edison during the first quarter of 2004. SCW has also agreed to pay Edison an additional \$3.6 million over a 15 year term through 180 equal monthly payments of \$38,137. In August 2004, the FERC approved Edison’s application and SCW recorded the \$1.4 million payment in the supply cost balancing account. This amount was previously recorded as a regulatory asset pending FERC approval of Edison’s application. In addition, monthly payments totaling \$76,274 made to Edison during the period are also included in the electric supply cost balancing account.

Revenues Subject to Refund:

In March 2002, SCW and the City of Santa Monica (“City”) reached a settlement agreement in which SCW sold its water rights in the Charnock Groundwater Basin (“Basin”) to the City and assigned to the City its rights against all potentially responsible parties (“PRPs”) who stored, transported and dispensed gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl ether (“MTBE”) in underground storage tanks, pipelines or other related infrastructure in the Basin. The City also indemnified SCW from related claims. The settlement agreement was subject to the CPUC’s approval.

Note 2 - Regulatory Matters (Continued):

On July 8, 2004, the CPUC approved the settlement agreement and directed SCW to: (i) track the net settlement proceeds in an interest-bearing memorandum account to fund capital for infrastructure improvements over the next eight years, (ii) maintain records of all memorandum account activity, (iii) obtain the CPUC's approval to include those capital costs in rate base as the improvements become necessary and useful, (iv) remove relevant assets from rate base, and (v) refund to ratepayers the net proceeds of \$3.5 million received from PRPs, which was recorded as a liability in December 2003 on the basis of a Proposed Decision by the CPUC. In May 2004, SCW received the full settlement payment of \$5.7 million from the City. The total proceeds of \$5.7 million from the sale and the assignment of rights were offset by an impairment loss of \$482,000 associated with assets removed from rate base, pursuant to the decision, resulting in a \$5.2 million net pre-tax increase in operating income. SCW recorded the impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base in "other operating expenses".

Refund of Water Right Lease Revenues:

In 1994, SCW entered into a contract to lease to the City of Folsom, 5,000 acre-feet per year of water rights to the American River. SCW included all associated revenues in a non-operating income account. In a decision issued on March 16, 2004, the CPUC determined that SCW failed to seek the CPUC's approval to effectuate the lease and was to pay a fine of \$180,000. The decision also ordered SCW to refund 70 percent of the total amount of lease revenues received since 1994, plus interest, to customers. Pursuant to the order, SCW recorded a \$6.2 million regulatory liability with a corresponding charge against non-operating income (net of taxes of \$2.5 million) during the fourth quarter of 2003. Management disagrees with the CPUC's decision and filed an appeal to the decision. The CPUC has denied the Company's request for an appeal. The Company has filed with the Supreme Court of California to hear the matter. As the final amount of the refund was approved by the CPUC in June of 2004, SCW adjusted its estimate of total customer refunds, recorded as a regulatory liability, to the approved amount of \$5.2 million. Pursuant to the order, the apportionment of any lease revenues that SCW may collect in the future will be determined by a later decision. Therefore, beginning in the first quarter of 2004, all amounts billed to the City of Folsom are included in a regulatory liability account and no amounts have been recognized as revenue for 2004 until all uncertainties about this matter are resolved with the CPUC. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, SCW recorded an additional \$286,000 and \$825,000, respectively, in the regulatory liability account.

General Rate Case Memorandum Accounts:

Due to delays in the CPUC's review and processing of the Region I and II General Rate Case applications, SCW was authorized to collect interim rates in early 2004, subject to refund. In decisions issued in August 2004, the CPUC authorized new rates that will be retroactive to January 1, 2004 for Region I and February 14, 2004 for Region II. SCW was authorized to file an advice letter to recover over a period of not less than one year, the difference between the interim rates authorized in January 2004 and February 2004, respectively, and the new rates authorized in the August 2004 decisions. As a result of these decisions, SCW has recorded approximately \$2.2 million as a regulatory asset with a corresponding increase to revenues during the third quarter of 2004. SCW will recover this regulatory asset through a surcharge over a period of no less than twelve months. The decision also changes the revenue requirement related to the adopted rates for the supply cost memorandum account and depreciation expense which were also retroactive to February 14, 2004 for Region II. The net impact of these changes did not have a material effect on Registrant's earnings.

Note 3 – Derivative Instruments: Registrant has certain block-forward purchase power contracts that are subject to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 133, “*Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*”, as amended by SFAS Nos. 138 and 149. A derivative financial instrument or other contract derives its value from another investment or designated benchmark. SFAS No. 133 requires companies to record derivatives on the balance sheet as assets and liabilities, and to measure those instruments at their fair value. Certain of these contracts qualify as an exception provided under SFAS No. 133 for activities that are considered normal purchases and normal sales. These contracts are reflected in the statements of income at the time of contract settlement.

During 2002, SCW became a party to block-forward purchase power contracts that qualified as derivative instruments under SFAS No. 133. Contracts with Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (PWCC) which became effective in November 2002 have not been designated as normal purchases and normal sales and, as a result, have been recognized at fair market value on the balance sheets as of September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003. This resulted in a pre-tax unrealized loss of \$224,000 and \$420,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively, and a pre-tax unrealized gain of \$257,000 and \$854,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. On a monthly basis, the related asset or liability is adjusted to reflect the fair market value at the end of the month. As this contract is settled, the realized gains or losses are recorded in power purchased for resale, and the unrealized gains or losses are reversed. The market prices used to determine the fair value for this derivative instrument were estimated based on independent sources such as broker quotes and publications. Settlement of this contract occurs on a cash or net basis through 2006 and by physical delivery through 2008.

Except as discussed above, Registrant has no other derivative financial instruments.

Note 4 – Earnings Per Share / Capital Stock: Basic earnings per common share are calculated pursuant to SFAS No. 128, *Earnings per Share*, and are based on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each period and net income. Diluted earnings per common share are based upon the weighted average number of common shares including both shares outstanding and potentially issued in connection with stock options and stock units granted under Registrant’s 2000 Stock Incentive Plan and the 2003 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan, and net income. At September 30, 2004 and 2003, there were 498,320 and 333,679 options outstanding, respectively, under these Plans. At September 30, 2004, there were also approximately 32,000 stock units outstanding pursuant to the 2003 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan. Outstanding stock options and stock unit awards issued by the Registrant represent the only dilutive effect reflected in diluted weighted average shares outstanding. The difference between basic and diluted EPS is the effect of stock options and stock units that, under the treasury share method, gives rise to common stock equivalents.

On September 22, 2004, AWR issued 1,400,000 shares in a registered public offering and received proceeds of \$33.6 million, net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$1.8 million. The proceeds recorded in common shares were reduced by direct issuance costs. Net proceeds from this sale were used to pay down short-term borrowings under AWR’s \$75 million syndicated credit facility. On October 12, 2004, the underwriters partially exercised an over-allotment option for an additional 50,000 shares. The Company received proceeds of \$1,212,500, which was net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$50,500, from the issuance of these shares.

In September 2004, the Board approved the issuance of 10 additional SCW common shares to AWR for \$28.0 million. SCW used the proceeds to pay down debt owed to AWR. In November 2004, the Board approved the issuance of 2 additional SCW common shares to AWR for \$7.1 million.

Note 4 - Earnings Per Share / Capital Stock (Continued):

Registrant also issued 20,725 common shares which totaled approximately \$494,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2004 under the Registrant's Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) and 401(k) Plan. There were no shares issued under these Plans during the three months ended September 30, 2003. In addition, there were 70,391 and 21,317 common shares issued under these Plans which totaled approximately \$1,699,000 and \$504,000, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003.

During the three months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, AWR paid quarterly dividends to shareholders, totaling approximately \$3.4 million or \$0.221 per share, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, AWR paid dividends to shareholders, totaling approximately \$10.1 million or \$0.663 per share, respectively.

Note 5 – Stock Incentive Plans: Registrant has the 2000 Stock Incentive Plan and applies Accounting Principles Board Opinion (APB) No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees", in accounting for its stock options. Accordingly, no compensation cost for the Plan has been recognized for options granted at fair value at the date of grant. Registrant has also adopted the disclosure only requirements of SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation".

On May 20, 2003, the Board of Directors adopted the 2003 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan (New Director's Plan), subject to shareholder approval. The shareholders approved the New Director's Plan at the May 2004 Annual Meeting. The New Director's Plan provides the non-employee directors with supplemental stock-based compensation, encourages them to increase their stock ownership in AWR, and terminates the previous Non-Employee Directors Plan ("Former Plan"). Registrant maintained the Former Plan which provided for an annual cash retirement benefit to non-employee directors upon their retirement from service on the Board. Under the New Director's Plan, participants in the Former Plan were given the opportunity to elect to receive stock units under the New Director's Plan in lieu of their benefits under the Former Plan. All of the directors elected to participate in the New Director's Plan. Directors will no longer be able to participate in the Former Plan which has ceased to exist.

Pursuant to the New Director's Plan, directors will be entitled to receive stock options and stock unit awards. As of September 30, 2004, approximately 12,000 stock options have been granted to the directors under the New Director's Plan. The stock options were granted at fair value at the date of grant; therefore no compensation cost has been recognized for these options. The stock units are a non-voting unit of measurement which is deemed for bookkeeping and payment purposes to represent outstanding shares of AWR common shares. As of September 30, 2004, the directors have been credited with approximately 32,000 stock units. Stock units will be paid only in shares of AWR common stock on the date that the participant terminates service as a director. Upon adoption of the New Director's Plan in May 2004, Registrant began recording the stock unit awards using variable plan accounting. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, Registrant has recorded compensation expense totaling \$16,000 and \$794,000, respectively, under the New Director's Plan with a corresponding amount to common shares in shareholders' equity.

Prior to the approval of the New Director's Plan, Registrant had approximately \$531,000 of benefits accrued under the Former Plan which was replaced by the New Director's Plan in May 2004. The initial net impact on earnings of replacing the Former Plan and recording the New Director's Plan was \$247,750.

[Table of Contents](#)

Note 5 – Stock Incentive Plans (Continued):

If Registrant had elected to adopt the optional recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 for its stock options and stock units under the 2000 Stock Incentive Plan and the New Director’s Plan, net income and earnings per share applicable to common shareholders would have been changed to the pro forma amounts indicated below:

(dollars in thousands, except EPS)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Earnings available to common stockholders:				
As reported	\$8,018	\$7,796	\$15,874	\$13,697
Add: Stock-based compensation expense included in reported net income, net of tax	10	—	471	—
Less: Stock-based compensation expense determined under the fair-value accounting method, net of tax	(98)	(88)	(726)	(265)
Pro forma	\$7,930	\$7,708	\$15,619	\$13,432
Basic earnings per share:				
As reported	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.90
Pro forma	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.88
Diluted earnings per share:				
As reported	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.90
Pro forma	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.51	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.88

Note 6 – Employee Benefit Plans: The components of net periodic benefit costs for Registrant’s pension plan, postretirement plan, and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003 are as follows:

(dollars in thousands)	For The Three Months Ended September 30,					
	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits		SERP	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Components of net periodic benefits cost:						
Service cost	\$ 724	\$ 545	\$ 97	\$ 87	\$ 32	\$10
Interest cost	936	800	146	139	31	11
Expected return on Plan assets	(834)	(679)	(63)	(52)	—	—
Amortization of transition obligation	—	—	105	105	—	—
Amortization of prior service cost	41	13	(50)	(50)	37	12
Amortization of actuarial loss	129	70	32	20	—	—
Net periodic pension cost	\$ 996	\$ 749	\$267	\$249	\$100	\$33

Note 6 – Employee Benefit Plans (Continued):

(dollars in thousands)	For The Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits		SERP	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
Components of net periodic benefits cost:						
Service cost	\$ 2,172	\$ 1,635	\$ 291	\$ 261	\$ 96	\$ 30
Interest cost	2,808	2,400	438	417	93	33
Expected return on Plan assets	(2,502)	(2,037)	(189)	(156)	—	—
Amortization of transition of obligation	—	—	315	315	—	—
Amortization of prior service cost	123	39	(150)	(150)	111	36
Amortization of actuarial loss	387	210	96	60	—	—
Net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ 2,988</u>	<u>\$ 2,247</u>	<u>\$ 801</u>	<u>\$ 747</u>	<u>\$ 300</u>	<u>\$ 99</u>

Registrant contributed approximately \$3,315,000 and \$900,000 to the pension and postretirement medical plans in May 2004, respectively. No additional contributions are expected to be made during the remainder of 2004. Registrant’s postretirement medical plan does not provide prescription drug benefits to Medicare-eligible employees and is not affected by the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003.

Note 7 - New Accounting Pronouncements:

In January 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Interpretation (“FIN”) No. 46, “*Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities (VIE)*,” (revised in December 2003 by FIN No. 46R), which addresses how a business enterprise should evaluate whether it has a controlling financial interest in an entity through means other than voting rights and accordingly should consolidate the entity. FIN No. 46R, which was issued in December 2003, replaces FIN No. 46. The adoption of FIN No. 46R did not have any impact on the Registrant’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows as the Registrant does not have any variable interests in VIEs at this time.

In December 2003, the SEC issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104 (“SAB 104”), “*Revenue Recognition*.” SAB 104 supercedes SAB 101, “*Revenue Recognition in Financial Statements*.” SAB 104 rescinds accounting guidance contained in SAB 101 related to multiple element revenue arrangements, which was superseded as a result of the issuance of Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) Issue No. 00-21, “*Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables*.” Additionally, SAB 104 rescinds the SEC’s Revenue Recognition in Financial Statements Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (“the FAQ”) issued with SAB 101 that had been codified in SEC Topic 13, “*Revenue Recognition*”. Selected portions of the FAQ have been incorporated into SAB 104. While the wording of SAB 104 has changed to reflect the issuance of EITF 00-21, the revenue recognition principles of SAB 101 remain largely unchanged by the issuance of SAB 104. The adoption of SAB 104 did not have any impact on Registrant’s financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In December 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 132 (Revised), “*Employers’ Disclosures About Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits – An Amendment of FASB Statements Nos. 87, 88, and 106 and a revision of FASB Statement No. 132*”. This statement revises employers’ disclosures about pension plans and other postretirement benefits plans. It does not change the measurement or recognition of those plans. The new disclosures were generally effective for 2003 calendar year-end financial statements and for interim periods beginning first quarter of 2004. Registrant has included the new required disclosures in Note 6 above.

Note 7 - New Accounting Pronouncements (Continued):

On March 31, 2004, the FASB issued an Exposure Draft, *Share-Based Payment*, that addresses the accounting for share-based payment transactions in which an enterprise receives employee services in exchange for (a) equity instruments of the enterprise or (b) liabilities that are based on the fair value of the enterprise's equity instruments or that may be settled by the issuance of such equity instruments. The proposed Statement would eliminate the ability to account for share-based compensation transactions using APB Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and generally would require instead that such transactions be accounted for using a fair-value-based method. Disclosure of the effect of expensing the fair value of equity compensation is currently required under existing literature (see Note 5). The proposed Statement would also require the tax benefit associated with these share based payments be classified as financing activities in the statement of cash flows rather than operating activities as currently permitted. While the final statement is subject to change, it is currently anticipated it will become effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2005 which would be the Company's third fiscal quarter in 2005. The Company is in the process of evaluating this proposal.

On September 10, 2004, the Emerging Issues Task Force, or EITF, issued EITF 04-10, "*Applying Paragraph 19 of FASB Statement No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information, in Determining Whether to Aggregate Operating Segments That Do Not Meet the Quantitative Thresholds*". The alternative views presented in this Issue Summary are for purposes of discussion by the EITF. Questions have arisen regarding how an enterprise should consider the aggregation criteria listed in paragraph 17 of SFAS No. 131 in applying the guidance in paragraph 19 to operating segments that do not meet the quantitative thresholds. Specifically, whether operating segments must always have similar economic characteristics *and* meet a majority of the remaining five aggregation criteria, items (a)-(e), listed in paragraph 17 or whether operating segments must meet a majority of all six aggregation criteria (that is, the five aggregation criteria, items (a)-(e), listed in paragraph 17 and similar economic characteristics). This EITF is not expected to change Registrant's segment reporting information included in Note 9.

On September 30, 2004, the Emerging Issues Task Force, or EITF, confirmed their tentative conclusion on EITF Issue No. 04-8, "*The Effect of Contingently Convertible Debt on Diluted Earnings per Share*." EITF 04-8 requires contingently convertible debt instruments to be included in diluted earnings per share, if dilutive, regardless of whether a market price contingency for the conversion of the debt into common shares or any other contingent factor has been met. Prior to this consensus, such instruments were excluded from the calculation until one or more of the contingencies were met. EITF 04-8 is effective for reporting periods ending after December 15, 2004, and does require restatement of prior period earnings per unit amounts. The adoption of EITF 04-8 is not expected to have any impact on the Registrant's financial position, results of operations or cash flows as the Registrant does not have any contingently convertible debt instruments.

In October 2004, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (the "Act") was signed into law and provides for a new income tax deduction related to U.S. production activities. Under the Act, qualified production activities include Registrant's production of electricity and potable water. Given its recent enactment, Registrant is not yet able to determine what effect, if any, the Act will have on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Note 8 – Contingencies:

Water Quality-Related Litigation:

SCW was named as a defendant in twenty-two lawsuits that alleged that SCW and other water utilities, delivered unsafe water to their customers. Plaintiffs in these actions sought damages, including general, special, and punitive damages, according to proof at trial, as well as attorney’s fees on certain causes of action, costs of suit, and other unspecified relief. Nineteen of the lawsuits were coordinated in the Los Angeles Superior Court (the “Court”) and involved water served by SCW in the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley areas of Los Angeles County in the southern portion of California; three of the lawsuits involved a customer service area located in Sacramento County in northern California.

On August 4, 2004, SCW was ordered dismissed from all nineteen cases involving customer service areas located in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys of Los Angeles County. The order was issued by the Trial Judge presiding over these matters, and followed a lengthy legal proceeding dating back to April 1997 when the first of the cases was filed by over 140 customers in the San Gabriel Valley, alleging their water had caused personal injuries of varying types and degrees. The Court found SCW did not violate established water quality standards and dismissed the cases after allowing reasonable time and opportunity for the Plaintiffs to prove otherwise. SCW has long asserted that it meets or exceeds the requirements to provide water within the standards established by the health authorities. On September 21, 2004, SCW received notice that several plaintiffs filed an appeal to the trial court’s order to dismiss SCW. SCW is unable to predict the outcome of this appeal.

As for the three lawsuits in Sacramento County, one of the three Plaintiffs filed for dismissal in July 2004 and the case has subsequently been dismissed by the Court. On October 15, 2004, the remaining two claims were also ordered dismissed by the Court. The plaintiffs will have the opportunity to appeal. In November 2004, SCW received notice that an appeal was filed by the plaintiffs. SCW is unable to predict the outcome of this appeal.

SCW is subject to self-insured retention provisions in its applicable insurance policies and has either expensed the self-insured amounts or has reserved against payment of these amounts as appropriate. SCW’s various insurance carriers have, to date, provided reimbursement for costs incurred above the self-insured amounts for defense against these lawsuits, subject to a reservation of rights. In addition, the CPUC has issued certain decisions, which authorize SCW to establish a memorandum account to accumulate costs to comply with certain contamination remediation requirements for future recovery.

Aerojet:

On October 25, 1999, SCW sued Aerojet-General (“Aerojet”) for causing the contamination of eastern portions of the Sacramento County groundwater basin. On October 10, 2003, Registrant entered into a confidential Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with Aerojet for the settlement of legal actions brought by SCW. The MOU set forth the financial terms and the structure of a settlement to cover, over time, capital and litigation related costs incurred by SCW resulting from the contamination. The MOU and the settlement embodied therein were found to be binding by the Sacramento Superior Court on January 18, 2004. On October 12, 2004, Registrant reached a final settlement with Aerojet based on the terms of the MOU.

Note 8 – Contingencies (Continued):

Under the terms of the settlement, Aerojet has paid SCW \$8.7 million in the first quarter of 2004. Aerojet has also agreed to pay SCW an additional \$8 million, plus interest, over a five year period beginning in December 2009. The \$8.7 million payment and guaranteed future payments have been applied directly to reduce SCW's costs of utility plant and purchased water by \$16 million and \$700,000, respectively. Prior to the MOU, Aerojet had reimbursed SCW \$4.3 million in capital costs and \$171,000 for additional water supply. Aerojet has also agreed to reimburse SCW \$17.5 million, plus interest accruing from January 1, 2004, for its past legal and expert costs. The recovery of the \$17.5 million is contingent upon the issuance of land use approvals in a defined area in Eastern Sacramento County and the receipt of certain fees in connection with such development.

Aerojet will also transfer its remediated groundwater to the Sacramento County Water Agency, which will provide treated water for distribution to SCW and other water purveyors affected by the contamination. SCW has entered into an agreement with Sacramento County Water Agency to receive water as outlined above. As a result of this arrangement and other mitigation measures, SCW will have a reliable water supply for its Rancho Cordova service area.

Registrant and Aerojet have also signed three separate agreements requiring Aerojet to pay for certain transmission pipelines and upgrades to Registrant's Coloma Treatment Plant as a contingency plan, should additional wells be impacted. The value of the three agreements approximates \$6.8 million in capital improvements.

In 2000, the CPUC authorized the establishment of a memorandum account into which SCW was allowed to record costs it incurred in prosecuting the contamination suits filed against the State and Aerojet. The CPUC also authorized SCW periodically to seek recovery of such recorded costs from ratepayers. In that regard, SCW sought interim cost recovery and was authorized to increase rates, effective April 28, 2001, in an amount sufficient over a six-year period to offset approximately \$1.8 million in such legal and expert costs recorded in the memorandum account that had been incurred on or before August 31, 2000. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$15.7 million in legal and consulting related costs, including the unamortized portion of the \$1.8 million, has been recorded as deferred charges and included in "Regulatory Assets" on the SCW balance sheets.

In a proceeding currently pending at the CPUC, SCW has requested a twenty-year amortization of the remaining balance of the costs recorded in the memorandum account, net of any reimbursement amounts received from defendants, insurers and others. Given the expected timing for the issuance of a final decision in this proceeding (third quarter 2005), SCW is in the process of filing a motion seeking another interim amortization. In this motion, SCW proposes to amortize \$6 million of the \$15.7 million of the memorandum account balance over a 10 year period, and to increase rates accordingly, subject to refund. Management believes the recovery of these costs through rates is probable; however, management cannot give assurance that the CPUC will ultimately allow recovery of all or any of the costs that have accumulated in this memorandum account. Management will continue to monitor the rate making process for this matter and assess the probability of recovery of these costs on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, it is management's intention to offset any settlement proceeds from Aerojet against the balance in the memorandum account at the time of receipt of the settlement payments.

Note 8 – Contingencies (Continued):

Other Water Quality Litigation:

Perchlorate and/or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) have been detected in five wells servicing SCW's San Gabriel System. SCW filed suit, along with two other affected water purveyors and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), in the federal court against some of those responsible for the contamination. Some of the other potential defendants settled with SCW, other water purveyors and the WQA on VOC related issues prior to the filing of the lawsuit. In response to the filing of the Federal lawsuit, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) defendants filed motions to dismiss the suit or strike certain portions of the suit. The judge issued a ruling on April 1, 2003 granting in part and denying in part the defendant's motions. A key ruling of the court was that the water purveyors, including the Registrant, by virtue of their ownership of wells contaminated with hazardous chemicals are themselves PRPs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Registrant has, pursuant to permission of the court, amended its suit to claim certain affirmative defenses as an "innocent" party under CERCLA. In this same suit, the PRPs have filed cross-complaints against the Registrant, the other two affected water purveyors, the WQA and the Metropolitan Water District, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and others on the theory that they arranged for and did transport contaminated water into the Basin for use by Registrant and the other two affected water providers and for other related claims. Registrant is presently unable to predict the outcome of this ruling on its ability to fully recover from the PRPs future costs associated with the treatment of these wells.

On August 29, 2003, the US Environmental Protection Agency issued Unilateral Administrative Orders ("UAO") against 41 parties deemed responsible for polluting the groundwater in that portion of the San Gabriel Valley from which SCW's two impacted wells draw water. SCW was not named as a party to the UAO. The UAO requires that these parties remediate the contamination. The judge in the Federal lawsuit has appointed a special master to oversee mandatory settlement discussions between the PRP's, SCW, the other two affected water purveyors and WQA. Registrant is presently unable to predict the ultimate outcome of these settlement discussions.

Condemnation of Properties:

The laws of the State of California provide for the acquisition of public utility property by governmental agencies through their power of eminent domain, also known as condemnation, where doing so is in the public interest. In addition, however, the laws of the State of California also provide: (1) that the owner of the utility property may contest whether the condemnation is actually in the public interest; and (2) that the owner is entitled to receive the fair market value of its property if the property is ultimately taken. Although the City of Claremont, California located in SCW's Region III has not initiated the formal condemnation process pursuant to California law, the City hired a consultant to perform an appraisal of the value of Registrant's water system serving that city. On April 27, 2004, the City Council voted 3 to 2 to make an offer to and enter into negotiations with SCW to acquire the Claremont water system. At its meeting on May 11, 2004, the Council re-voted on the matter with the vote changing to 4 to 1 in favor. The City's appraisal consultant has valued the system at \$40 million to \$45 million. SCW's estimate of system value is significantly greater. SCW has informed the City that the Claremont water system is not for sale and that it will vigorously defend against any action initiated by the City to take the system through an eminent domain proceeding. SCW is unable to predict the ultimate outcome of any such proceeding. As of September 30, 2004, the recorded net book value of the Claremont water system is approximately \$32 million.

Note 8 – Contingencies (Continued):

Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Adjudication:

In 1997, the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (plaintiff) filed a lawsuit against multiple defendants, including SCW, the City of Santa Maria, and several other public water purveyors. The plaintiff's lawsuit seeks an adjudication of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. After some procedural rulings by the superior court, the lawsuit is now a full basin adjudication involving all entities owning 10 acres or more within the Basin boundaries - approximately 1,400 defendants. The plaintiff's stated objective in the adjudication lawsuit is to have the superior court impose and oversee the implementation of a Basin management plan that ensures the long term integrity and reliability of the Basin water resources. To protect its groundwater supply so that sufficient water production rights continue to be available to meet SCW's customers' needs in the Santa Maria customer service area, SCW has been vigorously defending its water rights in the adjudication lawsuit. As of September 30, 2004, SCW has incurred costs in defending its rights in the Basin, including legal and expert witness fees, which have been deferred in Utility Plant for rate recovery. Management believes that, when the adjudication lawsuit is finally resolved, SCW will have secured its right to pump groundwater from the Basin and to continue to rely on the Basin as a source of supply for its customers' needs. Management also believes that it is probable that the CPUC will grant full recovery in rates of all current and future expenditures associated with this lawsuit.

Other Litigation:

Registrant is also subject to ordinary routine litigation incidental to its business. Other than those disclosed above, no other legal proceedings are pending, which are believed to be material. Management believes that rate recovery, proper insurance coverage and reserves are in place to insure against property, general liability and workers' compensation claims incurred in the ordinary course of business.

[Table of Contents](#)

Note 9 - Business Segments: AWR has three principal business units: regulated water and electric distribution units, through its SCW subsidiary, a regulated water service utility operation conducted through its CCWC unit, and a contract operations activity unit through the ASUS subsidiary. All activities of SCW currently are geographically located within California. All activities of CCWC are located in the state of Arizona. All activities of ASUS and its subsidiary are located in the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. On a stand-alone basis, AWR has no material assets other than its investments in its subsidiaries. The tables below set forth information relating to SCW's water and electric operating segments, CCWC, and contract and other operations, consisting of ASUS and AWR corporate expenses. Included in the amounts set forth, certain assets, revenues and expenses have been allocated. The identifiable assets are net of respective accumulated provisions for depreciation. Capital additions reflect capital expenditures paid in cash and exclude property installed by developers and conveyed to the Company.

As Of And For The Three Months Ended September 30, 2004

(dollars in thousands)	SCW					Consolidated AWR
	Water	Electric	CCWC Water	Other*	Eliminations	
Operating revenues	\$ 60,506	\$ 6,208	\$ 1,973	\$ 298	(\$24)	\$ 68,961
Operating income (loss) before income taxes	18,472	684	681	(1,479)		18,358
Interest expense, net	3,916	401	108	139		4,564
Identifiable assets	571,587	37,963	33,619	318		643,487
Depreciation and amortization expense	4,935	411	236	7		5,589
Capital additions	24,769	757	1,259	153		26,938

As Of And For The Three Months Ended September 30, 2003

(dollars in thousands)	SCW					Consolidated AWR
	Water	Electric	CCWC Water	Other*	Eliminations	
Operating revenues	\$ 55,777	\$ 5,906	\$ 1,818	\$ 245	(\$21)	\$ 63,725
Operating income (loss) before income taxes	16,989	(420)	548	(1,023)		16,094
Interest expense, net	3,923	350	121	117		4,511
Identifiable assets	521,327	32,901	30,045	99		584,372
Depreciation and amortization expense	4,317	392	230	5		4,944
Capital additions	9,395	6,235	815	4		16,449

As Of And For The Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004

(dollars in thousands)	SCW					Consolidated AWR
	Water	Electric	CCWC Water	Other*	Eliminations	
Operating revenues	\$149,864	\$19,284	\$ 4,982	\$ 899	(\$73)	\$174,956
Operating income (loss) before income taxes	42,744	691	915	(3,815)	—	40,535
Interest expense, net	11,468	1,173	351	320	—	13,312
Identifiable assets	571,587	37,963	33,619	318	—	643,487
Depreciation and amortization expense	13,990	1,129	706	15	—	15,840
Capital additions	51,698	3,095	2,502	236	—	57,531

Note 9 - Business Segments (Continued):

As Of And For The Nine Months Ended September 30, 2003

(dollars in thousands)	SCW		CCWC Water	Other*	Eliminations	Consolidated AWR
	Water	Electric				
Operating revenues	\$138,636	\$18,263	\$ 4,632	\$ 749	(\$62)	\$162,218
Operating income (loss) before income taxes	35,990	456	1,031	(2,624)		34,853
Interest expense, net	11,785	1,050	363	417		13,615
Identifiable assets	521,327	32,901	30,045	99		584,372
Depreciation and amortization expense	12,965	1,175	690	6		14,836
Capital additions	24,360	7,614	1,893	37		33,904

* Includes amounts from ASUS and AWR.

Note 10 - Subsequent Event:

ASUS is an active participant in bidding on contracts for the privatization of military bases. In June 2004, ASUS received notification that it had been awarded a 50-year contract to own, operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss, located near El Paso, Texas, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Fort Bliss Water Services Company ("FBWS"). On October 1, 2004, ASUS commenced operation of the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss pursuant to the terms of the 50-year contract with the U.S. Government. As a result, title of the assets passed to FBWS effective October 1, 2004 with a purchase price of \$95 million for the water and wastewater systems. Registrant is currently evaluating the accounting and it anticipates that the purchase price obligation of \$95 million will be recorded as a liability offset with a direct financing lease receivable of the same amount, therefore, not impacting Registrant's financial position.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Forward-Looking Information

Certain matters discussed in this report (including the documents incorporated herein by reference) are forward-looking statements intended to qualify for the "safe harbor" from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements can generally be identified as such because the context of the statement will include words such as Registrant "believes," "anticipates," "expects" or words of similar import. Similarly, statements that describe Registrant's future plans, objectives, estimates or goals are also forward-looking statements. Such statements address future events and conditions concerning capital expenditures, earnings, litigation, rates, water quality and other regulatory matters, adequacy of water supplies, SCW's ability to recover electric and water supply costs from ratepayers, contract operations, liquidity and capital resources, and accounting matters. Actual results in each case could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements, by reason of factors such as changes in utility regulation, including ongoing local, state and federal activities; future economic conditions, including changes in customer demand and changes in water and energy supply cost; future climatic conditions; and legislative, regulatory and other circumstances affecting anticipated revenues and costs. See the section entitled "*Risk Factors*" for more information.

General

American States Water Company ("AWR") is the parent company of Southern California Water Company ("SCW"), American States Utility Services, Inc. ("ASUS") and Chaparral City Water Company ("CCWC").

SCW is a California public utility company engaged principally in the purchase, production and distribution of water (SIC No. 4941). SCW also distributes electricity in one customer service area (SIC No. 4911). SCW is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (CPUC) and was incorporated on December 31, 1929. SCW is organized into one electric customer service area and three water service regions operating within 75 communities in 10 counties in the State of California and provides water service in 21 customer service areas. Region I consists of 7 customer service areas in northern and central California; Region II consists of 4 customer service areas located in Los Angeles County; and Region III consists of 10 water customer service areas in eastern Los Angeles County, and in Orange, San Bernardino and Imperial counties. SCW also provides electric service to the City of Big Bear Lake and surrounding areas in San Bernardino County through its Bear Valley Electric Service division.

SCW served 251,435 water customers and 22,606 electric customers at September 30, 2004, or a total of 274,041 customers, compared with 272,009 total customers at September 30, 2003. SCW's utility operations exhibit seasonal trends. Although SCW's water utility operations have a diversified customer base, residential and commercial customers account for the majority of SCW's water sales and revenues. Revenues derived from commercial and residential water customers accounted for approximately 87.4% and 88.5% of total water revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, respectively, as compared to 86.4% and 88.9% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2003, respectively.

CCWC is an Arizona public utility company serving 12,485 customers as of September 30, 2004, compared with 12,067 customers at September 30, 2003. Located in the town of Fountain Hills, Arizona and a portion of the City of Scottsdale, Arizona, the majority of CCWC's customers are residential. The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) regulates CCWC.

ASUS contracts, either directly or through wholly-owned subsidiaries, with various municipalities, the U.S. Government and private entities to provide water and wastewater services, including billing and meter reading, water marketing and the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater systems.

Table of Contents

ASUS has been pursuing opportunities to expand its contract operations. ASUS is also pursuing an opportunity to provide retail water services to a mutual water company that is located in Sacramento and Sutter counties in northern California and currently provides water service only to agricultural customers. ASUS expects commercial and residential development to take place in these areas beginning in 2005, with service to the first retail customers commencing in 2006. In August 2004, this mutual water company granted ASUS the exclusive right to market surface water rights that may arise under water rights and contracts owned or controlled by it, to third-parties

ASUS is also an active participant in bidding on other contracts for the privatization of military bases. In June 2004, ASUS received notification that it had been awarded a 50-year contract to own, operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss, located near El Paso, Texas, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Fort Bliss Water Services Company ("FBWS"). According to the agreement, the award of Fort Bliss is estimated to have a gross cash flow of more than \$196 million over a 50-year period and is subject to periodic price re-determination adjustments and adjustments for changes in circumstances. FBWS furnishes all necessary labor, management, supervision, permits, equipment, supplies, materials, transportation and any other incidentals for the complete ownership, operation, maintenance, repair, upgrades and improvements to the utility system. On October 1, 2004, ASUS commenced operation of the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss pursuant to the terms of the 50-year contract with the U.S. Government. As a result, title of the assets passed to FBWS effective October 1, 2004 with a purchase price of \$95 million for the water and wastewater systems. The Company is currently evaluating the accounting and it anticipates that the purchase price obligation of \$95 million will be recorded as a liability offset with a direct financing lease receivable of the same amount, therefore, not impacting the Company's financial position.

ASUS is also a participant in bidding on other contracts for the privatization of military bases.

Consolidated Results of Operations—Three Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003 (table in thousands)

	3 MOS ENDED 9/30/2004	3 MOS ENDED 9/30/2003	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
OPERATING REVENUES				
Water	\$62,455	\$57,574	\$4,881	8.5%
Electric	6,208	5,906	302	5.1%
Other	298	245	53	21.6%
Total operating revenues	68,961	63,725	5,236	8.2%
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Water purchased	15,339	13,740	1,599	11.6%
Power purchased for pumping	2,971	3,330	(359)	-10.8%
Power purchased for resale	3,107	3,382	(275)	-8.1%
Unrealized loss (gain) on purchased power contracts	224	420	(196)	-46.7%
Groundwater production assessment	2,120	2,089	31	1.5%
Supply cost balancing accounts	1,016	650	366	56.3%
Other operating expenses	4,818	4,805	13	0.3%
Administrative and general expenses	10,591	10,058	533	5.3%
Depreciation and amortization	5,589	4,944	645	13.0%
Maintenance	2,593	2,181	412	18.9%
Taxes on income	5,692	3,915	1,777	45.4%
Other taxes	2,235	2,032	203	10.0%
Total operating expenses	56,295	51,546	4,749	9.2%
Operating income	12,666	12,179	487	4.0%
OTHER INCOME — NET	(84)	128	(212)	-165.6%
INTEREST CHARGES	4,564	4,511	53	1.2%
NET INCOME	\$ 8,018	\$ 7,796	\$ 222	2.8%

Net income for the three months ended September 30, 2004 increased by 2.8% to \$8.0 million, equivalent to \$0.52 per common share on a basic and fully diluted basis, compared to \$7.8 million or \$0.51 per share on a basic and fully diluted basis for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Overall operating income increased by 4.0% due to various reasons discussed below, but primarily reflecting the recording of approximately \$2.0 million related to additional revenues associated with the Region II rate increase approved by the CPUC in August 2004. The rate increases in SCW's Region II customer service area are retroactive to February 14, 2004 pursuant to new legislation effective January 1, 2004. SCW was authorized and will soon file an advice letter to recover over a period of not less than one year, the difference between the interim rates authorized in February 2004, and the new rates authorized in the decision. This increase was partially offset by increases in water supply costs and other operating expenses further discussed below.

Operating Revenues

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, revenues from water operations increased by 8.5% to \$62.5 million, compared to \$57.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Higher water revenues reflect an increase of approximately 2% in water consumption resulting from changes in weather conditions which increased revenues by approximately \$1.2 million. Differences in temperature and rainfall in Registrant's service areas impact sales of water to customers, causing fluctuations in Registrant's revenues and earnings between comparable periods. Additionally, although we continue to experience delayed implementation in rate increases, the CPUC in its March 16, 2004 decision did authorize an annualized increase of approximately \$8.1 million in revenues for SCW's Region III service area that was effective on March 22, 2004 and increased revenues in the 2004 third quarter by approximately \$2 million. In addition, the Company recorded approximately \$2.0 million in this quarter of additional revenues for the difference between the interim rates authorized in February 2004 and the new rates authorized in the CPUC's decision in August 2004 on SCW's Region II general rate case application, as discussed previously. This also contributed to the increase in water revenues between the two quarters.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, revenues from electric operations increased by 5.1% to \$6.2 million compared to \$5.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. The increase reflects a 6.7% increase in kilowatt-hour consumption.

Registrant relies upon rate approvals by state regulatory agencies in California and Arizona, in order to recover operating expenses and provide for a return on invested and borrowed capital used to fund utility plant. Without such adequate rate relief granted in a timely manner, revenues and earnings can be negatively impacted.

Other operating revenues consist of water related services and operations on a contract basis by AWR's subsidiary, ASUS. For the three months ended September 30, 2004, other operating revenues increased by 21.6% to \$298,000 compared to \$245,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to the addition of new meter reading contracts.

Operating Expenses

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, 48% of our supply mix was purchased water as compared to 46% purchased water for the three months ended September 30, 2003. Purchased water costs for the period increased by 11.6% to \$15.3 million compared to \$13.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in purchased water volume resulted from: (i) higher water consumption discussed above, (ii) costs of approximately \$525,000 incurred in connection with the trucking of water in SCW's Wrightwood customer service area due to a continued decline in water levels and production capacity in SCW's existing wells and the delay in completion of a new well which finally came on line in late August; and (iii) additional purchases of water to replace groundwater supply lost due to wells being removed from service. The wells were removed from service as a result of water quality issues and mechanical problems, particularly in SCW's Metropolitan and Foothill districts. Together, the cost of purchased water in these districts increased by approximately \$478,000.

Changes in the water resource mix between water supplied from purchased sources and that supplied from Registrant's own wells can increase actual supply-related costs relative to that approved for recovery through rates, thereby impacting earnings either negatively or positively. Registrant has the opportunity to change the supply-related costs recovered through rates by application to the appropriate regulatory body. Registrant believes that its applications for supply-related costs accurately reflect the water supply situation as it is known at the time. However, it is impossible to adequately protect earnings from adverse changes in supply costs related to unforeseen contamination or other loss of water supplies.

Table of Contents

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, the cost of power purchased for pumping decreased by 10.8% to \$3.0 million compared to \$3.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to additional wells down for maintenance and water quality issues, which resulted in increased purchased water and less pumping volume.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, the cost of power purchased for resale to customers in SCW's Bear Valley Electric division decreased by 8.1% to \$3.1 million compared to \$3.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003. The decrease was due to higher power costs in the prior year of approximately \$350,000 for energy needed at peak demand time.

Unrealized gain and loss on purchased power contracts represents gains and losses recorded for SCW's purchased power agreements with Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (PWCC), which qualify as derivative instruments under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 133, "*Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*". The \$224,000 pre-tax unrealized loss on purchased power contracts for the three months ended September 30, 2004 is due to a decrease in the current forward market prices during the 2004 third quarter. Unrealized gains and losses at Bear Valley Electric will continue to impact earnings during the life of the contract with PWCC, through 2008.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, groundwater production assessments increased by 1.5% to \$2,120,000 compared to \$2,089,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due to increases in assessments levied against ground water production effective in July 2004. This increase was offset by a decrease in pumped water. The decrease in pumped water was due primarily to wells in the Metropolitan and Foothill districts being down for maintenance and water quality reasons, which resulted in increased purchased water and less pumping.

A positive entry for the provision for supply cost balancing accounts reflects recovery of previously under-collected supply costs. Conversely, a negative entry for the provision for supply cost balancing accounts reflects an under-collection of previously incurred supply costs. An increase of \$366,000 during the three months ended September 30, 2004 in the provision for supply cost balancing accounts as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2003 primarily reflects an increase of approximately \$445,000 in collecting the \$0.022 surcharge, based on higher kilowatt-hour consumption in our Bear Valley Electric division, related to the amortization of the electric supply cost balancing account. In addition, a net over-collection of \$74,000 in the water memorandum supply cost accounts was recorded during the current period as a regulatory liability, with a corresponding charge booked to the provision for supply cost balancing account. On April 30, 2004, SCW filed advice letters for Regions I and II related to the memorandum supply cost accounts. As a result, in May 2004 SCW began recording the net over-collection as a regulatory liability.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, other operating expenses increased slightly by 0.3% to \$4,818,000 compared to \$4,805,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due primarily to increases in labor costs.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, administrative and general expenses increased by 5.3% to \$10.6 million compared to \$10.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due primarily to: (i) an increase of \$372,000 in legal and consulting services in connection with new business development, (ii) an increase of \$247,000 in outside services related to Sarbanes-Oxley compliance requirements, and (iii) increases in pensions and benefits of approximately \$96,000 due to actuarial assumption changes in the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, and increases in various benefit costs. These increases were offset by decreases in various miscellaneous expenses. Registrant believes that prudent administrative expenses incurred in the operation and management of its regulated subsidiaries will be recovered through water and electric rates.

Table of Contents

Registrant plans through ASUS to continue with the analysis and preparation of bids for submission to the Department of Defense (“DOD”) pursuant to DOD’s initiative to privatize the water and wastewater assets and operations of military bases. The analysis and preparation of these bids is an extensive process and, as such, Registrant expects to incur approximately \$2 million in legal and consulting expenses in 2004 for such efforts due to the volume of Requests for Proposals available from the DOD. For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, approximately \$1.5 million has been incurred for such efforts of which approximately \$794,000 was incurred during the third quarter.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, depreciation and amortization expense increased by 13.0% to \$5.6 million compared to \$4.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 reflecting, among other things, the effects of recording approximately \$35 million in utility plant during 2003, depreciation on which began in January 2004. In addition, Region II’s general rate case was approved in August 2004 by the CPUC, which increased the depreciation composite rates, retroactive to February 14, 2004 to match with the timing of revenue recovery. This resulted in an increase in depreciation expense of approximately \$344,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2004. Registrant anticipates that depreciation expense will continue to increase due to Registrant’s on-going construction program at its regulated subsidiaries. Registrant believes that depreciation expense related to property additions approved by the appropriate regulatory agency will be recovered through water and electric rates.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, maintenance expense increased by 18.9% to \$2.6 million compared to \$2.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due principally to increased maintenance on SCW’s wells and water supply sources and maintenance of water mains as well as acceleration of certain scheduled maintenance projects.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, taxes on operating income increased by 45.4% to \$5.7 million compared to \$3.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due, in part, to an increase in pre-tax operating income of 19.1%. In addition, the effective income tax rate (“ETR”) applicable to the third-quarter results of 2004 reflects an increase of approximately eight percentage points, from 33.8% to 41.3% (a 22.2% increase), compared to the ETR applicable to the third-quarter results of 2003. The increase is primarily a result of the ETR for the three months ended September 30, 2003 including the effect of a favorable adjustment, reflecting a “true-up” pertaining to the filing of the 2002 tax return in the third quarter of 2003. There is no such corresponding benefit in the third quarter of 2004.

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, other taxes increased by 10.0% to \$2.2 million compared to \$2.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 reflecting additional property taxes resulting from higher assessed values, and increases in payroll taxes based on increased labor costs.

Other Income (Loss)

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, we incurred a net loss of \$84,000 compared to \$128,000 of net income for the three months ended September 30, 2003. The change in other income reflects a CPUC decision on March 16, 2004 that ordered SCW to refund to its customers, amounts of lease revenues received from the City of Folsom from 1994 through 2003. Pursuant to the order, the apportionment of any lease revenues that SCW may collect in the future will be determined by a later decision. Therefore, all amounts billed to the City of Folsom since January of this year are included in a regulatory liability account. During the three months ended September 30, 2003, approximately \$269,000 was billed to the City of Folsom and recorded in other income. Amounts invoiced during the three months ended September 30, 2004 of approximately \$286,000 were reported as a regulatory liability. The decrease was offset by decreases in taxes of approximately \$75,000.

[Table of Contents](#)**Interest Charges**

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, interest expense increased by 1.2% to \$4.6 million compared to \$4.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2003 due primarily to an increase in short-term borrowings, offset by the effect of the repayment of \$12.5 million of long-term debt in October of 2003

Consolidated Results of Operations – Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004 and 2003 (table in thousands)

	9 MOS ENDED 9/30/2004	9 MOS ENDED 9/30/2003	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
OPERATING REVENUES				
Water	\$154,773	\$143,206	\$11,567	8.1%
Electric	19,284	18,263	1,021	5.6%
Other	899	749	150	20.0%
Total operating revenues	<u>174,956</u>	<u>162,218</u>	<u>12,738</u>	<u>7.9%</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Water purchased	37,022	32,098	4,924	15.3%
Power purchased for pumping	7,103	7,696	(593)	-7.7%
Power purchased for resale	10,474	10,052	422	4.2%
Unrealized gain on purchased power contracts	(257)	(854)	597	-69.9%
Gain on sale of water rights	(5,675)	—	(5,675)	-100.0%
Groundwater production assessment	5,280	5,485	(205)	-3.7%
Supply cost balancing accounts	4,835	2,109	2,726	129.3%
Other operating expenses	14,538	13,931	607	4.4%
Administrative and general expenses	31,167	29,472	1,695	5.8%
Depreciation and amortization	15,839	14,836	1,003	6.8%
Maintenance	7,529	6,430	1,099	17.1%
Taxes on income	11,720	7,700	4,020	52.2%
Other taxes	6,566	6,110	456	7.5%
Total operating expenses	<u>146,141</u>	<u>135,065</u>	<u>11,076</u>	<u>8.2%</u>
Operating income	<u>28,815</u>	<u>27,153</u>	<u>1,662</u>	<u>6.1%</u>
OTHER INCOME - - NET	371	159	212	133.3%
INTEREST CHARGES	13,312	13,615	(303)	-2.2%
NET INCOME	<u>\$ 15,874</u>	<u>\$ 13,697</u>	<u>\$ 2,177</u>	<u>15.9%</u>

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 increased by 15.9% to \$15.9 million, equivalent to \$1.04 per common share on a basic and fully diluted basis, respectively, compared to \$13.7 million or \$0.90 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase in recorded results reflects increased rates in SCW's Region III's customer service area effective March 22, 2004, offset by an increase in supply costs due to more purchased water in SCW's resource mix. Furthermore, changes in weather conditions experienced this year as compared to the same time last year resulted in an increase in water demand. Additionally, as discussed in the quarterly results earlier, SCW recorded approximately \$2.0 million related to additional revenues associated with the Region II rate increase approved by the CPUC in August 2004.

[Table of Contents](#)

And finally, there was a favorable decision issued by the CPUC on July 8, 2004 that resulted in a \$5.2 million net pre-tax increase in operating income. SCW received \$5.7 million in May of 2004 from the City of Santa Monica (“City”) pursuant to a settlement agreement in which SCW sold its water rights in the Charnock Groundwater Basin (“Basin”) to the City and assigned to the City its rights against all potentially responsible parties who stored, transported and dispensed gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in underground storage tanks, pipelines or other related infrastructure in the Basin. The total proceeds of \$5.7 million from the sale and the assignment of rights were offset by an impairment loss of \$482,000 associated with assets removed from rate base, pursuant to the decision. SCW recorded the impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base in “other operating expenses”.

Operating Revenues

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, revenues from water operations increased by 8.1% to \$154.8 million, compared to \$143.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Higher water revenues reflect an increase of 4.5% in water consumption resulting from changes in weather conditions which contributed to an increase in revenues of approximately \$4.2 million. Differences in temperature and rainfall in Registrant’s service areas impact sales of water to customers, causing fluctuations in Registrant’s revenues and earnings between comparable periods. Additionally, although we continue to experience delayed implementation in rate increases, the CPUC in its March 16, 2004 decision did authorize an annualized increase of approximately \$8.1 million in revenues for SCW’s Region III service area that was effective on March 22, 2004 and increased revenues by approximately \$4.1 million. In addition, the Company recorded approximately \$2.0 million related to additional revenues associated with the Region II rate increase approved by the CPUC in August 2004, as discussed previously. This also contributed to the increase in water revenues between the two periods.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, revenues from electric operations increased by 5.6% to \$19.3 million compared to \$18.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase reflects an increase of 4% in kilowatt-hour consumption and an increase in “on-peak” consumption which resulted in higher “on-peak” demand charges for industrial customers.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, other operating revenues increased by 20.0% to \$899,000 compared to \$749,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due to the addition of various new meter reading contracts.

Registrant relies upon rate approval by state regulatory agencies in California and Arizona, in order to recover operating expenses and provide for a return on invested and borrowed capital used to fund utility plant. Without such adequate rate relief granted in a timely manner, revenues and earnings can be negatively impacted.

Operating Expenses

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, 46% of the company’s supply mix was purchased water as compared to 43% purchased water for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. Purchased water costs increased by 15.3% to \$37.0 million compared to \$32.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase is due primarily to increases in water consumption and additional purchases of water to replace groundwater supply lost due to wells being removed from service. The wells were removed from service as a result of water quality issues and mechanical problems, particularly in SCW’s Metropolitan and Foothill districts. Together, the cost of purchased water in these districts increased by approximately \$3.8 million. In addition, approximately \$525,000 was incurred in 2004 in connection with the trucking of water in SCW’s Wrightwood customer service area due to a continued decline in water levels and production capacity in SCW’s existing wells and the delay in completion of a new well which finally came on-line in late August. As of the end of August 2004, SCW stopped hauling water and there should not be any further need to do so this year.

Table of Contents

Changes in the water resource mix between water supplied from purchased sources and that supplied from Registrant's own wells can increase actual supply-related costs relative to that approved for recovery through rates, thereby impacting earnings either negatively or positively. Registrant has the opportunity to change the supply-related costs recovered through rates by application to the appropriate regulatory body. Registrant believes that its applications for recovery of supply-related costs accurately reflect the water supply situation as it is known at the time. However, it is impossible to adequately protect earnings from adverse changes in supply costs related to unforeseen contamination or other loss of water supply.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, the cost of power purchased for pumping decreased by 7.7% to \$7.1 million compared to \$7.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due to additional wells down for maintenance and water quality issues which resulted in increased purchased water and less pumping, the effects of which were partially offset by higher consumption.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, cost of power purchased for resale to customers in SCW's Bear Valley Electric division increased by 4.2% to \$10.5 million compared to \$10.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase was due primarily to the reversal in 2004 of a \$644,000 gain generated from a one-time sale of energy on the spot market in April 2001. The gain, which was previously recorded in April 2001 to the supply cost balancing account, was ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") in March 2004 to be refunded, plus interest, to Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, Inc. (Mirant Marketing). This refund increased the cost of power purchased for resale during the nine months ended September 30, 2004, with a corresponding decrease in the supply cost balancing account included in the statement of income. There was no net impact on earnings. The sale of excess energy on the spot market in 2001 resulted from a one-month overlap of energy purchase agreements. This increase was offset by \$148,000 of decreased purchased power for resale resulting from certain refunds and credits.

Unrealized gain and loss on purchased power contracts represents gains and losses recorded for SCW's purchased power agreements with Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (PWCC), which qualify as derivative instruments under SFAS No. 133, "*Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*". The \$257,000 pre-tax unrealized gain on purchased power contracts for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 is due to an increase in the current forward market prices since December 31, 2003. Unrealized gains and losses at Bear Valley Electric will continue to impact earnings during the life of the contract with PWCC, through 2008.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, Registrant recorded a \$5.7 million gain on the sale of water rights reflecting a favorable CPUC decision on July 8, 2004. As discussed previously, the \$5.7 million represents settlement proceeds received in May 2004 from the City of Santa Monica relating to the sale and the assignment of rights regarding the Charnock Groundwater Basin.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, groundwater production assessments decreased by 3.7% to \$5.3 million compared to \$5.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. This decrease is due to a reduction in pumped water costs, offset by increases in assessment rates levied against groundwater production, effective July 2003 and 2004. The decrease in pumped water costs was due primarily to wells in the Metropolitan and Foothill districts being down for maintenance and water quality reasons. This resulted in increased purchased water and less pumping. In addition, SCW received \$727,700 for leasing excess water rights during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 which was recorded as a reduction to groundwater production assessments.

Table of Contents

An increase of \$2.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2004 in the provision for supply cost balancing accounts as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2003 primarily reflects the recording of \$2.3 million net over-collection in the water memorandum supply cost accounts as a regulatory liability, with a corresponding charge booked to the provision for supply cost balancing account. On April 30, 2004, SCW filed advice letters for Regions I and II related to the memorandum supply cost accounts. As a result, in May 2004, SCW recorded the net over-collection as a regulatory liability. In addition, there were other increases related to: (i) an increase of approximately \$404,000 related to the amortization of the pre-November 29, 2001 water supply balancing accounts authorized by the CPUC on June 19, 2003; (ii) an increase in the write-off of approximately \$145,000 for a portion of the actual weighted average cost for purchased power exceeding \$77 per MWh, pursuant to a CPUC order issued in 2002, and (iii) approximately \$148,000 of decreased purchased power for resale resulting from certain refunds and credits. These increases were offset by the \$644,000 refund to Mirant Marketing previously discussed in cost of power purchased for resale.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, other operating expenses increased by 4.4% to \$14.5 million compared to \$13.9 million for the nine months ended September 2003 due primarily to the impairment loss totaling \$482,000 recorded in June of 2004 related to the Charnock Groundwater Basin assets being removed from rate-base pursuant to the CPUC order on July 8, 2004, and higher labor, chemicals and water treatment costs which increased by approximately \$215,000.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, administrative and general expenses increased by 5.8% to \$31.2 million compared to \$29.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due primarily to: (i) approximately \$950,000 increase in outside legal and consulting services incurred in connection with new business development, most specifically in the area of privatization of water and wastewater systems at military bases, (ii) approximately \$481,000 increase in outside services related to Sarbanes-Oxley compliance requirements, and (iii) approximately \$1.1 million increase in pensions and benefits due to actuarial assumption changes in the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, and increases in various benefit costs. These increases were offset by decreases in various miscellaneous expenses. Registrant believes that prudent administrative expenses incurred in the operation and management of its regulated subsidiaries will be recovered through water and electric rates.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, depreciation and amortization expense increased by 6.8% to \$15.8 million compared to \$14.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 reflecting, among other things, the effects of recording approximately \$35 million in utility plant during 2003, depreciation on which began in January 2004. In addition, Region II's general rate case was approved in August 2004 by the CPUC, which increased the depreciation composite rates and became retroactive to February 14, 2004 to match the timing of revenue recovery. This resulted in an increase in depreciation expense of approximately \$344,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Registrant anticipates that depreciation expense will continue to increase due to Registrant's on-going construction program at its regulated subsidiaries. Registrant believes that depreciation expense related to property additions approved by the appropriate regulatory agency will be recovered through water and electric rates.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, maintenance expense increased by 17.1% to \$7.5 million compared to \$6.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due principally to increased maintenance on SCW's wells and water supply sources and maintenance of water mains as well as acceleration of certain scheduled maintenance projects.

Table of Contents

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, taxes on operating income increased by 52.2% to \$11.7 million compared to \$7.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due, in part, to an increase in pre-tax operating income of 28.2%. In addition, the ETR applicable to the nine months ended September 30, 2004 reflects an increase of approximately seven percentage points, from 36.3% to 43.1% (an 18.7% increase), compared to the ETR applicable to the nine months ended September 30, 2003. This is mostly as a result of the ETR for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 including the effect of a favorable adjustment, as previously discussed in the quarterly results, for which there is no such corresponding benefit during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Additionally, there was a net positive increase in differences (principally related to compensatory, bad-debt, and deferred-rate-case expenses) between book and taxable income that are treated as flow-through items. Positive flow-through differences increase tax expense in one year, with an offsetting decrease in tax expense occurring in another year.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, other taxes increased by 7.5% to \$6.6 million compared to \$6.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 reflecting additional property taxes resulting from higher assessed values, and increases in payroll taxes based on increased labor costs.

Other Income (Loss)

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, other net income increased to \$371,000 as compared to \$159,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. This was largely due to a reduction in SCW's estimate of customer refunds associated with lease revenues from the City of Folsom, offset by recording the revenues from leasing water rights to the City of Folsom in a regulatory liability account since January this year, as compared to recording the revenues to other income during the nine months ended September 2003, as more fully discussed in the results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2004.

Interest Charges

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, interest expense decreased by 2.2% to \$13.3 million compared to \$13.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due primarily to repayment of \$12.5 million of long-term debt in October of 2003 and recovery of carrying costs on the costs incurred in the water quality Order Instituting Investigation matter authorized by the CPUC in March 2004, partially offset by increases in short-term borrowings.

Critical Accounting Policies

Critical accounting policies are those that are important to the portrayal of AWR's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, and require the most difficult, subjective or complex judgments of AWR's management. The need to make estimates about the effect of items that are uncertain is what makes these judgments difficult, subjective and/or complex. Management makes subjective judgments about the accounting and regulatory treatment of many items. These judgments are based on AWR's historical experience, terms of existing contracts, AWR's observance of trends in the industry, information provided by customers and information available from other outside sources, as appropriate. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

The critical accounting policies used in the preparation of the Registrant's financial statements that we believe affects the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements presented in this report are described in the "*Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. There have been no material changes to the critical accounting policies.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

AWR

AWR funds its operating expenses and pays dividends on its outstanding Common Shares primarily through dividends from its subsidiaries, principally SCW. On September 22, 2004, AWR issued 1,400,000 shares in a registered public offering and received proceeds of \$33.6 million, net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$1.8 million. In October 2004, AWR issued an additional 50,000 shares, and received proceeds of \$1,212,500, net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$50,500 in connection with a partial exercise of the over-allotment option by the underwriters. The total net proceeds from these sales were infused into SCW as equity and utilized to pay down SCW's inter-company short-term loan amount, which was borrowed to temporarily fund its capital needs from the \$75 million credit facility at the parent level. AWR used the repayment funds from SCW to pay down the credit facility.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$48.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$33.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase of \$14.7 million was primarily attributable to the receipt of \$8.7 million from Aerojet in connection with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which accounted for the change in other accounts receivable and \$5.7 million of settlement proceeds from the City of Santa Monica received in May 2004. (For more information about the Aerojet MOU, see the section entitled "Environmental Matters" included in Part I, Item 2 in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*).

Net cash used in investing activities was \$57.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$33.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003 due to higher capital expenditures consistent with budgeted increases.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$3.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to net cash used in financing activities of \$6.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The change was due primarily to approximately \$35 million of proceeds received from the issuance of common shares which was then used to pay down \$28 million of short-term borrowings during the nine months ended September 30, 2004.

In June 2002, AWR established a \$75 million revolving credit facility, which matures in June 2005. Up to \$15 million of this facility may be used for letters of credit. As of September 30, 2004, an aggregate of \$28 million in cash borrowing included in current liabilities and approximately \$11.2 million of letters of credit were outstanding under this facility.

Registrant anticipates that interest costs will increase in future periods due to the need for additional external capital to fund its construction program, potential general market interest rate increases and the April, 2004 downgrade of AWR's credit rating by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service (S&P) from A+ to A- with a negative outlook. S&P debt ratings range from AAA (highest rating possible) to D (obligation is in default). Securities ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold a security and are subject to change or withdrawal at any time by the rating agency. Registrant believes that costs associated with capital used to fund construction at its regulated subsidiaries will continue to be recovered in water and electric rates charged to customers.

SCW

In September 2004, the Board of Directors approved the issuance of 10 additional SCW common shares to AWR for \$28.0 million. SCW used the proceeds to pay down its borrowings from AWR. In November 2004, the Board approved the issuance of an additional 2 shares to AWR for \$7.1 million.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$50.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$35.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003. The increase of \$15.4 million in cash provided by operations was primarily attributable to the receipt of \$8.7 million from Aerojet in connection with the MOU and \$5.7 million of settlement proceeds from the City of Santa Monica.

Net cash used in investing activities increased to \$54.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$32.0 million for the same period of 2003 due to increased capital expenditures consistent with budgeted increases.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$1.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$7.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2003, reflecting primarily \$28 million received by SCW from the issuance of common shares to AWR, offset by the repayment of \$24.5 million of inter-company short-term borrowings in 2004.

SCW funds the majority of its operating expenses, payments on its debt, and dividends on its outstanding common shares through internal sources. Internal sources of cash flow are provided primarily by retention of a portion of earnings from operating activities. Internal cash generation is influenced by factors such as weather patterns, environmental regulation, litigation, changes in supply costs and regulatory decisions affecting SCW's ability to recover these supply costs, and timing of rate relief. For further information, see the sections entitled "Risk Factors" included in Part I, Item 2 in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*.

SCW also relies on external sources, including equity investments and short-term borrowings from AWR, long-term debt, contributions-in-aid-of-construction, advances for construction and install-and-convey advances, to fund the majority of its construction expenditures. SCW has a Registration Statement on file with the SEC for issuance from time to time, of up to \$100 million of debt securities. As of September 30, 2004, \$50 million remained for issuance under this Registration Statement.

CCWC

CCWC funds the majority of its operating expenses, payments on its debt and dividends, if any, through internal operating sources. CCWC also relies on external sources, including long-term debt, contributions-in-aid-of-construction, advances for construction and install-and-convey advances, to fund the majority of its construction expenditures.

ASUS

ASUS funds its operating expenses primarily through management fees and investments by or loans from AWR.

Contractual Obligations and Other Commitments

In addition to contractual maturities, Registrant has certain debt instruments that contain annual sinking fund or other principal payments. Registrant believes that it will be able to refinance debt instruments at their maturity through public issuance, or private placement, of debt or equity. Annual principal and interest payments are generally made from cash flow from operations.

The following table reflects Registrant’s contractual obligations and commitments to make future payments pursuant to contracts as of September 30, 2004. All obligations and commitments are obligations and commitments of SCW unless otherwise noted.

(\$ in thousands)	Payments/Commitments Due by Period ⁽¹⁾				
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
Notes/Debentures ⁽²⁾	\$173,100	—	—	—	\$173,100
Private Placement Notes ⁽³⁾	28,000	—	—	—	28,000
Tax-Exempt Obligations ⁽⁴⁾	18,816	76	163	189	18,388
Other Debt Instruments ⁽⁵⁾	2,114	183	430	459	1,042
Advances for Construction ⁽⁶⁾	79,956	3,559	7,417	3,935	65,045
Purchased Power Contracts ⁽⁷⁾	51,267	11,973	23,947	15,347	—
Unconditional purchase obligations ⁽⁸⁾	36,456	36,456	—	—	—
Operating leases ⁽⁹⁾	4,652	1,833	2,228	590	1
Employer contributions ⁽¹⁰⁾	15,122	4,935	10,187	—	—
Other Commitments ⁽¹¹⁾	33,192	—	—	—	—
Chaparral City Water Co. ⁽¹²⁾	8,048	560	781	580	6,127
TOTAL	\$450,723	\$59,575	\$45,153	\$21,100	\$291,703

(1) Excludes interest, dividends, commitment, and facility fees.

(2) The Notes and Debentures are issued under an Indenture dated as of September 1, 1993. The Notes and Debentures do not contain any financial covenants that Registrant believes to be material, or cross default provisions.

(3) The private placement notes were issued pursuant to the terms of Note Agreements with substantially similar terms. The Note Agreements contain restrictions on the payment of dividends, minimum interest coverage requirements, a maximum debt to capitalization ratio and a negative pledge. Pursuant to the Note Agreements, SCW must maintain a minimum interest coverage ratio of two times interest expense. SCW does not currently have any outstanding mortgages or other encumbrances on its properties.

(4) Consists of obligations under a loan agreement supporting \$7.9 million in outstanding debt issued by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, \$6 million in obligations supporting \$6 million in certificates of participation issued by the Three Valleys Municipal Water District and \$4.9 million of obligations incurred by SCW with respect to its 500 acre foot entitlement to water from the State Water Project (SWP). These obligations do not contain any financial covenants believed to be material to Registrant or any cross default provisions. SCW’s obligations with respect to the certificates of participation issued by the Three Valleys Municipal Water District are supported by a letter of credit issued by Wells Fargo Bank. In regards to its SWP entitlement, SCW has entered into agreements with various developers for 422 acre-feet, in aggregate, of its 500 acre-foot entitlement to water from the SWP.

(5) Consists of \$1.3 million outstanding under a fixed rate obligation incurred to fund construction of water storage and delivery facilities with the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, \$0.5 million outstanding under a variable rate obligation incurred to fund construction of water delivery facilities with the Three Valleys Municipal Water District and an aggregate of \$0.3 million outstanding under capital lease obligations. These obligations do not contain any financial covenants believed to be material to Registrant or any cross default provisions.

Table of Contents

- (6) Advances for construction represent annual contract refunds to developers for the cost of water systems paid for by the developers. The advances are generally refundable at rates ranging from 10% to 22% of the revenue received from the installation for which funds were advanced or in equal annual installments over periods of time ranging from 10 to 40-year periods.
- (7) Consists of the remaining balance of the purchased power contracts from November 2002 to December 2008.
- (8) Consists of noncancelable commitments primarily for capital projects under signed contracts.
- (9) Reflects Registrant's future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases.
- (10) Consists of Registrant's expected contributions (all by employer) for its pension and postretirement plans. These amounts are subject to change based on, among other things, the limits established for federal tax deductibility (pension plan). Registrant has included as an obligation the estimated minimum required contributions to its pension plan computed by its actuary. These amounts are subject to change based on the significant impact that returns on plan assets and changes in discount rates might have on such amounts.
- (11) Other commitments consist of (i) \$75 million syndicated revolving credit facility, expiring in June 2005 of which \$28.0 million is outstanding as of September 30, 2004, (ii) an amount of \$296,000 with respect to a \$6,296,000 irrevocable letter of credit issued by Wells Fargo Bank to support the certificates of participation of Three Valleys Municipal Water District (the other \$6,000,000 is reflected under tax-exempt obligations), (iii) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$600,000 that expired on October 2004 for the deductible in Registrant's business automobile insurance policy which has been renewed for \$700,000 and expires in June 2005, (iv) an irrevocable letter of credit that expires March 31, 2005 for its energy scheduling agreement with Automated Power Exchange as security for the purchase of power; the amount of the credit is \$585,000, (v) outstanding performance bonds of \$11,200 to secure performance under franchise agreements with governmental agencies, and (vi) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$3,600,000 pursuant to a settlement agreement with Edison to cover Registrant's commitment to pay the settlement amount. All of the letters of credit are issued pursuant to the syndicated revolving credit facility. The syndicated revolving credit facility contains restrictions on prepayments, disposition of property, mergers, liens and negative pledges, indebtedness and guaranty obligations, transactions with affiliates, minimum interest coverage requirements, a maximum debt to capitalization ratio, and a minimum debt rating. Pursuant to the Credit Agreement, AWR must maintain a minimum interest coverage ratio of 3.25 times interest expense, a maximum total funded debt ratio of 0.65 to 1.00 and a minimum debt rating of Baa1 or BBB+.
- (12) Consists of \$7.6 million of outstanding obligations under a loan agreement supporting Industrial Development Revenue Bonds due in 2006 and a \$0.6 million outstanding repayment obligation to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). The loan agreement contains provisions that establish a maximum of 65% debt in the capital structure, limits cash distributions when the percentage of debt in the capital structure exceeds 55% and requires a debt service coverage ratio of two times. The Bureau obligation does not contain any financial covenants believed to be material to Registrant or any cross default provisions.

Under the terms of its power purchase contracts with Mirant Marketing and PWCC, SCW is required to post security, at the request of the seller, if SCW is in default under the terms of the contract and the future value of the contract is greater than the future value of contracts of a similar term on the date of default. SCW will be in default under the terms of these contracts if its debt is rated less than BBB- by S&P or Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch") or less than Baa3 by Moody's Investor Services, Inc ("Moody's"). SCW currently has a rating of A- by S & P and A2 by Moody's, in each case with a negative outlook. Fitch does not rate SCW.

Bear Valley Electric Service of SCW

As of September 30, 2004, SCW had accrued \$22.5 million in under-collected power costs, mostly incurred during the energy crisis in late 2000 and 2001 in connection with providing service to its Bear Valley Electric customers. SCW is authorized to include up to a weighted annual energy purchase cost of \$77 per MWh each year through August, 2011 in its electric supply cost balancing account. To the extent that actual weighted average annual costs for power purchased exceeds the \$77 per MWh amount, SCW will not be able to include these amounts in its balancing account and such amounts will be expensed, unless the CPUC approves adjustments.

Power Supply Arrangements at SCW's Bear Valley Electric Service Area

Most of the electric energy sold by SCW to customers in its Bear Valley Electric customer service area is purchased from others. Beginning April 1, 2001, SCW entered into a five-year and nine-month, block forward purchase contract with Mirant Marketing for 15 MWs of electric energy at a price of \$95 per MWh through December 31, 2006. Mirant Marketing filed a complaint with the FERC seeking to be refunded all or a portion of the gain, \$644,000, from Registrant's sale of excess energy on the spot market in 2001 resulting from a one-month overlap of energy purchase agreements. In March 2004, the FERC issued an order requiring SCW to refund the \$644,000, plus interest, to Mirant Marketing. This refund increased the cost of power purchased for resale during the nine months ended September 30, 2004, with an increase in the under-collection of the supply cost balancing account. There was no net impact on earnings. On November 1, 2004, the FERC issued another order, granting a request for clarification filed by the Western Systems Power Pool ("WSPP") and supported by SCW in the complaint proceeding filed by Mirant in connection with the April 2001 sale. The order agrees with WSPP and SCW that the WSPP agreement allowed SCW to collect the WSPP agreement's cost-based adder in addition to the SCW's incremental cost of selling to Mirant. In the FERC's original order, SCW was denied its request to charge the cost based adder. In the November 1, 2004 order, the FERC reversed this denial and stated that it denied SCW's application of the adder to the Mirant sale premised solely on the view that the adder applied only in the case of owned resources. The result of this new order is to allow SCW to charge a \$21.11 per MWh adder on top of the \$95.00 per MWh. The amount of this adder results in a reduction in the amount refunded to Mirant in March 2004 by approximately \$253,000 inclusive of interest. SCW will apply any payments received by Mirant as a reduction to SCW's unrecovered purchased power costs in its electric supply cost balancing account, with a corresponding decrease in the cost of power purchased for resale, thus resulting in no net impact on earnings.

On July 14, 2003, Mirant Marketing announced that, to facilitate its financial restructuring, it filed voluntary petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. At this time, Registrant expects no interruption in the delivery of electric energy under the Mirant Marketing contract.

In June 2001, SCW executed an agreement with PWCC for an additional 8 MWs of electric energy to meet peak winter demands. The contract provided for pricing of \$75 per MWh from November 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, \$48 per MWh from November 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 and \$36 per MWh from November 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

In September 2002, SCW entered into a series of purchased power contracts with PWCC. Under the agreements, SCW will sell 15 MWs to PWCC of electric energy at a price of \$95 per MWh beginning November 1, 2002 through December 31, 2006, and the 8 MWs of electric energy covered under the energy purchase agreement with PWCC discussed previously. In return, PWCC will supply SCW with 15 MWs of electric energy at a price of \$74.65 per MWh beginning November 1, 2002 through December 31, 2008, and an additional 8 MWs at \$74.65 per MWh beginning on November 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003 and each succeeding November 1 through March 31 period through March 31, 2008, and for the

[Table of Contents](#)

period November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Settlement of these contracts occurs on a net or cash basis through 2006 and by physical delivery through 2008.

The average minimum monthly load at SCW's Bear Valley Electric customer service area has been approximately 12 MWs. The average winter load has been 18 MWs with a winter peak of 39 MWs when the snowmaking machines at the ski resorts are operating. In addition to the power purchase contracts, SCW buys additional energy from the spot market to meet peak demand and sells surplus power to the spot market as well. The average cost of power purchased, including the transactions in the spot market, was approximately \$77.95 and \$79.65 per MWh, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004 as compared to \$76.40 and \$78.30 per MWh for the same periods of 2003. SCW's average energy costs are impacted by pricing fluctuations on the spot market.

Transmission Constraints

Demand for energy in SCW's Bear Valley Electric customer service area generally has been increasing. However, the ability of SCW to deliver purchased power to these customers is limited by the ability of the transmission facilities owned by Edison to transmit this power. On December 27, 2000, SCW filed a lawsuit against Edison for breach of contract as a result of delays in upgrading these transmission facilities as well as for violations of good faith and fair dealing, negligent misrepresentation, intentional misrepresentation and unjust enrichment.

In March 2004, SCW and Edison agreed to settle this suit. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, SCW is to pay a \$5 million project abandonment fee to Edison. Edison then filed an application to the FERC for approval of the entire \$5 million settlement payment as abandoned project cost to be included in Edison's wholesale rate charged to SCW. In addition, Edison is to sell the Goldhill substation and associated transmission line to SCW at its book value. SCW made an initial lump sum payment of \$1.4 million to Edison during the first quarter of 2004. SCW has also agreed to pay Edison an additional \$3.6 million over a 15 year term through 180 equal monthly payments of \$38,137. In August 2004, the FERC approved Edison's application and SCW recorded the \$1.4 million payment in the supply cost balancing account. This amount was previously recorded as a regulatory asset pending FERC approval of Edison's application. In addition, monthly payments totaling \$76,274 made to Edison during the period are also included in the electric supply cost balancing account.

New Generation Facility

As a means of meeting the increasing demands for energy and limiting SCW's exposure to changes in spot market prices, SCW has constructed a natural gas-fueled 8.4 MW generation facility. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity filed with the CPUC seeking authorization for construction of the generation facility was approved on July 10, 2003. The generator went on line during the third quarter of 2004. SCW filed for increased rates in the third quarter of 2004, using a special filing called a "Major Additions Adjustment Clause" or "MAAC" filing that should result in 100% of the revenue requirement related to this facility being included in rates. We anticipate the new rates will be in effect in the first quarter of 2005. See the section entitled "*Regulatory Matters*" included in Part I, Item 2 in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* for more details.

Construction Program

SCW maintains an ongoing water distribution main replacement program throughout its customer service areas based on the priority of leaks detected, fire protection enhancement and an underlying replacement schedule. In addition, SCW upgrades its electric and water supply facilities in accordance with industry standards, local requirements and CPUC requirements. SCW's Board of Directors has approved anticipated net capital expenditures of approximately \$61.7 million for 2004 principally

Table of Contents

reflecting water supply related projects such as drilling and equipping of new wells, building a new reservoir, and distribution and street improvement projects. As of September 30, 2004, SCW has unconditional purchase obligations for capital projects of approximately \$36.5 million. In addition, SCW's Board of Directors also approved the 2005 net capital budget of approximately \$57.8 million primarily for upgrades to its water supply and distribution facilities.

CCWC's Board of Directors has approved a net capital budget of \$3.1 million for 2004 primarily for a new treatment plant addition and distribution improvements to its Golden Eagle Plant. In addition, CCWC's Board of Directors also approved the 2005 net capital budget of approximately \$1.4 million.

AWR and ASUS have no material capital commitments. However, ASUS actively seeks opportunities to own, lease or operate water and wastewater systems for governmental entities, which may involve significant capital commitments.

Registrant does not have any material capital expenditures for specific environmental control facilities or measures.

Regulatory Matters

Rate Regulation

SCW is subject to regulation by the CPUC, which has broad powers with respect to service and facilities, rates, classifications of accounts, valuation of properties, the purchase, disposition and mortgaging of properties necessary or useful in rendering public utility service, the issuance of securities, the granting of certificates of public convenience and necessity as to the extension of services and facilities and various other matters. CCWC is subject to regulation by the ACC.

Rates that SCW and CCWC are authorized to charge are determined by the CPUC and the ACC, respectively, in general rate cases and are derived using rate base, cost of service and cost of capital, as projected for a future test year in California and using an historical test year, as adjusted in Arizona. Rates charged to customers vary according to customer class and rate jurisdiction and are generally set at levels allowing for recovery of prudently incurred costs, including a return on rate base. Rate base generally consists of the original cost of utility plant in service, construction work-in-progress, plus certain other assets, such as working capital and inventory, less accumulated depreciation on utility plant in service, deferred income tax liabilities and certain other deductions such as advances and contributions in aid of construction.

For rate-making purposes, the 22 customer service areas of SCW are grouped into 9 water districts and 1 electric district. Water rates vary among the 9 water ratemaking districts due to differences in operating conditions and costs. SCW monitors operations on a regional basis in each of these districts so that applications for rate changes may be filed, when warranted. Under the CPUC's practices, rates may be increased by three methods: (i) general rate case increases (GRC's), (ii) offsets for certain expense increases including but not limited to supply cost offset and balancing account amortization, and (iii) advice letter filings related to certain plant additions and other operating cost increases. GRC's are typically for three-year periods, which include step increases for the second and third year. Rates are based on a forecast of expenses and capital costs. GRC's have a typical regulatory lag of one year. Offset rate increases and advice letter filings typically have a two to four month regulatory lag.

Neither AWR nor ASUS are directly regulated by the CPUC. The CPUC does, however, regulate certain transactions between SCW and its affiliates. The ACC also regulates certain transactions between CCWC and its affiliates. Fort Bliss Water Services Company ("FBWS"), a wholly owned subsidiary of ASUS, formed to own, operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss will be regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ"). However, the amounts charged

Table of Contents

by FBWS for water and wastewater services at U.S. Army Fort Bliss will be based upon the terms of the 50-year contract between FBWS and the United States of America, rather than rates set by the TCEQ. Under the terms of this agreement, FBWS has agreed to own, operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss for a net fixed price of \$328,352 a month for a period of two years. Prices will be redetermined at the end of the two period and every three years thereafter. In addition, prices may be equitably adjusted for changes in law and other circumstances.

Changes in Rates

On August 20, 2004, the CPUC approved rate increases for SCW's Regions I and II. The rate increases in three customer service areas of SCW's Region I are anticipated to generate annual revenues in 2004 of \$382,100 and is retroactive to January 1, 2004. The rate increases in SCW's Region II customer service area are anticipated to provide for increased annual revenues of \$5.2 million in 2004 including the interim rates received earlier this year, and additional increases of \$5.4 million and \$5.2 million in 2005 and 2006, respectively. The rate increases for 2005 and 2006 are subject to an earnings test. Furthermore, due to delays in the CPUC's review and processing of the Region I and Region II General Rate Case applications, SCW was permitted to charge interim rates that were effective on January 1, 2004 for Region I and February 14, 2004 for Region II, subject to refund. The decision authorized new rates for 2004 that will be retroactive to January 1, 2004 and February 14, 2004, respectively, for Region I and Region II. Pursuant to the decisions, SCW was authorized to file advice letters to recover over a period of not less than one year, the difference between the interim rates authorized in early 2004, and the new rates authorized in the decision. As a result of this decision, approximately \$2.2 million has been recorded as a regulatory asset with a corresponding increase to revenues during the third quarter of 2004. The collection of retroactive revenues as recorded will be recovered through surcharges, together with the 2004 revenue requirement authorized by the CPUC in the GRC decisions.

On March 16, 2004, the CPUC issued a decision on the application filed to increase water rates in the customer service areas that comprise Region III, as well as the concurrent application requesting a rate increase applicable to SCW's entire customer base to recover costs associated with the general office functions of SCW. The decision approved: (i) new water rates for Region III that are expected to generate an initial annual increase in revenues of approximately \$8.1 million, (ii) a special condition surcharge in rates to amortize the water quality Order Instituting Investigation (OII) memorandum account balance, and (iii) a memorandum account to accumulate costs to comply with certain contamination remediation requirements.

On January 16, 2003, the CPUC approved rate increases estimated to generate approximately \$2.7 million annually, effective January 22, 2003, in SCW's Metropolitan district to recover costs associated with an increase in Region II rate base due to SCW's 2002 infrastructure replacement program and, increases in operating expenses. On January 31, 2003, the CPUC also approved SCW's Advice Letter filed for the 2003 infrastructure replacement program with rate increases expected to generate approximately \$3.5 million annually effective February 4, 2003.

In 1994, SCW entered a contract to lease, to the City of Folsom, 5,000 acre-feet per year of water rights to the American River. In the decision issued on March 16, 2004 the CPUC determined that SCW failed to seek the CPUC's approval to effectuate the lease. As a result, SCW was required to pay a net fine of \$180,000 to the CPUC, and to refund 70 percent of the total amount of lease revenues since 1994, plus interest, to customers. Pursuant to the order, SCW recorded \$6.2 million as a regulatory liability with a corresponding charge against income (less taxes) during the fourth quarter of 2003. During the three months ended June 30, 2004, there was a change in SCW's estimate of customer refunds, recorded as a regulatory liability, associated with lease revenues from the City of Folsom based on the final refund amount of \$5.2 million approved by the CPUC. Pursuant to the order, the apportionment of any lease revenues that SCW may collect in the future will be determined by a later decision. Therefore, beginning

Table of Contents

in the first quarter of 2004, all amounts billed to the City of Folsom are included in a regulatory liability account until all uncertainties about this matter are resolved with the CPUC. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, SCW recorded an additional \$286,000 and \$825,000, respectively, in the regulatory liability account. Management continues to disagree with the CPUC's decision on this issue and has appealed the decision. The CPUC has denied the Company's request for an appeal. The Company has subsequently filed with the Supreme Court of California to hear the matter.

Under the terms of a settlement agreement between SCW and the City of Santa Monica, SCW sold its water rights in the Charnock Groundwater Basin ("Basin") to the City and assigned to the City its rights against all potentially responsible parties who stored, transported and dispensed gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in underground storage tanks, pipelines or other related infrastructure in the basin. In a decision approved by the CPUC on July 8, 2004, SCW was directed to (i) track the net settlement proceeds in an interest-bearing memorandum account to fund capital for infrastructure improvements in eight years, (ii) maintain records of all memorandum account activity, (iii) obtain the CPUC's approval to include those capital costs in rate base as the improvements become necessary and useful, (iv) remove relevant assets from rate base, and (v) refund to ratepayers the net proceeds received from PRPs, for which \$3.5 million was recorded as a liability in December 2003. In May 2004, SCW received the full settlement payment of \$5.7 million from the City.

The total proceeds of \$5.7 million from the sale and the assignment of rights were offset by an impairment loss of \$482,000 associated with assets removed from rate base, pursuant to the decision, resulting in a \$5.2 million net pre-tax increase in operating income. The City also indemnified SCW from related claims. SCW recorded the impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base in "other operating expenses". For more information, see the section entitled "*Environmental Matters*" included in Part I, Item 2 in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

As of September 30, 2004, SCW had accrued approximately \$22.5 million in under-collected purchased power costs included in its Bear Valley Electric balancing account. A 2.2¢ per kilowatt hour surcharge, authorized by the CPUC in 2001, is in place for recovery of its under-collection in the electric balancing account.

On July 17, 2002, the CPUC also approved \$77 per MWh of purchased power costs through rates. SCW is allowed to include its actual purchased power costs up to an average annual weighted cost of \$77 per MWh each year, through August 2011, in its balancing account. To the extent SCW's actual average annual weighted cost for purchased power is less than \$77 per MWh, the differential would offset amounts included in the electric supply balancing account. Conversely, to the extent that actual average annual weighted costs for power purchased exceed the \$77 per MWh amount, SCW is not able to include these amounts in its balancing account and such amounts are expensed. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2004, SCW has expensed \$65,000 and \$290,000, respectively, for costs over \$77 per MWh. See the section entitled "*Bear Valley Electric Service of SCW*" included in Part I, Item 2 in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Pending Rate Changes

On July 10, 2003, the CPUC approved the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for construction of an 8.4 MW natural gas-fueled generation facility on a portion of its property in the City of Big Bear Lake. The capital cost of the generating facility was approximately \$13 million. The CPUC's order authorized construction and enables SCW to file a rate application to generate an estimated annual revenue increase of about \$2.4 million. SCW filed for increased rates in the third quarter of 2004, using a special filing called a "Major Additions Adjustment Clause" or "MAAC" filing that should result in 100% of the revenue requirement related to this facility being included in rates. We anticipate the new rates will be in effect in the first quarter of 2005.

Table of Contents

SCW and the Office of Ratepayers Advocates have mutually agreed to a rate adjustment plan for Region I for 2005 to 2007. If finalized, the new rates are expected to generate an additional \$2.7 million in annual revenues for 2005.

In 2000, the CPUC authorized the establishment of a memorandum account into which SCW was allowed to record costs it incurred in prosecuting the contamination suits filed against the State and Aerojet. The CPUC also authorized SCW periodically to seek recovery of such recorded costs from ratepayers. In that regard, SCW sought interim cost recovery and was authorized to increase rates, effective April 28, 2001, in an amount sufficient over a six-year period to offset approximately \$1.8 million in such legal and expert costs recorded in the memorandum account that had been incurred on or before August 31, 2000. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$15.7 million in legal and consulting related costs, including the unamortized portion of the \$1.8 million, has been recorded as deferred charges and included in "Regulatory Assets" on the SCW balance sheets.

In a proceeding currently pending at the CPUC, SCW has requested a twenty-year amortization of the remaining balance of the costs recorded in the memorandum account, net of any reimbursement amounts received from defendants, insurers and others. Given the expected timing for the issuance of a final decision in this proceeding (third quarter 2005), SCW is in the process of filing a motion seeking another interim amortization. In this motion, SCW proposes to amortize \$6 million of the \$15.7 million of the memorandum account balance over a 10 year period, and to increase rates accordingly, subject to refund. Management believes the recovery of these costs through rates is probable; however, management cannot give assurance that the CPUC will ultimately allow recovery of all or any of the costs that have accumulated in this memorandum account. Management will continue to monitor the rate making process for this matter and assess the probability of recovery of these costs on a quarterly basis. Furthermore, it is management's intention to offset any settlement proceeds from Aerojet against the balance in the memorandum account at the time of receipt of the settlement payments.

On November 2, 2004, SCW filed advice letters with the CPUC for step increases for Region II in an amount of approximately \$2.8 million and attrition increases of approximately \$2.4 million for Region III. New rates are expected to be in effect in the first quarter of 2005.

Other Regulatory Matters

On November 29, 2001, the CPUC adopted an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to (i) evaluate existing rate making practices and policies, (ii) determine whether new procedures or policies for processing offset rate increases and balancing accounts should be made and (iii) determine whether the new memorandum account procedures adopted on November 29, 2001 should be made permanent.

Pursuant to a resolution issued by the CPUC on December 17, 2002, SCW filed advice letters on March 17, 2003 requesting recovery of \$2.3 million of under-collections remaining in the balancing accounts for water supply costs incurred prior to November 29, 2001. On June 19, 2003, the CPUC authorized increases in rates in total of \$2.1 million, effective June 24, 2003, for SCW to recover the pre-November 29, 2001 balances.

In a decision issued on June 19, 2003, the CPUC concluded that (i) if a utility is within its rate case cycle and does not earn over its authorized rate of return, the utility is permitted to recover its costs in the memorandum supply cost account subject to reasonableness review by the CPUC; (ii) if a utility is either within or outside of its rate case cycle and earns over the authorized return, the utility's recovery of expenses from the memorandum supply cost account will be reduced by the amount exceeding the authorized rate of return; and (iii) a utility is required to seek review of under and over collections by filing an advice letter annually. On April 30, 2004, SCW filed advice letters for Regions I and II for the period from November 29, 2001 to December 31, 2003 with respect to an approximately \$1.4 million net over-collection. This over-collection has been recorded as a regulatory liability at September 30, 2004.

Table of Contents

An additional \$900,000 of net over-collection has also been recorded as a regulatory liability at September 30, 2004. This regulatory liability was generated during the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Pursuant to a resolution received recently from the CPUC, SCW will soon file an advice letter for review of the activity in the Region III memorandum supply cost account for the period from November 29, 2001 to December 31, 2003. Region III had an under-collection balance of \$6.1 million and \$5.2 million at September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively, which are subject to earnings tests. A regulatory asset with respect to this under-collection will not be recorded until receipt of a CPUC decision authorizing the under-collection.

CCWC filed its rate case with the ACC in August 2004. CCWC is expecting the new rates will be approved and effective in early 2006. The new rates are expected to increase CCWC's revenue requirement by approximately 29%.

Environmental Matters

1996 Amendments to Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may only regulate contaminants that may have adverse health effects, are known or likely to occur at levels of public health concern, and the regulation of which will provide a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction. The EPA has published a list of contaminants for possible regulation and must update that list every five years. In addition, every five years, the EPA must select at least five contaminants on that list and determine whether to regulate them. The EPA has authority to bypass the selection process and adopt interim regulations for contaminants in order to address urgent health threats. The Department of Health Services ("DOHS"), acting on behalf of the EPA, administers the EPA's program in California. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) administers EPA's program in Arizona. The TCEQ administers the EPA's program in Texas.

The EPA may base primary drinking water regulations on risk assessment and cost/benefit considerations and on minimizing overall risk. The EPA must base regulations on best available, peer-reviewed science and data from best available methods. For proposed regulations that involve the setting of maximum contaminant levels (MCL's), the EPA must use, and seek public comment on, an analysis of quantifiable and non-quantifiable risk-reduction benefits and costs for each such MCL.

SCW and CCWC currently test their wells and water systems according to requirements listed in the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"). Water from wells found to contain levels of contaminants above the established MCL's is treated to reduce contaminants to acceptable levels before it is delivered to customers. If treatment is not possible, the wells are shut down. Since the SDWA became effective, SCW and CCWC have experienced increased operating costs for testing to determine the levels, if any, of the constituents in their sources of supply and additional expense to lower the level of any contaminants in order to meet the MCL standards. Such costs and the costs of controlling any other contaminants may cause SCW and/or CCWC to experience additional capital costs as well as increased operating costs. The CPUC and ACC ratemaking processes provide SCW and CCWC with the opportunity to recover prudently incurred capital and operating costs in future filings associated with water quality. Management believes that such incurred and expected future costs should be authorized for recovery by the CPUC and ACC, as applicable.

Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules

The EPA has adopted the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (ESWTR), which requires increased surface-water treatment to decrease the risk of microbial contamination. These rules apply to each of SCW's five surface water treatment plants and CCWC's surface water treatment plant. Registrant

Table of Contents

anticipates that all plants will achieve compliance within the three-year to five-year time frames identified by EPA. Registrant is required to be in compliance by June 1, 2006. SCW has initiated phased construction of a new treatment plant in the Calipatria-Niland customer service area (see further discussion below under *Regulation of Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products*) to bring that facility into compliance. Once this project is completed, all the surface water plants in SCW and CCWC should be in compliance with these rules.

Regulation of Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products

SCW and CCWC are also subject to regulations concerning disinfection/disinfection by-products (DBP's). Stage I of the regulations was effective in November 1998 with full compliance required for systems serving 10,000 or more persons by 2002 and for systems serving fewer than 10,000 persons by 2004. Stage I requires reduction of trihalomethane contaminants from 100 micrograms per liter to 80 micrograms per liter on a system wide running annual average. SCW has already implemented modifications to the treatment process in its Bay Point and Cordova systems to achieve compliance and the Calipatria plant has undergone and continues to undergo treatment modifications. The Calipatria upgrades were completed by the third quarter of 2004. Further modifications to the Calipatria plant will be in place by 2005 to ensure compliance.

The EPA is not permitted to use the cost/benefit analysis provided for in the 1996 SDWA amendments for establishing the Stage II rules applicable to DBP's but may utilize the regulatory negotiating process provided for in the 1996 SDWA amendments to develop the Stage II rule.

The Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR) and the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR)

The Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) was published in the *Federal Register* on August 11, 2003, and the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR) was published shortly thereafter on August 18. These proposed Rules are very complex and EPA has asked for comments on hundreds of technical issues. The comment period expired in January 2004. Registrant is currently waiting for the EPA to finalize these proposed rules to determine the impact.

Ground Water Rule

On May 10, 2000, the EPA published the proposed Ground Water Rule (GWR), which establishes multiple barriers to protect against bacteria and viruses in drinking water systems that use ground water. The proposed rule applies to all U.S. public water systems that use ground water as a source. The proposed GWR includes system sanitary surveys conducted by the state to identify significant deficiencies; hydrogeologic sensitivity assessments for undisinfected systems; source water microbial monitoring by systems that do not disinfect and draw from hydrogeologically sensitive aquifers or have detected fecal indicators within a distribution system; corrective action; and compliance monitoring for systems which disinfect to ensure that they reliably achieve 4-log (99.99%) inactivation or removal of viruses. No final regulations have yet been adopted. While no assurance can be given as to the nature and cost of any additional compliance measures, if any, SCW and CCWC do not believe that such regulations will impose significant compliance costs, since they already currently engage in disinfection of the majority of their groundwater systems.

Regulation of Radon and Arsenic

On October 31, 2001, EPA announced that the arsenic standard in drinking water would be 10 parts per billion (ppb). Compliance with an MCL of 10 ppb will require implementation of wellhead treatment remedies for eight affected wells in SCW's system and two wells in CCWC's system. The effective date for utilities to comply with the standard is January 2006. The California DOHS Office of

[Table of Contents](#)

Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) published the final Public Health Goal (PHG) of 4.0 parts per trillion in April 2004. This is the first step for California to adopt its own MCL for arsenic. The California DOHS will take this number and begin the formal MCL process for California. The DOHS MCL process is expected to take up to a year (even as an emergency regulation). In that interim period, the current MCL in California will remain at 50 parts per billion.

The EPA has proposed new radon regulations following a National Academy of Sciences risk assessment and study of risk-reduction benefits associated with various mitigation measures. The National Academy of Sciences study is in agreement with much of EPA's original findings but has slightly reduced the ingestion risk initially assumed by EPA. EPA established an MCL of 300 Pico Curies per liter based on the findings and has also established an alternative MCL of 4000 Pico Curies per liter, based upon potential mitigation measures for overall radon reduction. Registrant is currently waiting for the EPA to establish a MCL to determine the impact.

Voluntary Efforts to Provide Treated Surface Water below Minimum Surface Water Treatment Requirements

SCW is a voluntary member of the EPA's Partnership for Safe Water, a national program designed to further protect the public from diseases caused by cryptosporidium and other microscopic organisms. As a volunteer in the program, SCW commits to treat surface water to levels much lower than the minimum operating requirements governing surface water treatment, optimize surface water treatment plant operations and seeks to have its surface water treatment facilities perform as efficiently as possible.

Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule

EPA has revised the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The data generated by the UCMR will be used to evaluate and prioritize contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List, a list of contaminants EPA is considering for possible new drinking water standards. This data will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

A tiered approach will be utilized with the three monitoring lists to provide the maximum capability to monitor up to the statutory limit of no more than 30 contaminants in any 5-year monitoring cycle. Therefore, as List 3 contaminants are found to occur in public water systems, they may move up to List 2, and likewise, List 2 contaminants may move up to List 1, when the UCMR is revised again later this year. The law requires that EPA publish a new contaminant-monitoring list every 5 years. When the EPA adds contaminants to their list, they will also include a compliance date. Registrant will evaluate the impact and necessary actions as additions are made to the contaminant lists.

Perchlorate Action Level Activities

In January 2002, DOHS reduced the action level from 18 ppb to a level of 4 ppb, based upon new information from the EPA on reference doses for health risk information from EPA.

SCW has removed eight wells from service in its Rancho Cordova system and six additional wells in various other systems since they contained perchlorate in amounts in excess of the action level of 4 ppb. On December 6, 2002, the OEHHA published a revised draft perchlorate Public Health Goal (PHG) of 2 to 6 ppb. This is the first step in the establishment of an MCL in California. The PHG of 6 ppb was adopted in the first quarter of 2004 after which DOHS revised the state Action Level for perchlorate from 4 ppb to 6 ppb. The California MCL for perchlorate is expected to be finalized in 2005. SCW is continuing to periodically monitor all of its water supplies to determine that levels of perchlorate are below the action level currently in effect.

Matters Relating to SCW's Arden-Cordova Water System

In SCW's Rancho Cordova system, four wells have been removed from service and destroyed due to contamination from perchlorate. The supply has been replaced for three of these wells. An additional three wells are currently out of service due to perchlorate levels above the EPA trigger level of 4 ppb as defined in the EPA's Administrative Orders, and two wells are out of service due to detectable levels of nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) above the action level. SCW continues to monitor all of its active groundwater wells in the Rancho Cordova system for perchlorate and NDMA.

Aerojet has, in the past, used ammonium perchlorate in oxidizing rocket fuels. NDMA is an additional by-product from the production of rocket fuels and it is believed that contamination in SCW's Rancho Cordova service area is also related to the activities of Aerojet. SCW has filed suit against Aerojet for contamination of SCW's ground water supply in its Rancho Cordova system.

On October 12, 2004, Registrant reached a final settlement with Aerojet of litigation relating to this contamination. Under the terms of the settlement, Aerojet paid SCW \$8.7 million in the first quarter of 2004. Aerojet will pay an additional \$8 million, plus interest, over a period of five years commencing in December 2009. These payments reduce SCW's costs of utility plant and purchased water by \$16 million and \$700,000, respectively. Aerojet has also reimbursed SCW \$4.3 million in capital costs and \$171,000 for additional water supply. In addition, Aerojet has agreed to reimburse SCW \$17.5 million, plus interest accruing from January 1, 2004, for its past legal and expert costs solely from connection fees anticipated to be received by Aerojet in a new development area owned by Aerojet.

Aerojet will also transfer its remediated groundwater to the Sacramento County Water Agency, which will provide treated water for distribution to SCW and other water purveyors affected by the contamination. This arrangement, together with other mitigation measures, will afford SCW a reliable and safe water supply for its Rancho Cordova customers. Registrant and Aerojet have also signed three separate agreements requiring Aerojet to pay for certain transmission pipelines and upgrades to the Coloma Treatment Plant as a contingency plan, should additional wells be impacted. The value of the three agreements approximates \$6.8 million in capital improvements.

Matters Relating to SCW's Culver City Water System

The compound, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), an oxygenate used in reformulated fuels, has been detected in the Charnock Groundwater Basin, located in the vicinity of the City of Santa Monica and within SCW's Culver City customer service area. At the request of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City of Santa Monica and the California Environmental Protection Agency, SCW removed two of its wells in the Culver City water system from service in October 1996 to help in efforts to avoid further spread of the MTBE contamination plume. Neither of these wells has been found to be contaminated with MTBE. SCW is purchasing water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) at an increased cost to replace the water supply formerly pumped from the two wells removed from service.

On September 22, 1999, the U.S. EPA and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board ordered Shell Oil Company, Shell Oil Products Company, Equilon Enterprises LLC and others to provide replacement drinking water to both SCW and the City of Santa Monica due to MTBE contamination in the Charnock Groundwater Basin. The EPA has ordered Shell Oil and others to reimburse SCW for water replacement costs. In March 2002, SCW reached a settlement agreement with the City of Santa Monica pursuant to which SCW sold its basin water rights to the City and assigned to the City its rights against all potentially responsible parties who stored, transported and dispensed gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in underground storage tanks, pipelines or other related infrastructure in the basin. The City also indemnified SCW from related claims.

Table of Contents

On May 8, 2003, the CPUC issued a decision approving the settlement agreement. Pursuant to the resolution, SCW has subsequently filed a report that sets forth specific details as to SCW's plans to reinvest the net proceeds from the settlement agreement with the City of Santa Monica. In a CPUC decision approved on July 8, 2004, SCW is directed to (i) track the net settlement proceeds in an interest-bearing memorandum account to fund capital for infrastructure improvements in eight years, (ii) maintain records of all memorandum account activity, (iii) obtain the CPUC's approval to include those capital costs in rate base as the improvements become necessary and useful, (iv) remove relevant assets from rate base, and (v) refund to ratepayers the net proceeds received from PRPs, for which \$3.5 million was recorded as a liability in December 2003.

In May 2004, SCW received the full settlement payment of \$5.7 million from the City. The total proceeds of \$5.7 million from the sale and the assignment of rights were offset by an impairment loss of \$482,000 associated with assets removed from rate base, pursuant to the decision, resulting in a \$5.2 million net pre-tax increase in operating income. SCW recorded the impairment loss on assets removed from rate-base in "other operating expenses".

Matters Relating to SCW's Yorba Linda Water System

The compound MTBE has been detected in the well serving SCW's Yorba Linda water system. To date, the well has not shown MTBE above the DOHS secondary standard of 5.0 ppb. SCW has constructed an interconnection with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to provide for the needed supply for this system in the event the well experiences levels of detection in excess of the DOHS standard.

SCW met with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Orange County Water District, (OCWD), the City of Anaheim, the DOHS and three potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to define the extent of the MTBE contamination plume and assess the contribution from the PRP's. The PRP's voluntarily initiated a work plan for regional investigation. While there have not been significant disruptions to the water supply in Yorba Linda at this point in time, no assurances can be given that MTBE contamination will not increase in the future. In December 2003, a settlement was reached between SCW and the PRPs. Under the settlement agreement, the PRPs paid pay SCW \$581,250 in January 2004 for reimbursement of costs related to the issue, and will pay up to \$260,000 per year for five years for incremental supply costs should the MTBE level in the well exceed the DOHS action level.

Matters Relating to SCW's San Gabriel Water Systems

Perchlorate and/or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) have been detected in five wells servicing SCW's San Gabriel System. SCW filed suit, along with two other affected water purveyors and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), in federal court against some of those responsible for the contamination. Some of the other potential defendants settled with SCW, other water purveyors and the WQA on VOC related issues prior to the filing of the lawsuit resulting in reimbursement to SCW of the \$1 million in capital cost of VOC treatment facilities and contribution of approximately \$380,000 towards future operating and maintenance costs of the facilities.

In response to the filing of the Federal lawsuit, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) defendants filed motions to dismiss the suit or strike certain portions of the suit. Following a hearing on these motions on March 31, 2003, the judge issued a ruling on April 1, 2003 granting in part and denying in part the defendant's motions. A key ruling of the court was that the water purveyors, including the Registrant, by virtue of their ownership of wells contaminated with hazardous chemicals are themselves PRPs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Registrant has, pursuant to permission of the court, amended its suit to claim certain affirmative defenses as an "innocent" party under CERCLA. In this same suit, the PRPs have filed cross-complaints against the

Registrant, the other two affected water purveyors, the WQA and the Metropolitan Water District, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and others on the theory that they arranged for and did transport contaminated water into the San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin for use by Registrant and the other two affected water providers and for other related claims. Registrant is presently unable to predict the outcome of this ruling on its ability to fully recover from the PRPs future costs associated with the treatment of these wells.

On August 29, 2003, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Unilateral Administrative Orders (UAO) against 41 parties deemed responsible for polluting the groundwater in that portion of the San Gabriel Valley from which two of SCW's impacted wells draw water. SCW was not named as a party to the UAO. The UAO requires that these parties remediate the contamination. The judge in the Federal lawsuit has appointed a special master to oversee mandatory settlement discussions between the PRP's, SCW, the other two affected water purveyors, and WQA. Registrant is presently unable to predict the ultimate outcome of these settlement discussions.

Three other wells serving customers in SCW's San Gabriel customer service area are also impacted by VOC contamination. A settlement with several potentially responsible parties together with federal funds administered by WQA resulted in reimbursement of 100% of the \$1.1 million in capital costs, \$205,000 of past operations and maintenance costs and 100% of future operations and maintenance costs for a period of up to 30 years for VOC treatment facilities at these wells.

Bark Beetle Infestation in SCW's Bear Valley Electric Service Area

In a Proclamation issued on March 7, 2003 former Governor Gray Davis declared a State of Emergency with respect to a severe fire risk caused by dead and dying trees plagued by drought and a major bark beetle infestation in the counties of Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. The threat is continuing and shows no sign of abating. On April 3, 2003, the CPUC issued an order requiring Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Bear Valley Electric to take all reasonable and necessary actions to mitigate the increased fire hazard by removing dead, dying or diseased trees from falling or contacting distribution and transmission lines within their rights of way and to ensure compliance with existing vegetation clearance statutes and regulations. The utilities, including Bear Valley Electric, are authorized to make annual advice letter filings requesting recovery of the costs of removal and mitigation. SCW has determined the scope and magnitude of the bark beetle infestation in its Bear Valley Electric service territory to date and has formulated a course of action to mitigate the fire potential in its rights-of-way. Estimated costs of dead tree removal are \$620,000 based on experiences with other utility vegetation management programs and current information gathered and assessed for the Big Bear Lake area. These costs represent only the cost of addressing the problem to date. If the drought continues, the infestation will likely spread and mitigation costs may increase. SCW expects that current and future costs incurred in remediation of bark beetle infestation will be recoverable in rates through the annual Advice Letter filings, as the April 2003 order issued by the CPUC contained cost recovery provisions. As of September 30, 2004, approximately \$189,000 has been incurred and is recorded as a regulatory asset on the balance sheets.

Security Issues

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, water utilities, including Registrant, have been advised to increase security at key facilities in order to avoid contamination of water supplies and other disruptions of service. In compliance with “*The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2002*” (HR 3448), Registrant has continued to implement measures to increase security, which includes a vulnerability assessment of its large systems. In addition to large system assessments, all systems operated by Registrant were assessed to identify potential areas requiring enhancements. These assessments resulted in a prioritized listing of recommended facility upgrades to enhance the safety of water system operations to be made over a period of six years. Costs associated with capital improvements of approximately \$15 million were identified as a result of the assessment process. SCW has begun to make these improvements. In March 2004, the CPUC approved security plan amounts to be spent in 2003 and 2004 consistent with the six-year plan. The CPUC will evaluate the remaining costs in future general rate cases.

Water Supply

SCW’s Water Supply

For the three months ended September 30, 2004, SCW supplied a total of 27,970,000 ccf of water. Of this amount, approximately 49% came from pumped sources and 48% was purchased from others, principally the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The remaining amount was surface water principally supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation (the Bureau) under a no-cost contract and by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the cost of which is being reimbursed by Aerojet. For more information, please see the section entitled “*Environmental Matters*” included in Part I, Item 2 in Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. During the same period of 2003, SCW supplied 27,826,000 ccf of water, 50% of which came from pumped sources, 46% was purchased, and the Bureau and SMUD supplied the remainder.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2004, SCW supplied a total of 69,343,000 ccf of water, 51% of which came from pumped sources and 46% of which was purchased. During the nine months ended September 30, 2003, SCW produced 65,672,000 ccf of water. Of this amount 53% came from pumped sources, 43% was purchased and the remainder was provided by the Bureau.

The MWD is a water district organized under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of delivering imported water to areas within its jurisdiction. Registrant has 58 connections to the water distribution facilities of MWD and other municipal water agencies. MWD imports water from two principal sources: the Colorado River and the State Water Project. Available water supplies from the Colorado River and the State Water Project have historically been sufficient to meet most of MWD’s requirements.

On October 17, 2003 Federal government, State government, and four Southern California water agency officials, including the MWD, met to sign the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) which divides up each state’s share of the Colorado River. Under the QSA, MWD will have access (as in the past) to Colorado River water and up to 1.6 million acre feet of additional water that the Imperial Irrigation District proposes to conserve and sell to the state. With the signing of this agreement California once again has access to excess Colorado River water for the next 13 years. However for the near term, excess water may not be available due to the recent drought in the Colorado watershed. MWD has also publicly stated that it is stepping up a number of efforts including desalination, conservation, recycling, transfer and storage, to increase water supplies.

Table of Contents

SCW's water supply and revenues are significantly affected, both in the short-run and the long run, by changes in meteorological conditions. Current water supplies in California are adequate; however, through the third quarter of 2004 California continued to experience warm temperatures and reduced precipitation levels. This water year (October 2003 to September 2004) has been a dry year. According to the California Department of Water Resources, total precipitation in California was 85% of normal, following a year of 112% of normal precipitation. Recent storms in October 2004, which dropped 1 to 3 feet on snow on the high Sierra Mountains and substantial amounts of rain through the area, provide a more optimistic weather/water outlook for the State. The formation of an El Nino pattern in the Pacific increases the likelihood of at least normal precipitation throughout the area with above average levels in the driest areas of Southern California and southwestern Arizona.

Although, with the exception of the Wrightwood area, overall groundwater conditions remain at adequate levels, certain of SCW's groundwater supplies have been affected to varying degrees by various forms of contamination which, in some cases, has caused SCW to increase its reliance on purchased water in its supply mix. For further information, see Part I, Item 3 in Legal Proceedings.

As a result of below normal precipitation and faster than normal melting of the winter snowpack, coupled with an increase in customer demands in SCW's Wrightwood customer service area, our groundwater water supply again began to be severely impacted in late June this year. In response to this emergency situation, SCW undertook a number of steps to continue to provide sufficient water service, including trucking water into the area from nearby sources beginning June 29, 2004 and ending August 28, 2004, informing customers of more stringent conservation measures, and expediting the drilling and equipping of a new well, which came on line in late August. SCW experienced increased operating costs associated with the trucking of water of approximately \$525,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2004. Management is unable to predict the extent of these additional costs or the extent to which additional problems may be encountered in this area. SCW intends to seek recovery of these costs at the CPUC.

CCWC's Water Supply

Arizona continues to experience drought conditions with warm temperatures and reduced precipitation levels. During this water year, precipitation has been well below normal, except for the southeastern portion of the state. According to the Arizona Water Banking Authority, Arizona reservoirs are well below capacity, at the 48% level, which has actually improved from 31% recorded during the same period of last year. The Colorado River area continues to experience severe drought conditions as river flow into Lake Powell is at 5,223,500 AF or 45% of normal, as compared to 6,269,900 AF or 48% of normal last year.

The Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) was created to store Arizona's unused Colorado River water entitlement in western, central and southern Arizona to develop long-term storage credits to: (i) firm existing water supplies for municipal and industrial users during Colorado River shortages or Central Arizona Project (CAP) service interruptions; (ii) help meet the water management objectives of the Arizona Groundwater Code; and (iii) assist in the settlement of American Indian water rights claims. For the second year in a row, Arizona used its full allocation of Colorado River entitlement of 2.8 million acre-feet as a result of the banking of water by the ABWA. This banked water can be used as a hedge against future drought conditions. Further, the first curtailment of CAP deliveries in the event of shortage would occur to non-Indian agricultural users. Such users accounted for a third of CAP deliveries in 2003, creating a buffer for users such as CCWC. Though it is difficult to predict drought conditions with certainty, the activities of AWBA, and the priority for users of CAP, such as CCWC, provides an improved outlook for CCWC supplies.

Table of Contents

CCWC obtains its water supply from two operating wells and from Colorado River water delivered by the CAP. The majority of CCWC's water supply is obtained from its CAP allocation and well water is used for peaking capacity in excess of treatment plant capability, during treatment plant shutdown, and to keep the well system in optimal operating condition.

CCWC has an Assured Water Supply designation, by decision and order of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), providing in part that, subject to its requirements, CCWC has a sufficient supply of ground water and CAP water which is physically, continuously and legally available to satisfy current and committed demands of its customers, plus at least two years of predicted demands, for 100 years.

On April 7, 2004 ADWR issued a decision confirming that CCWC has demonstrated the physical, legal and continuous availability of CAP water and groundwater, in an aggregate volume of 9,828 acre-feet per year for a minimum of 100 years which is greater than CCWC's projected demand for the calendar year 2014 of approximately 8,000 acre-feet. The 9,828 is comprised of our existing CAP allocation of 6,978 acre-feet per year, 350 acre-feet per year groundwater allowance, incidental recharge credits of 500 acre-feet per year, and our Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) contract of 2,000 acre-feet per year. Our existing groundwater account balance of 35,829 acre-feet provides approximately 350 acre-feet per year for a hundred years.

Notwithstanding an assured water supply designation, CCWC's water supply may be subject to interruption or reduction, in particular owing to interruption or reduction of CAP water. In the event of interruption or reduction of CAP water, CCWC can currently rely on its well water supplies for short-term periods. However, in any event, the quantity of water CCWC supplies to some or all of its customers may be interrupted or curtailed, pursuant to the provisions of its tariffs. CCWC also has the physical capability to deliver water far in excess of that which is currently accounted for in CCWC's assured water supply account.

Risk Factor Summary

You should carefully read the risks described below and other information in this Form 10-Q in order to understand certain of the risks of our business. If any of the following events actually occurs, our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flow could be adversely affected.

Our liquidity and earnings could be adversely affected by changes in water supply costs

On November 29, 2001, the CPUC ordered us to suspend the use of the current water balancing account, and instead start a memorandum account for each off settable expense of purchased water, purchased power and pump tax for our water service areas. Changes in water supply costs compared to the authorized amount, as well as any future authorized offset increases may directly affect our earnings.

In a decision issued on June 19, 2003 for memorandum supply accounts, the CPUC concluded that our recovery of deferred water supply costs for providing water service will be reduced if we are earning more than our authorized rate of return. Pursuant to this decision, we are required to file advice letters annually with respect to over- and under- collections in the memorandum supply accounts in each of our rate-making jurisdictions. We also record the amount of net over-collections in each region, but do not record under-collections that are uncertain for recovery, unless the CPUC approves recovery of these under-collections. Our recovery of deferred water supply costs for providing water service is reduced if we are earning more than our authorized rate of return in a rate-making jurisdiction or the CPUC determines that our water supply costs are not reasonable.

We recently filed advice letters seeking review of the activities in Region I and Region II supply cost memorandum accounts at December 31, 2003. We also expect to file an advice letter for the Region III supply cost memorandum account shortly. Region III had an under-collection balance of \$6.1 million and \$5.2 million at September 30, 2004 and December 31, 2003, respectively.

Our liquidity, and in certain circumstances, earnings, could be adversely affected by increases in electricity prices in California

Under California law, we are permitted to file for a rate increase to recover electric power costs not being recovered in current rates. Increases in electric power costs generally have no direct impact on profit margins, unless recovery of these costs is disallowed, but do affect cash flows and can therefore impact the amount of our capital resources. Electric power costs increased substantially in California during the fall of 2000 until the summer of 2001. On July 17, 2002, the FERC extended and modified the mitigation measures that were set to expire on September 30, 2002, citing delays in construction of new generation resources in California and throughout the West, delays in adopting a new market design and market rules by the Cal ISO, transmission line constraints, constraints on natural gas pipeline capacity and continuing dysfunctions in the power market. It remains unclear how long the FERC will leave its mitigation measures in place. The premature termination of such mitigation measures could result in a substantial increase in spot market prices and the prices of long-term contracts for power and capacity. In addition, a number of market reforms are under consideration at FERC and the State of California. Certain of these reforms, if adopted, could result in significantly increased electric supply reserve requirements that have the potential for further cost increases.

Significant claims have been asserted against us in water quality litigation

We were sued, along with others, in twenty-two water quality related lawsuits alleging personal injury and property damage as a result of the delivery of water that was allegedly contaminated. Nineteen of the lawsuits involved plaintiffs who received water from two groundwater basins in Los Angeles County. The other lawsuits involved plaintiffs in Sacramento County. All of these lawsuits have been dismissed by the court. The plaintiffs have the right to appeal these dismissals. Some plaintiffs have filed an appeal of the Trial Judge's order dismissing the cases in Los Angeles County. SCW is unable to predict the outcome of the appeal.

Persons that are potentially responsible for causing the contamination of groundwater supplies have also been increasingly asserting claims against water distributors on a variety of theories and have thus far successfully brought them within the class of potentially responsible parties in Federal court actions pending in Los Angeles county. This increases the costs of seeking recovery from the potentially responsible parties and the risks associated with seeking recovery of these costs. Management believes that rate recovery, proper insurance coverage and reserves are in place to appropriately manage against these types of claims. Such claims, if ultimately resolved unfavorably to us, could, in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our operating costs have increased and are expected to continue to increase as a result of groundwater contamination

Our operations have been impacted by groundwater contamination in certain of our service territories. We have taken a number of steps to address this contamination, including the removal of wells from service, decreasing the amount of groundwater pumped from wells in our service area in order to slow the movement of plumes of contaminated water, construction of water treatment facilities and securing alternative sources of supply from other areas not affected by the contamination.

In some cases, potentially responsible parties have reimbursed us for our costs. In other cases, we have taken legal action against parties that we believe to be potentially responsible for the contamination. To date, the CPUC has also permitted SCW to establish memorandum accounts for recovery of these types of costs. However, we can give no assurance regarding the outcome of litigation arising out of this contamination or our ability to recover these costs in the future.

Environmental regulation has increased, and is expected to continue to increase our operating costs

Our regulated subsidiaries are subject to increasingly stringent environmental regulations that will result in increasing capital and operating costs. These regulations include:

- The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act that require increased testing, reporting and treatment of water to reduce specified contaminants to maximum contaminant levels
- Approved regulations requiring increased surface-water treatment to decrease the risk of microbial contamination; these regulations affect SCW's five surface water treatment plants and two CCWC plants
- Additional regulation of disinfection/disinfection byproducts
- Additional regulations requiring disinfection of certain groundwater systems
- Regulation of arsenic and radon
- Changes in the action level relating to, and the proposed adoption of maximum contamination levels for, perchlorate and other by products of the production of rocket fuel

SCW and CCWC may be able to recover costs incurred to comply with these regulations through the ratemaking process. We may also be able to recover certain of these costs under certain of our contractual arrangements. In certain circumstances, we may be able to recover costs from parties responsible or potentially responsible for contamination, either voluntarily or through specific court action. However, our ability to recover these types of costs depends upon a number of factors beyond our control, including approval of rate increases, and we can give no assurance regarding the adequacy of any such recovery.

The adequacy of our water supplies depends upon a variety of factors beyond our control

The adequacy of our water supplies varies from year to year depending upon a variety of factors, including:

- Rainfall
- Availability of Colorado River water and imported water from northern California
- The amount of water stored in reservoirs and groundwater basins
- The amount of water used by our customers and others
- Water quality
- Legal limitations on use

Population growth and increases in the amount of water used have increased limitations on use to prevent over-drafting of groundwater basins. The importation of water from the Colorado River, one of SCW's important sources of supply, is expected to decrease in future years due to the requirements of the Central Arizona Project ("CAP") and other limitations on the amount of water that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is entitled to take from the Colorado River. MWD is expected to increase its efforts to secure additional supplies from conservation, desalination and water exchanges with the agricultural water users. CCWC obtains its water supply from operating wells and from the Colorado River through the CAP. CCWC's water supply may be subject to interruption or reduction if there is an interruption or reduction in CAP water. In addition, CCWC's ability to provide water service to new real estate developments is dependent upon CCWC's ability to meet the requirements of the Arizona Department of Water Resources regarding its assured water supply account.

Water shortages may affect us in a variety of ways:

- They adversely affect supply mix by causing us to rely on more expensive purchased water.
- They adversely affect operating costs.
- They may result in an increase in capital expenditures for building pipelines to connect to alternative sources of supplies, new wells to replace those that are no longer in service or are otherwise inadequate to meet the needs of our customers and reservoirs and other facilities to conserve or reclaim water.

We may be able to recover increased operating and construction costs for our regulated systems through the ratemaking process. We may also be able to recover certain of these costs from third parties that may be responsible, or potentially responsible, for groundwater contamination. We may also be able to recover certain of these costs from third parties that may be responsible, or potentially responsible, for groundwater contamination.

Our earnings are greatly affected by weather during different seasons

The demand for water and electricity varies by season. Therefore, the results of operations for one period may not indicate results to be expected in another period. For instance, most water consumption occurs during the third quarter of each year when weather tends to be hot and dry. On warm days, use of water by residential and commercial customers may be significantly greater than on cold days because of the increased use of water for, among other things, outdoor landscaping. Likewise the demand for electricity in our Bear Valley Electric service area is greatly affected by winter snows. An increase in winter snows reduces the use of snow making machines at ski resorts in the Big Bear area and, as a result reduces electric revenues. Likewise, unseasonably warm weather during a skiing season may result in temperatures too high for snowmaking conditions which also reduces electric revenues.

Variability of weather from normal temperatures or changes in snow or rainfall can materially impact results of operations. As a result, weather has been and will continue to be one of the dominant factors in our financial performance.

Our business is heavily regulated and, as a result, decisions by regulatory agencies and changes in laws and regulations can significantly affect our business

Our revenues depend substantially on the rates that we are permitted to charge our customers and our ability to recover our costs in these rates on a timely basis, including the ability to recover the costs of purchased water, groundwater assessments, electric power and natural gas costs, costs incurred in connection with increased environmental regulation, requirements to increase security at our water facilities and requirements to mitigate fire hazard risks in our Bear Valley Electric service area arising out of the drought and a major bark beetle infestation in rates. We have filed for increased water rates to recover operating costs from customers in certain of our water regions and to recover in rates the costs for constructing an 8.4 MW natural gas-fueled generator facility to meet increasing demand in our Bear Valley customer service area. In addition, we have filed with the ACC for increased water rates in CCWC's customer service areas in Arizona. Any delays by either the CPUC or the ACC in granting rate relief to cover increased operating and capital costs may adversely affect our financial performance.

Regulatory decisions can also impact prospective revenues and earnings, affect the timing of the recognition of revenues and expenses and may overturn past decisions.

Our business requires significant capital expenditures

The utility business is capital intensive. On an annual basis, we spend significant sums for additions to or replacement of property, plant and equipment. During the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003, Registrant spent \$57,531,000 and \$33,904,000, respectively, for these purposes. Our net budgeted capital expenditures for calendar year 2004 for these purposes are approximately \$61.7 million. There is no capital expenditure for environmental control facilities budgeted for 2004.

We obtain funds for these capital projects from operations, contributions by developers and others and advances from developers (which must be repaid). We also periodically borrow money or issue equity for these purposes. In addition, we have a syndicated bank facility that we can use for these purposes. We cannot assure you that these sources will continue to be adequate or that the cost of funds will remain at levels permitting us to earn a reasonable rate of return.

The expansion of our contract operations will expose us to different risks than those associated with our utility operations

We are incurring additional costs in connection with the expansion of our contract operations associated with the preparation of bids, the negotiation of the terms of new contracts and start-up activities associated with new contracts. Our ability to recover these costs and to earn a profit on our contract operations will depend upon the extent to which we are successful in obtaining new contracts and our ability to recover those costs and other costs from revenues from new contracts.

In addition, we must maintain the proper management and find state-certified and qualified employees to support the operation of water and wastewater facilities. Failure to do so could put us at risk of, among other things, operations errors at these facilities and for improper billing and collection procedures as well as loss of contracts, assessment of penalties for operational failures and loss of revenues.

New Accounting Pronouncements

Registrant is subject to newly issued as well as changes in existing requirements issued by the Financial Accounting Standard Board. Differences in financial reporting between periods could occur unless and until the CPUC and the ACC approve such changes for conformity through regulatory proceedings. See *Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements*.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Registrant is exposed to certain market risks, including fluctuations in interest rates, and commodity price risk primarily relating to changes in the market price of electricity. Market risk is the potential loss arising from adverse changes in prevailing market rates and prices. There have been no material changes regarding Registrant's market risk position from the information provided in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. The quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk are discussed in *Item 7A-Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*, contained in Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

Registrant carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of September 30, 2004, which is the end of the period covered by this report. Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that such controls and procedures are effectively designed to ensure that required information disclosed by the Registrant in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and timely reported in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. The design of any control system is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events and is subject to judgments in assessing the costs and benefits of such controls and procedures. Because of these and other inherent limitations of control systems, there can be no assurance that any control system will succeed in achieving its objectives under all potential future conditions, regardless of how remote.

(b) Changes in internal controls over financial reporting

Registrant is continuously seeking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations and of its internal controls. This results in refinements to processes throughout the Company. However, there has been no significant change in Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Water Quality-Related Litigation

SCW was a defendant in twenty-two lawsuits involving claims pertaining to water quality. Nineteen of the lawsuits were coordinated in the Los Angeles Superior Court and involved water served by the company in the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley areas of Los Angeles County. On August 4, 2004, SCW was ordered dismissed from all the nineteen cases in Los Angeles County. The order was issued by the Trial Judge presiding over these matters, and follows a lengthy legal proceeding dating back to April, 1997. The court found SCW did not violate established water quality standards and dismissed the cases after allowing reasonable time and opportunity to the Plaintiffs to prove otherwise. On September 21, 2004, several plaintiffs filed an appeal to the trial court's order to dismiss SCW. SCW is unable to predict the outcome of this appeal. These lawsuits filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court were based on the allegations that SCW and the other defendants had provided and continued to provide plaintiffs with contaminated water from its wells, several of which are located in an area of the San Gabriel Valley that had been designated a federal superfund site, that the maintenance of this contaminated well water had resulted in contamination of the soil, subsurface soil and surrounding air with solvents and other substances, and that plaintiffs had been injured and their property damaged as a result.

Three of the lawsuits involved a customer service area located in Sacramento County that had been filed in Sacramento County Superior Court. In July 2004, one of the plaintiffs filed for dismissal and the Court subsequently dismissed the case. In October 2004, the remaining two claims were also ordered dismissed by the Court. In November 2004, an appeal was filed by the plaintiffs. SCW is unable to predict the outcome of this appeal. These lawsuits filed in Sacramento County Superior Court were based on the allegations that SCW and other defendants had delivered water to plaintiffs that were contaminated with a number of chemicals, including trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride, perchlorate, Freon-113, hexavalent chromium and other unnamed chemicals and that plaintiffs had been injured and their property damaged as a result.

SCW is subject to self-insured retention provisions in its applicable insurance policies and has either expensed the self-insured amounts or has reserved against payment of these amounts as appropriate. SCW's various insurance carriers have, to date, provided reimbursement for costs incurred above the self-insured amounts for defense against these lawsuits, subject to a reservation of rights.

Aerojet

On October 25, 1999, SCW sued Aerojet for causing the contamination of eastern portions of the Sacramento County groundwater basin. On October 12, 2004, Registrant reached a final settlement with Aerojet of litigation relating to this contamination. Under the terms of the settlement, Aerojet paid SCW \$8.7 million in the first quarter of 2004. Aerojet will pay an additional \$8 million, plus interest, over a period of five years commencing in December 2009. These payments reduce SCW's costs of utility plant and purchased water by \$16 million and \$700,000, respectively. Aerojet has also reimbursed SCW \$4.3 million in capital costs and \$171,000 for additional water supply. In addition, Aerojet has agreed to reimburse SCW \$17.5 million, plus interest accruing from January 1, 2004, for its past legal and expert costs solely from connection fees anticipated to be received by Aerojet in a new development area owned by Aerojet.

Aerojet will also transfer its remediated groundwater to the Sacramento County Water Agency, which will provide treated water for distribution to SCW and other water purveyors affected by the contamination. This arrangement, together with other mitigation measures, will afford SCW a reliable and

Table of Contents

safe water supply for its Rancho Cordova customers. Registrant and Aerojet have also signed three separate agreements requiring Aerojet to pay for certain transmission pipelines and upgrades to the Coloma Treatment Plant as a contingency plan, should additional wells be impacted. The value of the three agreements approximates \$6.8 million in capital improvements.

Other Water Quality Litigation

Perchlorate and/or Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) have been detected in five wells servicing SCW's San Gabriel System. SCW filed suit, along with two other affected water purveyors and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA), in the federal court against some of those responsible for the contamination. Some of the other potential defendants settled with SCW, other water purveyors and the WQA on VOC related issues prior to the filing of the lawsuit. In response to the filing of the Federal lawsuit, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) defendants filed motions to dismiss the suit or strike certain portions of the suit. The judge issued a ruling on April 1, 2003 granting in part and denying in part the defendant's motions. A key ruling of the court was that the water purveyors, including the Registrant, by virtue of their ownership of wells contaminated with hazardous chemicals are themselves PRPs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Registrant has, pursuant to permission of the court, amended its suit to claim certain affirmative defenses as an "innocent" party under CERCLA. In this same suit, the PRPs have filed cross-complaints against the Registrant, the other two affected water purveyors, the WQA and the Metropolitan Water District, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster and others on the theory that they arranged for and did transport contaminated water into the San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin for use by Registrant and the other two affected water providers and for other related claims. Registrant is presently unable to predict the outcome of this ruling on its ability to fully recover from the PRPs the future costs associated with the treatment of these wells.

On August 29, 2003, the US Environmental Protection Agency issued Unilateral Administrative Orders ("UAO") against 41 parties deemed responsible for polluting the groundwater in that portion of the San Gabriel Valley from which two of SCW's impacted wells draw water. SCW was not named as a party to the UAO. The UAO requires that these parties remediate the contamination. The judge in the Federal lawsuit has appointed a special master to oversee mandatory settlement discussions between the PRP's, SCW, the other two affected water purveyors, and WQA. Registrant is presently unable to predict the ultimate outcome of these settlement discussions.

Electric Service Litigation

SCW has been, in conjunction with Edison, planning to upgrade transmission facilities to 115kv (the 115kv Project) in order to meet increased energy and demand requirements for SCW's Bear Valley Electric service area. On December 27, 2000, SCW filed a lawsuit against Edison for declaratory relief and seeking damages for breach of contract as a result of delays in the 115kv Project, violations of good faith and fair dealing, negligent misrepresentation, intentional misrepresentation and unjust enrichment. Subsequently Edison filed a cross-complaint against SCW for breach of contract, anticipatory breach, and quantum merit. SCW also sought declaratory relief from Edison's claims. To date, SCW has spent approximately \$3.4 million in this matter, all of which has been expensed.

In March 2004, SCW and Edison agreed to settle this suit. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, SCW is to pay a \$5 million project abandonment fee to Edison. Edison then filed an application to the FERC for approval of the entire \$5 million settlement payment as abandoned project cost to be included in Edison's wholesale rate charged to SCW. SCW made an initial lump sum payment of \$1.4 million to Edison during the first quarter of 2004. SCW has also agreed to pay Edison an additional \$3.6 million over a 15 year term through 180 equal monthly payments of \$38,137. In August 2004, the FERC approved Edison's application and SCW recorded the \$1.4 million payment in the supply cost balancing account. This amount was previously recorded as a regulatory asset pending FERC

[Table of Contents](#)

approval of Edison's application. In addition, monthly payments totaling \$76,274 made to Edison during the period are also included in the electric supply cost balancing account.

Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Adjudication

In 1997, the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (plaintiff) filed a lawsuit against multiple defendants, including SCW, the City of Santa Maria, and several other public water purveyors. The plaintiff's lawsuit seeks an adjudication of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. After some procedural rulings by the superior court, the lawsuit is now a full basin adjudication involving all entities owning 10 acres or more within the Basin boundaries - approximately 1,400 defendants. The plaintiff's stated objective in the adjudication lawsuit is to have the superior court impose and oversee the implementation of a Basin management plan that ensures the long term integrity and reliability of the Basin water resources. To protect its groundwater supply so that sufficient water production rights continue to be available to meet SCW's customers' needs in the Santa Maria customer service area, SCW has been vigorously defending its water rights in the adjudication lawsuit. As of September 30, 2004, SCW has incurred costs in defending its rights in the Basin, including legal and expert witness fees, which have been deferred in Utility Plant for rate recovery. Management believes that, when the adjudication lawsuit is finally resolved, SCW will have secured its right to pump groundwater from the Basin and to continue to rely on the Basin as a source of supply for its customers' needs. Management also believes that it is probable that the CPUC will grant full recovery in rates of all current and future expenditures associated with this lawsuit.

Other Litigation

Registrant is also subject to ordinary routine litigation incidental to its business. Other than as disclosed above, no other legal proceedings are pending, which are believed to be material. Management believes that rate recovery, proper insurance coverage and reserves are in place to insure against property, general liability and workers' compensation claims incurred in the ordinary course of business.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

(a) None

(b) AWR received proceeds of \$33.6 million, net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$1.8 million, on September 28, 2004 in connection with the issuance of 1,400,000 shares pursuant to Registration Statement No. 333-68299 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 3, 1998 and Registration Statement No. 333-119141 filed on September 21, 2004 pursuant to Rule 462(b). An additional 50,000 common shares were sold on October 15, 2004 pursuant to the exercise of an over-allotment option. We received \$1,212,500 for these common shares, net of underwriter fees and other issuance costs of \$50,500. The total proceeds received were used to repay short-term debt.

(c) Registrant also issued 20,725 common shares which totaled approximately \$494,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2004 under the Registrant's Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) and 401(k) Plan. There were no shares issued under these Plans during the three months ended September 30, 2003. In addition, there were 70,391 and 21,317 common shares issued under these Plans which totaled approximately \$1,699,000 and \$504,000, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2004 and 2003.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

No items were submitted during the third quarter of the 2004 fiscal year covered by this report to a vote of security holders through the solicitation of proxies or otherwise.

Item 5. Other Information

(a) On November 2, 2004, the Board of Directors of Registrant declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.225 per common share. The dividend will be paid December 1, 2004 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on November 12, 2004.

On November 2, 2004, each of the Board of Directors of AWR and SCW approved a form of indemnification agreement pursuant to which it would indemnify its officers and directors and the officers and directors of each of its wholly owned subsidiaries if the officer or director is involved in any action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she was an officer or director of Registrant or any of its wholly owned subsidiaries against all expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of such action, suit or proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the articles of incorporation and bylaws of each Registrant. On November 8, 2004, AWR executed an Indemnification Agreement with each of its officers and directors. SCW also executed an Indemnification Agreement with each of its officers who had not previously executed an Indemnification Agreement. The Board of Directors of SCW also ratified the execution of the Indemnification Agreements that had previously been executed by certain of the officers and directors of SCW.

(b) There have been no material changes to the procedures by which security holders may recommend nominees to the Board of Directors of AWR.

Item 6. Exhibits

The following documents are included as Exhibits to this report:

- 10.26 Form of Indemnification Agreement executed by the Board of Directors of Southern California Water Company and Floyd E. Wicks, Susan L. Conway, Joel A. Dickson, James B. Gallagher, McClellan Harris III, Roger F. Kropke, Denise L. Kruger, Patrick R. Scanlon and Eva Tang⁽¹⁾
- 10.27 Form of Indemnification Agreement executed or to be executed by any new director or officer of Southern California Water Company⁽¹⁾
- 10.28 Form of Indemnification Agreement executed or to be executed by any director or officer of American States Water Company⁽¹⁾
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ⁽¹⁾
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ⁽¹⁾
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ⁽²⁾
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Filed concurrently herewith

⁽²⁾ Furnished concurrently herewith.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized and as its principal financial officer.

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY
and its subsidiary
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

By: /s/ Robert J. Sprowls
Robert J. Sprowls
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,
Corporate Secretary and Treasurer

Dated: November 9, 2004

FORM OF INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

This Indemnification Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of July 27, 2001 by and between Southern California Water Company, a California corporation ("Company"), and _____ ("Indemnitee"), a director and/or officer of the Company.

R E C I T A L S

A. The Indemnitee is currently serving as a director and/or officer of the Company and in such capacity has rendered valuable services to the Company.

B. The Company has investigated the availability and sufficiency of liability insurance and California statutory indemnification provisions to provide its directors and/or officers with adequate protection against various legal risks and potential liabilities to which such individuals are subject due to their positions with the Company and has concluded that such insurance and statutory provisions may provide inadequate and unacceptable protection to certain individuals requested to serve as its directors.

C. In order to induce and encourage highly experienced and capable persons such as the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company, the Board of Directors has determined, after due consideration and investigation of the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the various other options available to the Company and the Indemnitee in lieu hereof, that this Agreement is not only reasonable and prudent but necessary to promote and ensure the best interests of the Company and its shareholder.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the continued services of the Indemnitee and in order to induce the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a director and/or officer, the Company and the Indemnitee do hereby agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Agreement:

(a) The term "Proceeding" shall include any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, formal or informal, whether brought in the name of the Company or otherwise and whether of a civil, criminal or administrative or investigative nature, against the Indemnitee by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee is or was a director [and officer] of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, whether or not the Indemnitee is serving in such capacity at the time any liability or Expense is incurred for which indemnification or reimbursement is to be provided under this Agreement.

(b) The term "change of control" includes any change in the ownership of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Company or in the composition of a majority of the members of the board of directors of the Company.

(c) The term "Expenses" includes, without limitation, attorneys' fees, disbursements and retainers, accounting and witness fees, travel and deposition costs, expenses of investigations, judicial or administrative proceedings and appeals, amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of Indemnitee, and any expenses of establishing a right to indemnification, pursuant to this Agreement or otherwise, including reasonable compensation for time spent by the Indemnitee in connection with the investigation, defense or appeal of a Proceeding or action for indemnification for which the Indemnitee is not otherwise compensated by the Company or any third party. The term "Expenses" does not include the amount of judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually levied against the Indemnitee.

(d) The term "fines" shall include any excise taxes assessed on Indemnitee with respect to any employee benefit plan.

(e) The term "serving at the request of the Company" includes any service, at the request or with the express or implied authorization of the Company, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, which service imposes duties on, or involves services by, Indemnitee with respect to such corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries. If Indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of such other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries, Indemnitee shall be deemed to have acted in a manner not opposed to the best interests of the Company.

2. AGREEMENT TO SERVE. In reliance on this Agreement, the Indemnitee agrees to continue to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company for so long as the Indemnitee is duly elected or appointed or until such time as the Indemnitee tenders the Indemnitee's resignation in writing or is removed as a director.

3. INDEMNIFICATION IN THIRD PARTY ACTIONS. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding (other than a Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor), by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee is or was a director [and officer] of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; provided that any settlement of a Proceeding be approved in writing by the Company.

4. INDEMNIFICATION IN PROCEEDINGS BY OR IN THE NAME OF THE COMPANY. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee was or is a director [and officer] of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

5. CONCLUSIVE PRESUMPTION REGARDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. The Indemnitee shall be conclusively presumed to have met the relevant standards of conduct, if any, as defined by California law, for indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, unless a determination is made that the Indemnitee has not met such standards (i) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of directors who were not parties to the Proceeding for which a claim is made under this Agreement, (ii) by the shareholders of the Company by majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of shareholders who are not parties to the Proceeding due to which a claim is made under this Agreement, (iii) in a written opinion by independent counsel, the selection of whom has been approved by the Indemnitee in writing, or (iv) by a court or competent jurisdiction.

6. INDEMNIFICATION OF EXPENSES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTY. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Indemnitee has been successful in defense of any Proceeding or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, on the merits or otherwise, including the dismissal of a Proceeding without prejudice or the settlement of a Proceeding without an admission of liability, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses incurred in connection therewith to the fullest extent permitted by California law.

7. ADVANCES OF EXPENSES. The Expenses incurred by the Indemnitee in any Proceeding shall be paid promptly by the Company in advance of the final disposition of the Proceeding at the written request of the Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by California law; provided that the Indemnitee shall undertake in writing to repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification by the Company.

8. PARTIAL INDEMNIFICATION. If the Indemnitee is entitled under any provision of this Agreement to indemnification by the Company for a portion of the Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in the investigation, defense, appeal or settlement of any Proceeding but not, however, for the total amount of the Indemnitee's Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee for the portion of Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes to which the Indemnitee is entitled.

9. INDEMNIFICATION PROCEDURE; DETERMINATION OF RIGHT TO INDEMNIFICATION.

(a) Promptly after receipt by the Indemnitee of notice of the commencement of any Proceeding, the Indemnitee shall, if a claim in respect thereof is to be made against the Company under this Agreement, notify the Company of the commencement thereof in writing. The omission to so notify the Company will relieve the Company of any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee under this Agreement only if the Company is prejudiced by such omission, but will not relieve the Company from any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee otherwise than under this Agreement.

(b) If a claim for indemnification or advances under this Agreement is not paid by the Company within 30 days of receipt of written notice, the rights provided by this Agreement shall be enforceable by the Indemnitee in any court of competent jurisdiction. The burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that indemnification or advances are not appropriate shall be on the Company. Neither the failure of the directors or shareholders of the Company or its independent legal counsel to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification or advances are proper in the circumstances because the Indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct, if any, nor an actual determination by the directors or shareholders of the Company or independent legal counsel that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption for the purpose of an action that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct.

(c) The Indemnitee's Expenses incurred in connection with any proceeding concerning the Indemnitee's right to indemnification or advances in whole or in part pursuant to this Agreement shall also be indemnified by the Company, regardless of the outcome of such action, suit or proceeding.

(d) With respect to any Proceeding for which indemnification is requested, the Company will be entitled to participate therein at its own expense and, except as otherwise provided below, to the extent that it may wish, the Company may assume the defense thereof, with counsel satisfactory to the Indemnitee. After notice from the Company to the Indemnitee of its election to assume the defense of a Proceeding, the Company will not be liable to the Indemnitee under this Agreement for any Expenses subsequently incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense thereof, other than as provided below. The Company shall not settle any Proceeding in any manner which would impose any penalty or limitation on the Indemnitee without the Indemnitee's written consent. The Indemnitee shall have the right to employ the Indemnitee's own counsel in any Proceeding, but the fees and expenses of such counsel incurred after notice from the Company of its assumption of the defense of the Proceeding shall be at the expense of the Indemnitee, unless (i) the employment of counsel by the Indemnitee has been authorized by the Company, (ii) the Indemnitee shall have reasonably concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee in the conduct of the defense of a Proceeding, or (iii) the Company shall not in fact have employed counsel to assume the defense of a Proceeding, in each of

which cases the fees and expenses of the Indemnitee's counsel shall be advanced by the Company. The Company shall not be entitled to assume the defense of any Proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Company or as to which the Indemnitee has concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee.

10. LIMITATIONS ON INDEMNIFICATION. The Company shall make no payments pursuant to this Agreement:

(a) To indemnify or advance funds to the Indemnitee for Expenses with respect to Proceedings initiated or brought voluntarily by the Indemnitee and not by way of defense, except with respect to Proceedings brought to establish or enforce a right to indemnification under this Agreement or any other statute or law or otherwise as required under California law, but such indemnification or advancement of expenses may be provided by the Company in specific cases if the Board of Directors finds it to be appropriate;

(b) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes sustained in any Proceeding for which payment is actually made to the Indemnitee under a valid and collectible insurance policy, except in respect of any excess beyond the amount of payment under such insurance;

(c) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines or penalties sustained in any Proceeding for an accounting of profits made from the purchase or sale by the Indemnitee of securities of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and amendments thereto or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory law;

(d) If a court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that any indemnification hereunder is unlawful.

(e) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses based upon or attributable to the Indemnitee gaining in fact any personal profit or advantage to which the Indemnitee was not legally entitled; and

(f) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses brought about or contributed to by the dishonesty of the Indemnitee seeking payment hereunder; however, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Indemnitee shall be protected under this Agreement to the fullest extent permitted under law as to any claims upon which suit may be brought against the Indemnitee by reason of any alleged dishonesty on the Indemnitee's part, unless a judgement or other final adjudication thereof adverse to the Indemnitee shall establish that the Indemnitee committed (i) acts of active and deliberate dishonesty (ii) with actual dishonest purpose and intent, which acts were material to the cause of action so adjudicated.

11. MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE.

(a) The Company hereby covenants and agrees that, as long as the Indemnitee continues to serve as a director of the Company and thereafter as long as the Indemnitee may be subject to any possible Proceeding, the Company, subject to subsection (c) below, shall promptly obtain and maintain in full force and effect directors' and officers' liability insurance ("D&O Insurance") in reasonable amounts from established and reputable insurers.

(b) In all D&O Insurance policies, the Indemnitee shall be named as an insured in such a manner as to provide the Indemnitee the same rights and benefits as are accorded to the most favorably insured of the Company's directors.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have no obligation to obtain or maintain D&O Insurance if the Company determines, in its sole discretion, that such insurance is not reasonably available, the premium costs for such insurance are disproportionate to the amount of coverage provided, the coverage provided by such insurance is so limited by exclusions that it provides an insufficient benefit, or the Indemnitee is covered by similar insurance maintained by a subsidiary of the Company or American States Water Company. If the Company makes such a determination, it shall notify the Indemnitee within 30 calendar days.

12. INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER NOT EXCLUSIVE. The indemnification provided by this Agreement shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the Indemnitee may be entitled under the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws, any agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors of the Company, provision of California law, or otherwise, both as to action in the Indemnitee's official capacity and as to action in another capacity on behalf of the Company while holding such office.

13. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of the Indemnitee and the Indemnitee's heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, whether or not Indemnitee has ceased to be a director or officer, and the Company and its successors and assigns.

14. MERGER, CONSOLIDATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL. If the Company is a constituent corporation in a merger or consolidation, whether the Company is the resulting or surviving corporation or is absorbed as a result thereof, or if there is a Change in Control of the Company, Indemnitee shall stand in the same position under this Agreement with respect to the resulting, surviving or changed corporation as Indemnitee would have with respect to the Company if its separate existence had continued or if there had been no change in the control of the Company.

15. SEVERABILITY. Each and every paragraph, sentence, term and provision of this Agreement is separate and distinct so that if any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof. To the extent required, any paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement

may be modified by a court of competent jurisdiction to preserve its validity and to provide the Indemnitee with the broadest possible indemnification permitted under California law.

16. SAVINGS CLAUSE. If this Agreement or any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof is invalidated on any ground by any court of competent jurisdiction, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee as to any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes incurred with respect to any Proceeding to the full extent permitted by any applicable paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement that has not been invalidated or by any other applicable provision of California law.

17. INTERPRETATION; GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be construed as a whole and in accordance with its fair meaning. Headings are for convenience only and shall not be used in construing meaning. This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

18. AMENDMENTS. No amendment, waiver, modification, termination or cancellation of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing signed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. The indemnification rights afforded to the Indemnitee hereby are contract rights and may not be diminished, eliminated or otherwise affected by amendments to the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws or by other agreements, including directors' and officers' liability insurance policies.

19. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, all of which shall be considered one and the same agreements and shall become effective when one or more counterparts have been signed by each party and delivered to the other.

20. NOTICES. Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be directed to Southern California Water Company, 630 East Foothill Blvd., San Dimas, California 91773 Attention: Office of the Secretary, and to Indemnitee at the address given on the signature page hereto or to such other address as either shall designate in writing.

[Signature page to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Indemnification Agreement as of the date first written above.

INDEMNITEE

Notice Address:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

By:

Its:

[FORM OF INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT]

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

This Indemnification Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of _____, _____ by and between Southern California Water Company, a California corporation ("Company"), and _____ ("Indemnitee"), a [director] [director and officer][officer] of the Company [add wholly owned subsidiaries, if applicable].

R E C I T A L S

A. The Indemnitee is currently serving as a [director] [director and officer][officer] of the Company [add wholly owned subsidiaries, if applicable], and in such capacity has rendered valuable services to the Company.

B. The Company has investigated the availability and sufficiency of liability insurance and California statutory indemnification provisions to provide the directors and officers of the Company and the directors and officers of its wholly owned subsidiaries with adequate protection against various legal risks and potential liabilities to which such individuals are subject due to their positions with the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries and has concluded that such insurance and statutory provisions may provide inadequate and unacceptable protection to certain individuals requested to serve as directors and/or officers of the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

C. In order to induce and encourage highly experienced and capable persons such as the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of the Company [add wholly owned subsidiaries, if applicable], the Board of Directors has determined, after due consideration and investigation of the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the various other options available to the Company and the Indemnitee in lieu hereof, that this Agreement is not only reasonable and prudent but necessary to promote and ensure the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the continued services of the Indemnitee and in order to induce the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of [the Company] [and] [name of wholly owned subsidiaries], the Company and the Indemnitee do hereby agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Agreement:

(a) The term "Proceeding" shall include any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, formal or informal, whether brought in the name of the Company or one of its wholly owned subsidiaries or otherwise and whether of a civil, criminal or administrative or investigative nature, against the Indemnitee by reason of the

fact that the Indemnitee is or was a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, whether or not the Indemnitee is serving in such capacity at the time any liability or Expense is incurred for which indemnification or reimbursement is to be provided under this Agreement.

(b) The term "change of control" includes any change in the ownership of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Company or in the composition of a majority of the members of the board of directors of the Company.

(c) The term "Expenses" includes, without limitation, attorneys' fees, disbursements and retainers, accounting and witness fees, travel and deposition costs, expenses of investigations, judicial or administrative proceedings and appeals, amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of Indemnitee, and any expenses of establishing a right to indemnification, pursuant to this Agreement or otherwise, including reasonable compensation for time spent by the Indemnitee in connection with the investigation, defense or appeal of a Proceeding or action for indemnification for which the Indemnitee is not otherwise compensated by the Company or any third party. The term "Expenses" does not include the amount of judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually levied against the Indemnitee.

(d) The term "fines" shall include any excise taxes assessed on Indemnitee with respect to any employee benefit plan.

(e) The term "serving at the request of the Company" includes any service, at the request or with the express or implied authorization of the Company, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, which service imposes duties on, or involves services by, Indemnitee with respect to such corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries. If Indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of such other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries, Indemnitee shall be deemed to have acted in a manner not opposed to the best interests of the Company.

2. AGREEMENT TO SERVE. In reliance on this Agreement, the Indemnitee agrees to continue to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or one or more its wholly owned subsidiaries for so long as the Indemnitee is duly elected or appointed or until such time as the Indemnitee tenders the Indemnitee's resignation in writing or is removed from all positions as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

3. INDEMNIFICATION IN THIRD PARTY ACTIONS. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding (other than a Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor), by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee is or was a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director,

officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; provided that any settlement of a Proceeding be approved in writing by the Company.

4. INDEMNIFICATION IN PROCEEDINGS BY OR IN THE NAME OF THE COMPANY. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee was or is a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

5. CONCLUSIVE PRESUMPTION REGARDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. The Indemnitee shall be conclusively presumed to have met the relevant standards of conduct, if any, as defined by California law, for indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, unless a determination is made that the Indemnitee has not met such standards (i) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of directors who were not parties to the Proceeding for which a claim is made under this Agreement, (ii) by the shareholders of the Company by majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of shareholders who are not parties to the Proceeding due to which a claim is made under this Agreement, (iii) in a written opinion by independent counsel, the selection of whom has been approved by the Indemnitee in writing, or (iv) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

6. INDEMNIFICATION OF EXPENSES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTY. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Indemnitee has been successful in defense of any Proceeding or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, on the merits or otherwise, including the dismissal of a Proceeding without prejudice or the settlement of a Proceeding without an admission of liability, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses incurred in connection therewith to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

7. ADVANCES OF EXPENSES. The Expenses incurred by the Indemnitee in any Proceeding shall be paid promptly by the Company in advance of the final disposition of the Proceeding at the written request of the Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law; provided that the Indemnitee shall undertake in writing to repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification by the Company.

8. PARTIAL INDEMNIFICATION. If the Indemnitee is entitled under any provision of this Agreement to indemnification by the Company for a portion of the Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in the investigation, defense, appeal or settlement of any Proceeding but not, however, for the total

amount of the Indemnitee's Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee for the portion of Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes to which the Indemnitee is entitled.

9. INDEMNIFICATION PROCEDURE; DETERMINATION OF RIGHT TO INDEMNIFICATION.

(a) Promptly after receipt by the Indemnitee of notice of the commencement of any Proceeding, the Indemnitee shall, if a claim in respect thereof is to be made against the Company under this Agreement, notify the Company of the commencement thereof in writing. The omission to so notify the Company will relieve the Company of any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee under this Agreement only if the Company is prejudiced by such omission, but will not relieve the Company from any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee otherwise than under this Agreement.

(b) If a claim for indemnification or advances under this Agreement is not paid by the Company within 30 days of receipt of written notice, the rights provided by this Agreement shall be enforceable by the Indemnitee in any court of competent jurisdiction. The burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that indemnification or advances are not appropriate shall be on the Company. Neither the failure of the directors or shareholders of the Company or its independent legal counsel to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification or advances are proper in the circumstances because the Indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct, if any, nor an actual determination by the directors or shareholders of the Company or independent legal counsel that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption for the purpose of an action that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct.

(c) The Indemnitee's Expenses incurred in connection with any proceeding concerning the Indemnitee's right to indemnification or advances in whole or in part pursuant to this Agreement shall also be indemnified by the Company, regardless of the outcome of such action, suit or proceeding.

(d) With respect to any Proceeding for which indemnification is requested, the Company will be entitled to participate therein at its own expense and, except as otherwise provided below, to the extent that it may wish, the Company may assume the defense thereof, with counsel satisfactory to the Indemnitee. After notice from the Company to the Indemnitee of its election to assume the defense of a Proceeding, the Company will not be liable to the Indemnitee under this Agreement for any Expenses subsequently incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense thereof, other than as provided below. The Company shall not settle any Proceeding in any manner which would impose any penalty or limitation on the Indemnitee without the Indemnitee's written consent. The Indemnitee shall have the right to employ the Indemnitee's own counsel in any Proceeding, but the fees and expenses of such counsel incurred after notice from the Company of its assumption of the defense of the Proceeding shall be at the expense of the Indemnitee, unless (i) the employment of

counsel by the Indemnitee has been authorized by the Company, (ii) the Indemnitee shall have reasonably concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee in the conduct of the defense of a Proceeding, or (iii) the Company shall not in fact have employed counsel to assume the defense of a Proceeding, in each of which cases the fees and expenses of the Indemnitee's counsel shall be advanced by the Company. The Company shall not be entitled to assume the defense of any Proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Company or as to which the Indemnitee has concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee.

10. LIMITATIONS ON INDEMNIFICATION. The Company shall make no payments pursuant to this Agreement:

(a) To indemnify or advance funds to the Indemnitee for Expenses with respect to Proceedings initiated or brought voluntarily by the Indemnitee and not by way of defense, except with respect to Proceedings brought to establish or enforce a right to indemnification under this Agreement or any other statute or law or otherwise as required under California law, but such indemnification or advancement of expenses may be provided by the Company in specific cases if the Board of Directors finds it to be appropriate;

(b) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes sustained in any Proceeding for which payment is actually made to the Indemnitee under a valid and collectible insurance policy, except in respect of any excess beyond the amount of payment under such insurance;

(c) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines or penalties sustained in any Proceeding for an accounting of profits made from the purchase or sale by the Indemnitee of securities of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and amendments thereto or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory law;

(d) If a court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that any indemnification hereunder is unlawful;

(e) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses based upon or attributable to the Indemnitee gaining in fact any personal profit or advantage to which the Indemnitee was not legally entitled; and

(f) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses brought about or contributed to by the dishonesty of the Indemnitee seeking payment hereunder; however, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Indemnitee shall be protected under this Agreement to the fullest extent permitted under law as to any claims upon which suit may be brought against the Indemnitee by reason of any alleged dishonesty on the Indemnitee's part, unless a judgment or other final adjudication thereof adverse to the Indemnitee shall establish that the Indemnitee committed (i) acts of active and deliberate dishonesty (ii)

with actual dishonest purpose and intent, which acts were material to the cause of action so adjudicated.

11. MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE.

(a) The Company hereby covenants and agrees that, as long as the Indemnitee continues to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or any wholly owned subsidiary and thereafter as long as the Indemnitee may be subject to any possible Proceeding, the Company, subject to subsection (c) below, shall promptly obtain and maintain in full force and effect directors' and officers' liability insurance ("D&O Insurance") in reasonable amounts from established and reputable insurers.

(b) In all D&O Insurance policies, the Indemnitee shall be named as an insured in such a manner as to provide the Indemnitee the same rights and benefits as are accorded to the most favorably insured of the directors and officers of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have no obligation to obtain or maintain D&O Insurance if the Company determines, in its sole discretion, that such insurance is not reasonably available, the premium costs for such insurance are disproportionate to the amount of coverage provided, the coverage provided by such insurance is so limited by exclusions that it provides an insufficient benefit, or the Indemnitee is covered by similar insurance maintained by a subsidiary of the Company. If the Company makes such a determination, it shall notify the Indemnitee within 30 calendar days.

12. INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER NOT EXCLUSIVE. The indemnification provided by this Agreement shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the Indemnitee may be entitled under the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws, any agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors of the Company, provision of California law, or otherwise, both as to action in the Indemnitee's official capacity and as to action in another capacity on behalf of the Company or any wholly owned subsidiary while holding such office.

13. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of the Indemnitee and the Indemnitee's heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, whether or not Indemnitee has ceased to be a director and/or officer of the Company or any wholly owned subsidiary or any director and/or officer of any of their successors and assigns.

14. MERGER, CONSOLIDATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL. If the Company is a constituent corporation in a merger or consolidation, whether the Company is the resulting or surviving corporation or is absorbed as a result thereof, or if there is a Change in Control of the Company, Indemnitee shall stand in the same position under this Agreement with respect to the resulting, surviving or changed corporation as Indemnitee would have with respect to the Company if its separate existence had continued or if there had been no Change in the Control of the Company.

15. SEVERABILITY. Each and every paragraph, sentence, term and provision of this Agreement is separate and distinct so that if any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof. To the extent required, any paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement may be modified by a court of competent jurisdiction to preserve its validity and to provide the Indemnitee with the broadest possible indemnification permitted under applicable law.

16. SAVINGS CLAUSE. If this Agreement or any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof is invalidated on any ground by any court of competent jurisdiction, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee as to any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes incurred with respect to any Proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by any applicable paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement that has not been invalidated or by any other applicable provision of applicable law.

17. INTERPRETATION; GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be construed as a whole and in accordance with its fair meaning. Headings are for convenience only and shall not be used in construing meaning. This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

18. AMENDMENTS. No amendment, waiver, modification, termination or cancellation of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing signed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. The indemnification rights afforded to the Indemnitee hereby are contract rights and may not be diminished, eliminated or otherwise affected by amendments to the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws or by other agreements, including directors' and officers' liability insurance policies.

19. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, all of which shall be considered one and the same agreements and shall become effective when one or more counterparts have been signed by each party and delivered to the other.

20. NOTICES. Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be directed to American States Water Company, 630 East Foothill Blvd., San Dimas, California 91773 Attention: Chief Financial Officer, and to Indemnitee at the address given on the signature page hereto or to such other address as either shall designate in writing.

[Signature page to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Indemnification Agreement as of the date first written above.

INDEMNITEE

Notice Address:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY

By:

Its:

S-1

[FORM OF INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT]

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

This Indemnification Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of _____, _____ by and between American States Water Company, a California corporation ("Company"), and _____ ("Indemnitee"), a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of [the Company] [and] [_____, a _____ corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company] [add additional wholly owned subsidiaries, if applicable] [add, if applicable: a _____ corporation and restates in its entirety the Indemnification Agreement dated as of _____, _____ by and between Southern California Water Company, a California corporation, and Indemnitee].

R E C I T A L S

A. The Indemnitee is currently serving as a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of [the Company] [and] [_____, a _____ corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company] [add additional wholly owned subsidiaries, if applicable], and in such capacity has rendered valuable services to the Company.

B. The Company has investigated the availability and sufficiency of liability insurance and California statutory indemnification provisions to provide the directors and officers of the Company and the directors and officers of its wholly owned subsidiaries with adequate protection against various legal risks and potential liabilities to which such individuals are subject due to their positions with the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries and has concluded that such insurance and statutory provisions may provide inadequate and unacceptable protection to certain individuals requested to serve as directors and/or officers of the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

C. In order to induce and encourage highly experienced and capable persons such as the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of [the Company] [and] [name of wholly owned subsidiary or subsidiaries], the Board of Directors has determined, after due consideration and investigation of the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the various other options available to the Company and the Indemnitee in lieu hereof, that this Agreement is not only reasonable and prudent but necessary to promote and ensure the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the continued services of the Indemnitee and in order to induce the Indemnitee to continue to serve as a [director] [director and officer] [officer] of [the Company] [and] [name of wholly owned subsidiaries], the Company and the Indemnitee do hereby agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Agreement:

(a) The term "Proceeding" shall include any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, formal or informal, whether brought in the name of the Company or one of its wholly owned subsidiaries or otherwise and whether of a civil, criminal or administrative or investigative nature, against the Indemnatee by reason of the fact that the Indemnatee is or was a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, whether or not the Indemnatee is serving in such capacity at the time any liability or Expense is incurred for which indemnification or reimbursement is to be provided under this Agreement.

(b) The term "change of control" includes any change in the ownership of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Company or in the composition of a majority of the members of the board of directors of the Company.

(c) The term "Expenses" includes, without limitation, attorneys' fees, disbursements and retainers, accounting and witness fees, travel and deposition costs, expenses of investigations, judicial or administrative proceedings and appeals, amounts paid in settlement by or on behalf of Indemnatee, and any expenses of establishing a right to indemnification, pursuant to this Agreement or otherwise, including reasonable compensation for time spent by the Indemnatee in connection with the investigation, defense or appeal of a Proceeding or action for indemnification for which the Indemnatee is not otherwise compensated by the Company or any third party. The term "Expenses" does not include the amount of judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually levied against the Indemnatee.

(d) The term "fines" shall include any excise taxes assessed on Indemnatee with respect to any employee benefit plan.

(e) The term "serving at the request of the Company" includes any service, at the request or with the express or implied authorization of the Company, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, which service imposes duties on, or involves services by, Indemnatee with respect to such corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries. If Indemnatee acted in good faith and in a manner Indemnatee reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of such other enterprise, its participants or beneficiaries, Indemnatee shall be deemed to have acted in a manner not opposed to the best interests of the Company.

2. AGREEMENT TO SERVE. In reliance on this Agreement, the Indemnatee agrees to continue to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or one or more its wholly owned subsidiaries for so long as the Indemnatee is duly elected or appointed or until such time as the Indemnatee tenders the Indemnatee's resignation in writing or is removed from all positions as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

3. INDEMNIFICATION IN THIRD PARTY ACTIONS. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding (other than a Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor), by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee is or was a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including, without limitation, any subsidiary or affiliated company, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; provided that any settlement of a Proceeding be approved in writing by the Company.

4. INDEMNIFICATION IN PROCEEDINGS BY OR IN THE NAME OF THE COMPANY. The Company shall indemnify the Indemnitee if the Indemnitee is a party to or threatened to be made a party to or is otherwise involved in any Proceeding by or in the name of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the Indemnitee was or is a director and/or officer of the Company, or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against all Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense or settlement of such a Proceeding, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

5. CONCLUSIVE PRESUMPTION REGARDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. The Indemnitee shall be conclusively presumed to have met the relevant standards of conduct, if any, as defined by California law, for indemnification pursuant to this Agreement, unless a determination is made that the Indemnitee has not met such standards (i) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of directors who were not parties to the Proceeding for which a claim is made under this Agreement, (ii) by the shareholders of the Company by majority vote of a quorum thereof consisting of shareholders who are not parties to the Proceeding due to which a claim is made under this Agreement, (iii) in a written opinion by independent counsel, the selection of whom has been approved by the Indemnitee in writing, or (iv) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

6. INDEMNIFICATION OF EXPENSES OF SUCCESSFUL PARTY. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Indemnitee has been successful in defense of any Proceeding or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, on the merits or otherwise, including the dismissal of a Proceeding without prejudice or the settlement of a Proceeding without an admission of liability, the Indemnitee shall be indemnified against all Expenses incurred in connection therewith to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

7. ADVANCES OF EXPENSES. The Expenses incurred by the Indemnitee in any Proceeding shall be paid promptly by the Company in advance of the final disposition of the Proceeding at the written request of the Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law; provided that the Indemnitee shall undertake in writing to repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that the Indemnitee is not entitled to indemnification by the Company.

8. PARTIAL INDEMNIFICATION. If the Indemnitee is entitled under any provision of this Agreement to indemnification by the Company for a portion of the Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnitee in the investigation, defense, appeal or settlement of any Proceeding but not, however, for the total amount of the Indemnitee's Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee for the portion of Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes to which the Indemnitee is entitled.

9. INDEMNIFICATION PROCEDURE; DETERMINATION OF RIGHT TO INDEMNIFICATION.

(a) Promptly after receipt by the Indemnitee of notice of the commencement of any Proceeding, the Indemnitee shall, if a claim in respect thereof is to be made against the Company under this Agreement, notify the Company of the commencement thereof in writing. The omission to so notify the Company will relieve the Company of any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee under this Agreement only if the Company is prejudiced by such omission, but will not relieve the Company from any liability which it may have to the Indemnitee otherwise than under this Agreement.

(b) If a claim for indemnification or advances under this Agreement is not paid by the Company within 30 days of receipt of written notice, the rights provided by this Agreement shall be enforceable by the Indemnitee in any court of competent jurisdiction. The burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that indemnification or advances are not appropriate shall be on the Company. Neither the failure of the directors or shareholders of the Company or its independent legal counsel to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification or advances are proper in the circumstances because the Indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct, if any, nor an actual determination by the directors or shareholders of the Company or independent legal counsel that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption for the purpose of an action that the Indemnitee has not met the applicable standard of conduct.

(c) The Indemnitee's Expenses incurred in connection with any proceeding concerning the Indemnitee's right to indemnification or advances in whole or in part pursuant to this Agreement shall also be indemnified by the Company, regardless of the outcome of such action, suit or proceeding.

(d) With respect to any Proceeding for which indemnification is requested, the Company will be entitled to participate therein at its own expense and, except as otherwise provided below, to the extent that it may wish, the Company may assume the defense thereof, with counsel satisfactory to the Indemnitee. After notice from the Company to the Indemnitee of its election to assume the defense of a Proceeding, the Company will not be liable to the Indemnitee under this Agreement for any Expenses subsequently incurred by the Indemnitee in connection with the defense thereof, other than as provided below. The Company shall not settle any Proceeding in any manner which would impose any penalty or limitation on the Indemnitee without the

Indemnitee's written consent. The Indemnitee shall have the right to employ the Indemnitee's own counsel in any Proceeding, but the fees and expenses of such counsel incurred after notice from the Company of its assumption of the defense of the Proceeding shall be at the expense of the Indemnitee, unless (i) the employment of counsel by the Indemnitee has been authorized by the Company, (ii) the Indemnitee shall have reasonably concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee in the conduct of the defense of a Proceeding, or (iii) the Company shall not in fact have employed counsel to assume the defense of a Proceeding, in each of which cases the fees and expenses of the Indemnitee's counsel shall be advanced by the Company. The Company shall not be entitled to assume the defense of any Proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Company or as to which the Indemnitee has concluded that there may be a conflict of interest between the Company and the Indemnitee.

10. LIMITATIONS ON INDEMNIFICATION. The Company shall make no payments pursuant to this Agreement:

(a) To indemnify or advance funds to the Indemnitee for Expenses with respect to Proceedings initiated or brought voluntarily by the Indemnitee and not by way of defense, except with respect to Proceedings brought to establish or enforce a right to indemnification under this Agreement or any other statute or law or otherwise as required under California law, but such indemnification or advancement of expenses may be provided by the Company in specific cases if the Board of Directors finds it to be appropriate;

(b) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes sustained in any Proceeding for which payment is actually made to the Indemnitee under a valid and collectible insurance policy, except in respect of any excess beyond the amount of payment under such insurance;

(c) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses, judgments, fines or penalties sustained in any Proceeding for an accounting of profits made from the purchase or sale by the Indemnitee of securities of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and amendments thereto or similar provisions of any federal, state or local statutory law;

(d) If a court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that any indemnification hereunder is unlawful;

(e) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses based upon or attributable to the Indemnitee gaining in fact any personal profit or advantage to which the Indemnitee was not legally entitled; and

(f) To indemnify the Indemnitee for any Expenses brought about or contributed to by the dishonesty of the Indemnitee seeking payment hereunder; however, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Indemnitee shall be protected under this Agreement to

the fullest extent permitted under law as to any claims upon which suit may be brought against the Indemnitee by reason of any alleged dishonesty on the Indemnitee's part, unless a judgment or other final adjudication thereof adverse to the Indemnitee shall establish that the Indemnitee committed (i) acts of active and deliberate dishonesty (ii) with actual dishonest purpose and intent, which acts were material to the cause of action so adjudicated.

11. MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE.

(a) The Company hereby covenants and agrees that, as long as the Indemnitee continues to serve as a director and/or officer of the Company and/or any wholly owned subsidiary and thereafter as long as the Indemnitee may be subject to any possible Proceeding, the Company, subject to subsection (c) below, shall promptly obtain and maintain in full force and effect directors' and officers' liability insurance ("D&O Insurance") in reasonable amounts from established and reputable insurers.

(b) In all D&O Insurance policies, the Indemnitee shall be named as an insured in such a manner as to provide the Indemnitee the same rights and benefits as are accorded to the most favorably insured of the directors and officers of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall have no obligation to obtain or maintain D&O Insurance if the Company determines, in its sole discretion, that such insurance is not reasonably available, the premium costs for such insurance are disproportionate to the amount of coverage provided, the coverage provided by such insurance is so limited by exclusions that it provides an insufficient benefit, or the Indemnitee is covered by similar insurance maintained by a subsidiary of the Company. If the Company makes such a determination, it shall notify the Indemnitee within 30 calendar days.

12. INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER NOT EXCLUSIVE. The indemnification provided by this Agreement shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the Indemnitee may be entitled under the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws, any agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors of the Company, provision of California law, or otherwise, both as to action in the Indemnitee's official capacity and as to action in another capacity on behalf of the Company or any wholly owned subsidiary while holding such office.

13. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of the Indemnitee and the Indemnitee's heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, whether or not Indemnitee has ceased to be a director and/or officer of the Company or any wholly owned subsidiary or any director and/or officer of any of their successors and assigns.

14. MERGER, CONSOLIDATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL. If the Company is a constituent corporation in a merger or consolidation, whether the Company is the resulting or surviving

corporation or is absorbed as a result thereof, or if there is a Change in Control of the Company, Indemnitee shall stand in the same position under this Agreement with respect to the resulting, surviving or changed corporation as Indemnitee would have with respect to the Company if its separate existence had continued or if there had been no Change in the Control of the Company.

15. SEVERABILITY. Each and every paragraph, sentence, term and provision of this Agreement is separate and distinct so that if any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof. To the extent required, any paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement may be modified by a court of competent jurisdiction to preserve its validity and to provide the Indemnitee with the broadest possible indemnification permitted under applicable law.

16. SAVINGS CLAUSE. If this Agreement or any paragraph, sentence, term or provision hereof is invalidated on any ground by any court of competent jurisdiction, the Company shall nevertheless indemnify the Indemnitee as to any Expenses, judgments, fines, penalties or ERISA excise taxes incurred with respect to any Proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by any applicable paragraph, sentence, term or provision of this Agreement that has not been invalidated or by any other applicable provision of applicable law.

17. INTERPRETATION; GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be construed as a whole and in accordance with its fair meaning. Headings are for convenience only and shall not be used in construing meaning. This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

18. AMENDMENTS. No amendment, waiver, modification, termination or cancellation of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing signed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. The indemnification rights afforded to the Indemnitee hereby are contract rights and may not be diminished, eliminated or otherwise affected by amendments to the Company's Articles of Incorporation, the Company's Bylaws or by other agreements, including directors' and officers' liability insurance policies.

19. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, all of which shall be considered one and the same agreements and shall become effective when one or more counterparts have been signed by each party and delivered to the other.

20. NOTICES. Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be directed to American States Water Company, 630 East Foothill Blvd., San Dimas, California 91773 Attention: Chief Financial Officer, and to Indemnitee at the address given on the signature page hereto or to such other address as either shall designate in writing.

[Signature page to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Indemnification Agreement as of the date first written above.

INDEMNITEE

Notice Address:

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

By: -----

Its: -----

Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(18 U.S.C. Section 1350)

I, Floyd E. Wicks, Chief Executive Officer, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2004 of American States Water Company and of Southern California Water Company (both referred to as "the Registrant");
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the Registrant and have:
 - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - c) disclosed in this report any change in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the Registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.
- 5) The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
 - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal controls over financial reporting.

Dated: November 9, 2004

By: /s/ Floyd E. Wicks

Floyd E. Wicks
Chief Executive Officer

*Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(18 U.S.C. Section 1350)*

I, Robert J. Sprowls, Chief Financial Officer, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2004 of American States Water Company and of Southern California Water Company (both referred to as "the Registrant");
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the Registrant and have:
 - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - c) disclosed in this report any change in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the Registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting.
- 5) The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
 - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal controls over financial reporting.

Dated: November 9, 2004

By: /s/ Robert J. Sprowls

Robert J. Sprowls
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer, Corporate Secretary and
Treasurer

*Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(18 U.S.C. Section 1350)*

I, Floyd E. Wicks, Chief Executive Officer of American States Water Company and Southern California Water Company (the "Registrant"), do hereby certify, pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. Section 1350), that, to my knowledge:

- (1) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended September 30, 2004, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Report"), fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Registrant.

/s/ Floyd E. Wicks

Floyd E. Wicks
Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 9, 2004

***Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
(18 U.S.C. Section 1350)***

I, Robert J. Sprowls, Chief Financial Officer of American States Water Company and Southern California Water Company (the "Registrant"), do hereby certify, pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. Section 1350), that, to my knowledge:

- (1) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended September 30, 2004, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Report"), fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Registrant.

/s/ Robert J. Sprowls

Robert J. Sprowls
Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 9, 2004