

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) March 17, 2004

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

California
(State or other
jurisdiction of
incorporation or
organization)

333-47647
(Commission File Number)

95-4676679
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

630 East Foothill Blvd.
San Dimas, California
(Address of principal
executive offices)

91773
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (909) 394-3600

Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On March 17, 2004, American States Water Company announced rate increases for 2004-2006 and a charge to earnings for 2003. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

This information is to be considered filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

Date: March 17, 2004

/s/ McClellan Harris III

McClellan Harris III

Sr. Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated March 17, 2004



American States

WATER COMPANY

American States Water Company Announces Approved Rate Increase for 2004-2006 and a Charge to Earnings for 2003

San Dimas, California, March 17, 2004 — American States Water Company (NYSE:AWR) today announced that it will include a pre-tax charge of \$6.3 million in its fourth quarter 2003 results to reflect a decision issued today by the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”). The charge relates to the CPUC’s order requiring that the company’s Southern California Water Company (“SCW”) subsidiary, refund with interest, seventy percent of revenues received from the lease of certain of its water rights to the City of Folsom, California. SCW has leased 5,000 acre-feet of water rights to the City of Folsom since 1994.

In making today’s announcement, Floyd E. Wicks, President and CEO stated, “We are extremely disappointed in the CPUC’s decision and plan an appeal as soon as practical. On the positive side, however, the CPUC today did authorize an annualized increase of approximately \$8.1 million, or 12.1%, in revenues for SCW’s Region III service area. We expect this increase to go into effect next week. In addition, the decision authorized additional rate increases effective during the next two years of \$4.7 million in the aggregate.”

Wicks further stated, “We had delayed the filing of our Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission pending the results of today’s CPUC decision and, based on that decision, reported results for 2003 will be disappointing. Despite the results reported for 2003, we do not anticipate that the dividend policy of the Company will be negatively impacted by those results. In addition, we do not expect that this charge will have any significant impacts on 2004 operating results.”

Despite a CPUC Administrative Law Judge’s finding to the contrary, the CPUC order requires SCW to pay a fine of \$180,000 for failing to secure authorization from the CPUC prior to the commencement of its lease with the City of Folsom (plus up to an additional \$915,000 in suspended fines if SCW fails in the future to make certain additional filings related to the lease). In addition, today’s order will allow SCW to reverse into income during the fourth quarter of 2003 approximately \$1.8 million in reserves that had been previously established for water quality-related matters. Those matters will now be dealt with through established CPUC procedures. The Company anticipates that the net impact of the lease-related charges and the

reversal of the water quality reserves will be a pre-tax charge of \$4.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Certain matters discussed in this news release with regard to the Company's expectations may be forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The assumptions and risk factors that could cause actual results to differ materially, include those described in the Company's Form 10-Q and Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

American States Water Company is a holding company that, through its subsidiaries, provides water service to 1 out of 30 Californians located within 75 communities throughout 10 counties in Northern, Coastal and Southern California and to approximately 12,000 customers in the city of Fountain Hills, Arizona and portions of Scottsdale, Arizona. The Company distributes electricity to approximately 22,000 customers in the Big Bear recreational area of California, and contracts with various municipalities and private entities in both California and Arizona to provide services to an additional 97,000 customers.

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