

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 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) August 20, 2004

American States Water Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

333-47647

(Commission File Number)

95-4676679

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

630 East Foothill Blvd.

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

San Dimas, California 91773

(Zip Code)

(909) 394-3600

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

NA

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On August 20 2004 American States Water Company announced that the CPUC approved retroactive rate increases for Region I & II of its Southern California Water Company ("SCW") unit. This decision is expected to result in a net pre-tax gain in the third quarter of 2004, which the Company is in the process of calculating. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

This Form 8-K and the attached exhibit are furnished to, but not filed with, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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: August 20, 2004

/s/ Floyd E. Wicks

Floyd E. Wicks
President and CEO

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated August 20, 2004



American States WATER COMPANY

American States Water Company Announces Approval by CPUC of Increase in Rates

San Dimas, California, August 20, 2004.... American States Water Company (NYSE:AWR) announced that the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) approved rate increases today for Regions I and II of its Southern California Water Company (“SCW”) unit. The rate increases in three customer service areas of SCW’s Region I will generate annual revenues in 2004 of \$382,100 and will be retroactive to January 1, 2004. The rate increases in SCW’s Region II customer service area will provide for increased revenues of \$5.2 million in 2004 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 these General Rate Case applications, SCW had obtained authority from legislation adopted in 2002, for interim rates that were effective on February 14, 2004, subject to refund. The decision today authorized new rates for 2004 that will be retroactive to February 14, 2004. SCW was authorized to file an advice letter to recover or refund, over a period not less than one year, the difference between the interim rates authorized in February 2004, and the new rates authorized in today’s decision.

Commenting on the decisions, Floyd E. Wicks, President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, “The Company is very pleased with the CPUC’s actions in approving these increases today. It is especially gratifying that the new rates are retroactive to earlier this year, reflecting the hard work of many water industry professionals in effecting change in California law to eliminate the unfair “regulatory lag” in the rate-making process. A fair and equitable regulatory process is good for customers and shareholders alike. The previous uncertainty in obtaining fair rates through the regulatory process has caused the debt rating agencies to take a negative outlook toward California utilities which only hurts customers of the utility, in the form of higher interest rates. Today’s CPUC decision will send a positive signal to those rating agencies.”

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 the 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 (“AWR”) is the parent company of Southern California Water Company, American States Utility Services, Inc. and Chaparral City Water Company. Through its subsidiaries, AWR 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 in both California and Arizona to provide services to an additional 97,000 customers.

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