



AT YOUR  
SERVICE



**American States Water Company**  
2015 Annual Report

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# AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

American States Water Company is the parent of Golden State Water Company and American States Utility Services, Inc. Through its utility subsidiary, **Golden State Water Company**, the Company provides water service to customers located within communities in Northern, Coastal and Southern California. The Company's **Bear Valley Electric Service**, a division of Golden State Water Company, distributes electricity to customers in the City of Big Bear and surrounding areas in San Bernardino County, California. Through its contracted services subsidiary, **American States Utility Services, Inc.**, the Company provides operations, maintenance, and construction management services for water and wastewater systems located on U.S. military bases. American States Water Company common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **AWR**.

(in thousands, except per share and per customer amounts)

2015

2014

Variance

Change

**Income Statement Information**

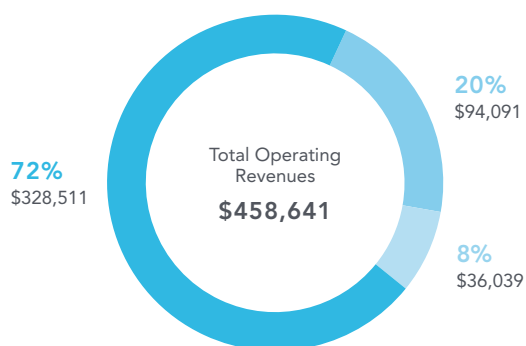
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 458,641	\$ 465,791	\$ (7,150)	-1.5%
Total Operating Expenses	340,152	346,746	(6,594)	-1.9%
Operating Income	118,489	119,045	(556)	-0.5%
Interest Charges (Net)	20,630	20,690	(60)	-0.3%
Net Income from Operations	60,484	61,058	(574)	-0.9%
Basic Earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 0.04	2.5%
Fully Diluted Earnings per Common Share	1.60	1.57	0.03	1.9%
Dividends Declared per Common Share	0.874	0.831	0.04	5.2%
Average Number of Shares Outstanding	37,389	38,658	(1,269)	-3.3%
Average Number of Diluted Shares Outstanding	37,614	38,880	(1,266)	-3.3%

**Balance Sheet Information**

Total Assets	\$ 1,348,600	\$ 1,378,298	\$ (29,698)	-2.2%
Net Utility Plant	1,060,794	1,003,520	57,274	5.7%
Common Shareholders' Equity	465,945	506,801	(40,856)	-8.1%
Long-Term Debt	325,541	325,798	(257)	-0.1%
Total Capitalization	791,486	832,599	(41,113)	-4.9%
Book Value per Common Share	\$ 12.76	\$ 13.24	\$ (0.47)	-3.6%

**2015 Revenues by Segment**

(dollars in thousands)



- Golden State Water Company - Water Utility
- American States Utility Services, Inc. - Contracted Services
- Golden State Water Company - Electric Utility (Bear Valley Electric Service)

**Investment per Customer**

2015	\$5,600
2014	\$5,334
2013	\$5,176





# DEPENDABLE. RELIABLE. AND AT YOUR SERVICE.

American States Water Company provides value to everyone we serve. For customers, ongoing investments in infrastructure, improvements to operational processes, and a commitment to customer satisfaction have produced a network of reliable and efficient systems to deliver quality, cost-effective services. For our shareholders, an experienced leadership team and dedicated employees are focused on running a disciplined operation and growing shareholder value. Whether you're a customer of Golden State Water Company, Bear Valley Electric Service or American States Utility Services, or a shareholder—we're at your service.

# DEAR SHAREHOLDERS,

American States Water Company celebrated its 86th year in business in 2015, enjoying sustained growth over that period. If you have been with us for any length of time, you know that the Company was built on the foundation of delivering outstanding customer service and improving the infrastructure at each of our business segments, and that has never been truer than it is today. Our focus on these fundamentals has served us well over the years. We are pleased to take this opportunity to communicate the highlights of our performance in 2015 and our strategy going forward.

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

American States Water produced another year of solid financial performance, as we achieved a higher total return on our common stock than an index of the eight other publicly traded water utilities in the U.S. and the S&P 500, and once again increased our dividend. We earned \$1.60 per fully diluted share in 2015 and achieved a consolidated return on equity for the year of 12.4%. Our consolidated performance reflects excellent financial results by our two first-tier subsidiaries: Golden State Water Company (GSWC), our regulated water and electric utility, and American States Utility Services, Inc. (ASUS), our contracted services business.

## 2015 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Our water and electric utilities continue to invest in maintaining and improving the reliability of our systems. During 2015, GSWC invested \$91.1 million in infrastructure—well above the \$60.8 million spent in 2014. Capital expenditures at Bear Valley Electric Service accounted for \$7.7 million of that amount, reflecting our electric division's work on two very large projects. The Company reinvested nearly all of its cash from operations into infrastructure during 2015.
- GSWC successfully implemented the mandatory water-use reductions imposed by the California Governor's April 1, 2015 executive order in response to the state's drought. The governor initially directed a 25% reduction in urban water use through February 2016, and this has been extended through October 2016. We held numerous meetings with customers to review our Staged Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing Plan prior to implementation, and we have provided continuous communication and conservation support throughout our service territories. Through December 31, 2015, nearly all of our 18 water systems that are subject to the mandatory reduction requirements had met the required reductions on a cumulative basis.
- GSWC has a culture of cost containment, and this was further evidenced in 2015. Excluding depreciation expenses, non-supply cost related operating expenses for 2015 were relatively unchanged compared with 2014. Management continues to focus on controlling its staffing levels. In fact, total employment at GSWC has declined by approximately 8% since 2011.
- ASUS continued to play a significant role for the Company during the year, contributing \$0.32 per share, or approximately 20% of consolidated earnings and revenues, and achieving a higher return on investment than our well-performing regulated utilities.
- Because of our earnings growth over the past five years and a dividend payout ratio that was lower than those of the utilities with which we compete for capital, our board of directors has increased the annual dividend at a compound annual growth rate of 10.9% since 2010.
- In addition to the share repurchase program, which began in 2014, the board approved a second stock repurchase program in 2015, authorizing the repurchase of up to 1.2 million shares, or 3.2% of outstanding common shares.





# GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY

GSWC has been in business for 86 years because we put customers first. We operate a call center 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year, while many other water providers do not.

Both programs were completed in 2015 and have enabled the Company to reduce its consolidated equity ratio (as a percentage of total capitalization) to a level that is more in line on a weighted basis with appropriate capital structures for GSWC and ASUS. The Company has returned approximately \$90 million to shareholders through these two programs.

- ASUS favorably resolved its price redeterminations at the military bases we serve in Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina, resulting in contract modifications that provided a prospective increase in operation and maintenance management fee revenues and included retroactive amounts totaling \$3 million related to prior years. The contract modifications also provided additional renewal and replacement funding, which will be recognized in construction revenues when the work is performed.
- ASUS continues to receive contract modifications from the U.S. government for new construction projects at the military bases we serve. During the third quarter of 2015, the U.S. government awarded ASUS approximately \$50 million for new construction projects, the majority of which are expected to be completed during 2016.
- During the year, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its A+ ratings on American States Water and GSWC, and Moody's Investors Service affirmed its A2 rating on GSWC. These are some of the highest credit ratings in the water utility industry, and they allow us to borrow at low rates to fund our capital and operational needs.
- In mid-2014 the water segment of GSWC filed its general rate case to determine customer rates for 2016–2018. During 2015 the Company reached a settlement agreement with the Office of Ratepayer Advocates of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on many of the operating expense items in the case, though the entire capital budget request was litigated through the hearing process. We expect a final decision on the case during the second quarter of 2016, with new rates retroactive to January 1, 2016. Under the CPUC's rate case plan, water utilities are required to file rate applications every three years.
- GSWC took advantage of new tax regulations that resulted in lower tax payments in 2015. The impact of implementing these new regulations will be reflected as a reduction in customer rates once a final decision is issued in the pending general rate case for the water segment. We understand the importance of keeping customer rates affordable and are always looking for ways to mitigate future rate increases.

- In October, GSWC completed the acquisition of the operating assets of Rural Water Company, and we now serve approximately 960 additional customers located near the city of Arroyo Grande in San Luis Obispo County, California.
- In November, American States Water was named one of the top four publicly traded companies headquartered in California for having women in leadership positions by the *UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders: A Census of Women Directors and Highest-Paid Executives*. Since 2009, American States Water has annually made the top 25 companies for the highest percentage of women leaders among the 400 largest public companies.

## WORKING TO PROVIDE ABOVE-MARKET RETURNS TO SHAREHOLDERS OVER THE LONG TERM

Our common stock achieved a total shareholder return (TSR) of 13.9% for 2015, higher than the S&P 500's TSR of 1.4% for the year. Over the past three years, the Company has achieved a compound annual return of 23.6% compared with a 15.1% return for the S&P 500 for this same period.

## 61ST CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF DIVIDEND INCREASES

2015 marked the 61st consecutive year of increases in our annual dividend, placing us in an exclusive group of companies on the New York Stock Exchange that have achieved that result. Earnings from ASUS have grown significantly over the past five years and have contributed to our recent increases in the annual dividend. Our goal is to increase our dividend at a compound annual growth rate of 5% or more over the long term. Our 2015 dividend-to-earnings payout ratio was 56%, which is below the average payout ratio for those utilities with which we compete for capital. Given the currently low payout ratio and earnings growth potential, we believe that American States Water is well positioned for future dividend growth.

## GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY: A STRATEGY THAT WORKS

GSWC remains our flagship subsidiary, as it is responsible for our water and electric utility operations. During 2015 it accounted for approximately 80% of American States Water's consolidated revenues and net income. The key tenets of GSWC's strategy continue to include: (i) delivering outstanding customer service; (ii) driving operational efficiency to minimize costs to our customers; (iii) making prudent capital additions and infrastructure investments; (iv) maintaining a strong water supply portfolio; (v) establishing a rate structure that provides the right customer incentives for conservation; and (vi) purchasing goods and services from diverse vendors.



**Delivering Outstanding Customer Service** GSWC has been in business for 86 years because we put customers first. We operate a call center 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year, while many other water providers do not. We think it is critical that when customers have a problem with their water or electric service, they are able to contact us at any time of day. The Company has been focusing on improving our communication with customers, including sending electronic newsletters, improving the GSWC website, and providing more timely updates on capital projects and issues of interest to our stakeholders. We do not play politics with customer service—cutting corners and deferring infrastructure investment and maintenance put customers, the water supply, and water quality at risk.

We would not have our well-earned reputation for customer service without the dedication of our employees. They know they have a very important job to do, which is to protect the communities we serve by delivering safe water and high-quality customer service. We will continue our commitment to attract and retain the talented employees needed to manage a very complex business.

**Driving Operational Efficiency to Minimize Costs to Our Customers** We continually look for ways to improve efficiency and manage our operating expenses to mitigate future rate increases. We understand that this is part of our commitment to customers, and we have continually executed plans to stabilize costs and mitigate expense volatility. For instance, over the past few years we have redeemed long-term notes totaling \$45 million prior to their maturities, to leverage the opportunity to borrow at lower interest rates. We have closed out the Company's defined benefit pension plan to new hires and have centralized our procurement activities to allow us to more effectively purchase materials and services. In addition, we have reduced staff by about 8% since 2011 and continue to adjust our headcount while balancing customer service and cost. We are committed to continuously evaluating our processes to maximize efficiency and are always cognizant of the importance of keeping customer rates affordable. For example, as we developed our current water general rate case, we were able to pass along the cost savings to customers while continuing to invest in our systems.

**Making Prudent Capital Additions and Infrastructure Investments** It is no coincidence that our company is rarely in the news for a water main break or water system failure because we are proactive and take great pride in keeping our systems reliable and running efficiently. Water is an essential part of life, and customers expect to receive safe, uninter-

rupted service. Our capital investment program is a critical factor in delivering consistent, high-quality service to our customers. During 2015 the Company spent \$91.1 million of capital expenditures on its infrastructure. GSWC's water operations invested approximately 75% of its capital budget in pipeline, water supply, and water quality-related projects. Our electric division invested \$7.7 million of capital expenditures during the year, primarily on a distribution undergrounding project and a substation upgrade project. GSWC recovers its capital expenditures from customers through depreciation expense and a return on its rate base. Over the past five years, GSWC's net utility plant has increased from \$851.4 million at the end of 2010 to \$1.056 billion at the end of 2015.

**Maintaining a Strong Water Supply Portfolio** GSWC owns 74,300 acre-feet of adjudicated groundwater rights and a significant number of unadjudicated groundwater rights. In addition, GSWC owns 11,300 acre-feet of surface water rights. We remain intent on preserving the ever-increasing value of these water rights to serve our customers. Facing severe drought conditions in California, we continue to closely monitor our water supplies to ensure a robust water supply portfolio for the future.

**Establishing a Rate Structure that Provides the Right Incentives for Conservation** We maintain a strong conservation program to encourage customers to use less water and electricity. With the CPUC's encouragement, GSWC has also implemented a tiered structure in its water and electric rates to promote conservation. The tiered water rates were established to meet the State of California's goal of a 20% reduction in water use by 2020. As part of the implementation of these tiered rates, the CPUC authorized both the water and electric utility business segments to establish revenue adjustment mechanisms to decouple revenues from sales to ensure that conservation would not compromise reliable operations and necessary capital investments. Due to our conservation programs, the implementation of the tiered rate design, public awareness of the need for Californians to conserve, and the mandatory usage reductions imposed by California's Governor, GSWC's water sales in 2015 were approximately 32.5% lower than water sales in 2007, the last full year before implementation of the tiered rates. As a result, GSWC has been able to meet more of its customers' demand from its own water sources, decreasing dependency on expensive, purchased water.

For our electricity customers, we secured the purchase of green energy as part of our supply portfolio. We have a 10-year agreement for renewable resources, allowing our electric segment to meet the CPUC's Renewables Portfolio Standard requirements. In addition, in 2015 we increased





## BEAR VALLEY ELECTRIC SERVICE

Our electric division, BVES, invested \$7.7 million of capital expenditures during the year, primarily on a distribution undergrounding project and a substation upgrade project.





## AMERICAN STATES UTILITY SERVICES

Our strategy for ASUS is to increase the size and scope of our contracted services operations through (i) further developing opportunities on the bases we currently serve and (ii) actively pursuing bases still to be privatized.

spending on our energy-efficiency and solar-initiative programs, which were approved by the CPUC.

#### **Purchasing Goods and Services from Diverse Vendors**

GSWC remains committed to providing opportunities and forming partnerships within the diverse communities we serve. We continue to follow the guidelines established by the CPUC to increase the inclusion of women-, minority-, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises (WMDVBEs) in procurement opportunities at GSWC. We have increased our percentage of spend with WMDVBE vendors from 7.3% in 2004, when we started our Supplier Diversity Program, to 22.4% in 2015. This significant progress is a direct result of our commitment to diversity at all levels of the Company.

#### **ASUS: A GOOD YEAR AND POISED FOR GROWTH**

ASUS performs operations, maintenance, and capital construction activities on water and/or wastewater systems at nine military bases under 50-year contracts with the U.S. government. This subsidiary had another solid year in 2015, generating operating revenues of \$94.1 million and pretax operating income of \$18.1 million, and contributing \$0.32 per share to consolidated earnings. ASUS provides American States Water with opportunities to improve companywide returns, grow the Company, diversify risk, and contribute to funding dividends to shareholders. ASUS has also given the Company the opportunity to proudly serve the men and women in our nation's military.

Our strategy for ASUS is to increase the size and scope of our contracted services operations through (i) further developing opportunities on the bases we currently serve and (ii) actively pursuing bases still to be privatized.

#### **Further Developing Opportunities on the Bases We Currently Serve**

Like GSWC, ASUS is focused on providing excellent customer service, and we continue to enhance our relationship with the U.S. government. We are proud that we consistently receive high marks from the U.S. government for our customer service and adherence to the schedule for capital construction, and that we continue to exceed our customers' requirements for small business utilization.

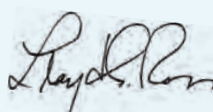
During 2015, ASUS spent \$52.8 million of direct construction cost in renewing, replacing, expanding, and improving water and wastewater infrastructure on various military bases. Unlike GSWC, which earns a return on its infrastructure investment, ASUS earns a profit on its construction activities. In addition to ongoing renewal and replacement construction projects, ASUS continues to receive contract modifications from the U.S. government for new construction projects at the military bases we serve. ASUS was awarded

\$50 million of new construction projects from the U.S. government in 2015, the majority of which are expected to be completed during 2016. ASUS has also been expanding the assets it manages on all the bases it serves, and we expect construction activities to continue making a significant contribution to ASUS's earnings in 2016 and beyond.

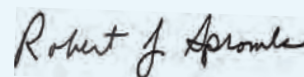
**Actively Pursuing Bases Still to be Privatized** We are also aggressively responding to solicitations from the U.S. government on military bases where the water and wastewater utilities are in the process of being privatized, in an effort to increase ASUS's footprint in the utility privatization industry and to continue to be recognized as one of the premier providers of water and wastewater services. We have made several key hires in the past few years so that we are able to respond to multiple requests for proposals from the U.S. government in a cost-effective manner. We anticipate continued expansion of privatizations by the U.S. government over the next five years and expect ASUS to be successful in winning our share of the new bases.

On behalf of everyone at American States Water Company and its subsidiaries, we thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,



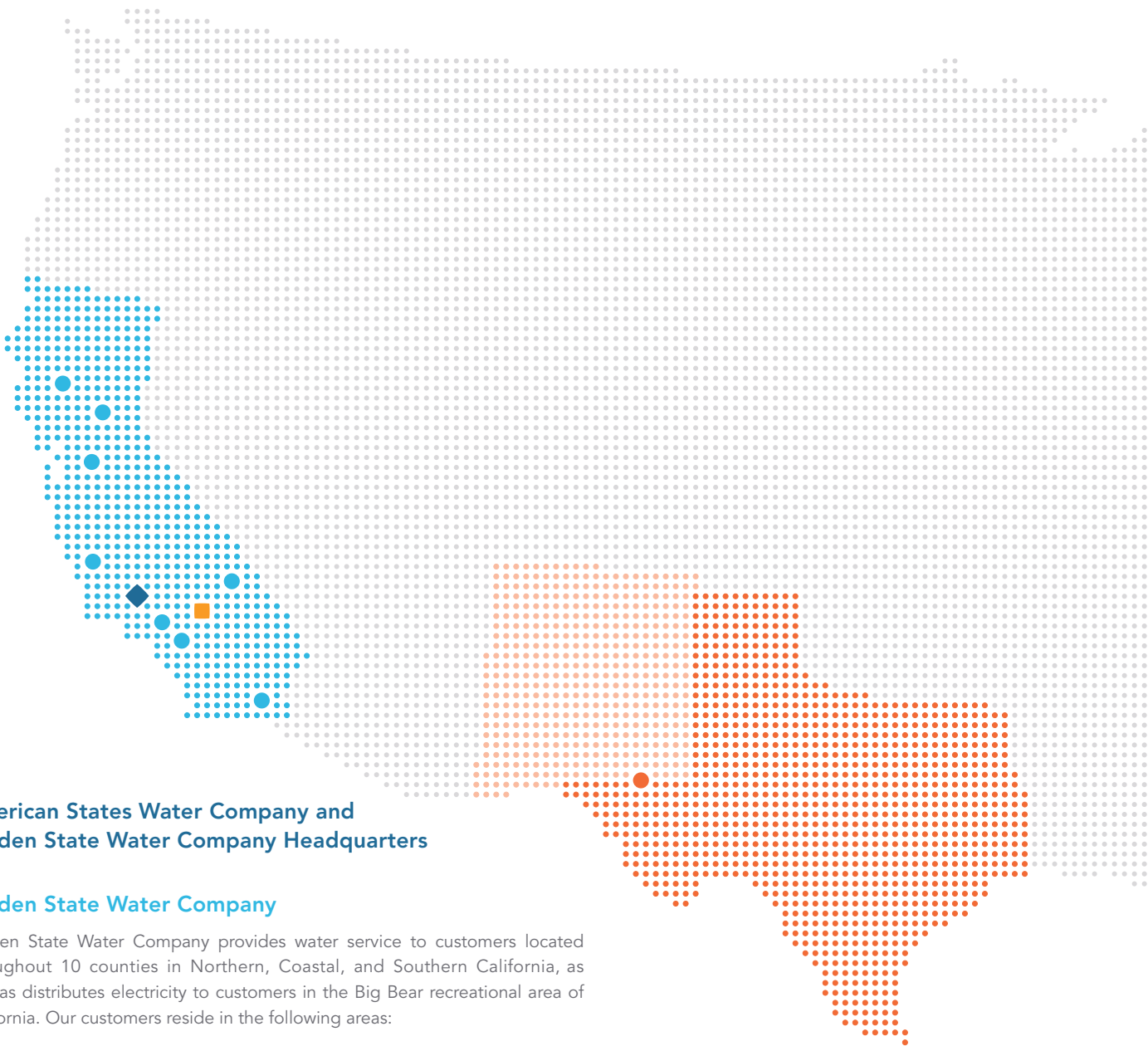
**LLOYD E. ROSS**  
Chairman of the Board



**ROBERT J. SPROWLS**  
President and CEO







## ◆ American States Water Company and Golden State Water Company Headquarters

### ● Golden State Water Company

Golden State Water Company provides water service to customers located throughout 10 counties in Northern, Coastal, and Southern California, as well as distributes electricity to customers in the Big Bear recreational area of California. Our customers reside in the following areas:

#### Customers

Customers			
<b>Northern District</b>		<b>Central District</b>	
Arden/Rancho Cordova	16,520	Central Basin East	20,146
Bay Point	5,021	Central Basin West	20,241
Clearlake	2,180	Culver City	9,673
<b>Coastal District</b>		<b>Southwest District</b>	
Los Osos	3,281	Southwest	52,458
Ojai	2,899	<b>Foothill District</b>	
Santa Maria	14,633	Claremont	11,168
Simi Valley	13,365	San Dimas	16,120
		San Gabriel	12,419



## ■ American States Utility Services, Inc. Headquarters

American States Utility Services, Inc. contracts with the U.S. government and private entities to provide operation and maintenance and capital construction and improvements (collectively, “services”) of potable water and waste-water systems as identified below:

- **Maryland**  
Terrapin Utility Services, Inc. provides services to the United States Air Force at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.
- **Virginia**  
In Virginia, Old Dominion Utility Services, Inc. provides services to the United States Army at Joint Base Langley Eustis and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story along with wastewater services at Fort Lee.
- **North Carolina**  
Old North Utility Services, Inc. provides services to the United States Army in North Carolina at Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield and Camp Mackall.
- **South Carolina**  
Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. provides services to the United States Army at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.
- **Texas/New Mexico**  
Fort Bliss Water Services Company provides services to the United States Army at the Fort Bliss military installation in El Paso, Texas. The service area also includes Dona Ana, MacGregor, and Myers Range Camps located in New Mexico.

### Mountain/Desert District

Victorville/Apple Valley	2,952
Barstow	9,033
Calipatria	1,170
Morongo Valley	969
Wrightwood	2,745

### Orange County District

Los Alamitos	27,610
Placentia	15,548

Total Water Customers 260,151

■ Bear Valley Electric Service 23,846

283,997  
Total GSWC Customers

## FIVE-YEAR STATISTICAL REVIEW

(dollars in thousands, except per share and per customer amounts)

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

### Financial Information for Continuing Operations

#### Revenues by Segment from Continuing Operations

Water Revenues	\$ 328,511	\$ 326,672	\$ 320,131	\$ 305,898	\$ 300,450
Electric Revenues	36,039	34,387	38,409	37,033	36,275
Contracted Services Revenues	94,091	104,732	113,537	123,977	83,188
Total Operating Revenues	458,641	465,791	472,077	466,908	419,913
Net Income	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686	\$ 54,148	\$ 42,010
Diluted Earnings per Common Share	1.60	1.57	1.61	1.41	1.11

Total Assets	\$1,348,600	\$ 1,378,298	\$ 1,310,183	\$ 1,280,943	\$ 1,238,362
Net Utility Plant	1,060,794	1,003,520	981,477	917,791	896,500
Capital Additions	87,323	72,553	97,379	68,104	80,281
Long-term Debt	325,541	325,798	326,079	332,463	340,395
Investment per Customer	5,600	5,334	5,176	4,874	4,689

### Financial Information for Discontinued Operations

Water Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,492
Net Income	-	-	-	-	3,849
Diluted Earnings per Common Share	-	-	-	-	0.10

### Financial Information for Consolidated Operations

Total Operating Revenues	\$ 458,641	\$ 465,791	\$ 472,077	\$ 466,908	\$ 423,405
Net Income	60,484	61,058	62,686	54,148	45,859
Diluted Earnings per Common Share	1.60	1.57	1.61	1.41	1.21
Dividends Declared per Common Share	0.874	0.831	0.760	0.635	0.550
Book Value per Common Share	12.76	13.24	12.72	11.82	10.88

### Operating Information for Continuing Operations

#### Water Sold by Classification (mg)

Residential and Commercial	36,972	43,539	45,308	44,786	43,220
Industrial	388	434	437	422	420
Fire Service and Other	3,801	5,121	5,112	5,189	4,439
Total Water	41,161	49,094	50,858	50,397	48,079
Total Electric Sales (mwh)	133,665	126,850	134,129	130,784	134,216

### Water Production by Source (mg)

Purchased	18,237	18,430	19,291	19,077	18,077
Pumped - Electric and Gas	23,436	30,486	32,663	32,035	30,805
Gravity and Surface	2,345	2,881	2,972	3,049	3,116
Total Supply	44,018	51,797	54,926	54,161	51,998

### Customers by Classification\*

Residential and Commercial	251,880	250,035	249,051	247,648	247,838
Industrial	346	345	342	351	350
Fire Service and Other	7,925	7,811	7,709	7,658	7,747
Total Water	260,151	258,191	257,102	255,657	255,935
Electric	23,846	23,716	23,615	23,379	23,508
Total Company	283,997	281,907	280,717	279,036	279,443
Miles of Main in Service	2,820	2,792	2,789	2,786	2,780
Number of Employees as of December 31	702	709	723	725	732

mg = millions of gallons mwh = mega-watt hours

\* In addition, as of December 31, 2015 the Company had six contracts with the U.S. government for its contracted services business.



# FORM 10-K



American States  
Water Company

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K****FOR ANNUAL AND TRANSITION REPORTS  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934****(Mark One)**☒ **Annual Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 or**☐ **Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from to**

<b>Commission File Number</b>	<b>Registrant, State of Incorporation Address, Zip Code and Telephone Number</b>	<b>IRS Employer Identification No.</b>
001-14431	<b>American States Water Company</b> (Incorporated in California) 630 E. Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas, CA 91773-1212 (909) 394-3600	95-4676679
001-12008	<b>Golden State Water Company</b> (Incorporated in California) 630 E. Foothill Boulevard, San Dimas, CA 91773-1212 (909) 394-3600	95-1243678

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</b>
American States Water Company Common Shares	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

American States Water Company Yes ☒ No ☐Golden State Water Company Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

American States Water Company Yes ☐ No ☒Golden State Water Company Yes ☐ No ☒

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 Yes ☒ No ☐Golden State Water Company Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether Registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or such shorter period that the Registrant was required to submit and post such files).

American States Water Company Yes ☒ No ☐Golden State Water Company Yes ☒ No ☐Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

**American States Water Company**Large accelerated filer ☒ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐**Golden State Water Company**Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act)

American States Water Company Yes ☐ No ☒Golden State Water Company Yes ☐ No ☒

The aggregate market value of all voting Common Shares held by non-affiliates of American States Water Company was approximately \$1,393,317,000 and \$1,710,746,000 on June 30, 2015 and February 22, 2016, respectively. The closing price per Common Share of American States Water Company on February 22, 2016, as quoted in *The Wall Street Journal website*, was \$46.84. As of February 22, 2016, the number of Common Shares of American States Water Company outstanding was 36,523,179. As of that same date, American States Water Company owned all 146 outstanding Common Shares of Golden State Water Company. The aggregate market value of all voting stock held by non-affiliates of Golden State Water Company was zero on June 30, 2015 and February 22, 2016.

Golden State Water Company meets the conditions set forth in General Instruction I(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-K and is therefore filing this Form, in part, with the reduced disclosure format for Golden State Water Company.

**Documents Incorporated by Reference:**

Portions of the Proxy Statement of American States Water Company will be subsequently filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as to Part III, Item Nos. 10, 11, 13 and 14 and portions of Item 12, in each case as specifically referenced herein.

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**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**and**  
**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**

**FORM 10-K**

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## **PART I**

### **Item 1. Business**

This annual report on Form 10-K is a combined report being filed by two separate Registrants, American States Water Company (“AWR”) and Golden State Water Company (“GSWC”). References in this report to “Registrant” are to AWR and GSWC, collectively, unless otherwise specified. GSWC makes no representations as to the information contained in this report relating to AWR and its subsidiaries, other than GSWC.

AWR makes its periodic reports, Form 10-Q and Form 10-K, and current reports, Form 8-K, available free of charge through its website, [www.aswater.com](http://www.aswater.com), as soon as material is electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). Such reports are also available on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). AWR also makes available free of charge its code of business conduct and ethics, its corporate governance guidelines and the charters of its Board of Directors, Nominating and Governance Committee, Compensation Committee, and Audit and Finance Committee through its website or by calling (800) 999-4033. AWR and GSWC have filed the certification of officers required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act as Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 to its Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

### **General**

AWR is the parent company of GSWC and American States Utility Services, Inc. (“ASUS”) (and its subsidiaries (Fort Bliss Water Services Company (“FBWS”), Terrapin Utility Services, Inc. (“TUS”), Old Dominion Utility Services, Inc. (“ODUS”), Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. (“PSUS”) and Old North Utility Services, Inc. (“ONUS”)). AWR was incorporated as a California corporation in 1998 as a holding company. AWR has three reportable segments: water, electric and contracted services. Within the segments, AWR has two principal business units, water and electric service utility operations, conducted through GSWC, and contracted services conducted through ASUS and its subsidiaries. FBWS, TUS, ODUS, PSUS and ONUS may be referred to herein individually as a “Military Utility Privatization Subsidiary” or collectively as the “Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.”

GSWC is a public utility engaged principally in the purchase, production, distribution and sale of water in 10 counties in the State of California. GSWC is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”). It was incorporated as a California corporation on December 31, 1929. GSWC also distributes electricity in several San Bernardino County mountain communities in California through its Bear Valley Electric Service (“BVES”) division.

GSWC served 260,151 water customers and 23,846 electric customers at December 31, 2015, or a total of 283,997 customers, compared with 258,191 water customers and 23,716 electric customers at December 31, 2014, or a total of 281,907 customers. GSWC’s operations exhibit seasonal trends. Although GSWC’s water utility operations have a diversified customer base, residential and commercial customers account for the majority of GSWC’s water sales and revenues. Revenues derived from commercial and residential water customers accounted for approximately 90% of total water revenues for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

ASUS, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, has contracted with the U.S. government to provide water and/or wastewater services at various military installations. ASUS operates, maintains and performs construction activities (including renewal and replacement capital work) on water and/or wastewater systems at various United States military bases pursuant to 50-year firm, fixed-price contracts. Each of the contracts with the U.S. government is subject to termination, in whole or in part, prior to the end of its 50-year term for convenience of the U.S. government or as a result of default or nonperformance by the subsidiary performing the contract. The contract price for each of these contracts is subject to redetermination every three years following the initial two years of the contract or annually under an economic price adjustment. Contracts are also subject to equitable price adjustments and modifications for changes in circumstances, changes in laws and regulations, additions to the contract value for new construction of facilities at the military bases and changes in wages and fringe benefits to the extent provided in the contract. AWR guarantees performance of ASUS’s military privatization contracts.

Pursuant to the terms of these contracts, the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries operate, as of the effective date of their respective contracts, the following water and wastewater systems:

- FBWS - water and wastewater systems at Fort Bliss located near El Paso, Texas and extending into southeastern New Mexico effective October 1, 2004;
- TUS - water and wastewater systems at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland effective February 1, 2006;
- ODUS - wastewater system at Fort Lee in Virginia effective February 23, 2006 and the water and wastewater systems at Joint-Base Langley Eustis and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia ("TRADOC") effective April 3, 2006;
- PSUS - water and wastewater systems at Fort Jackson in South Carolina effective February 16, 2008; and
- ONUS - water and wastewater systems at Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield and Camp Mackall, North Carolina effective March 1, 2008.

Certain financial information for each of AWR's business segments - water distribution, electric distribution, and contracted services - is set forth in Note 15 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of American States Water Company and its subsidiaries. AWR's water and electric distribution segments are not dependent upon a single or only a few customers. The U.S. government is the primary customer for ASUS's contracted services. ASUS, from time to time, performs work at military bases for other prime contractors of the U.S. government.

The revenue from AWR's segments is seasonal. The impact of seasonality on these AWR businesses is discussed in more detail in Item 1A. "*Risk Factors*."

Environmental matters and compliance with such laws and regulations are discussed in detail in Item 7. "*Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation*" under the section titled "Environmental Matters."

## **Competition**

The businesses of GSWC are substantially free from direct and indirect competition with other public utilities, municipalities and other public agencies within their existing service territories. However, GSWC may be subject to eminent domain proceedings in which governmental agencies, under state law, may acquire GSWC's water systems if doing so is necessary and in the public's interest. GSWC competes with governmental agencies and other investor-owned utilities in connection with offering service to new real estate developments on the basis of financial terms, availability of water and ability to commence providing service on a timely basis. ASUS actively competes for business with other investor-owned utilities, other third party providers of water and/or wastewater services and governmental entities primarily on the basis of price and quality of service.

## **AWR Workforce**

AWR and its subsidiaries had a total of 707 employees as of January 31, 2016. GSWC had 553 employees as of January 31, 2016. Seventeen employees of BVES are covered by a collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which expires in December 2017. Prior to March 2015, sixty-three employees at one of GSWC's water rate-making areas were covered by a collective bargaining agreement with the Utility Workers Union of America ("UWUA"), which expired by its own terms on August 31, 2014 and was thereafter extended on a monthly basis through February 28, 2015. In March 2015, GSWC received objective evidence that UWUA had lost support of a majority of the bargaining unit employees. Consequently, GSWC withdrew recognition of UWUA effective as of March 2, 2015. Thus, other than at BVES, GSWC has no other unionized employees.

ASUS had 154 employees as of January 31, 2016. Sixteen of FBWS's employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers. This agreement expires in 2017.

## **Forward-Looking Information**

This Form 10-K and the documents incorporated herein contain forward-looking statements intended to qualify for the “safe harbor” from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are based on current estimates, expectations and projections about future events and assumptions regarding these events and include statements regarding management’s goals, beliefs, plans or current expectations, taking into account the information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical facts. For example, when we use words such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “plan,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may” and other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes, we are making forward-looking statements. We are not able to predict all the factors that may affect future results. We caution you that any forward-looking statements made by us are not guarantees of future performance and the actual results may differ materially from those in our forward-looking statements. Some of the factors that could cause future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements or from historical results, include, but are not limited to:

- the outcome of pending and future regulatory, legislative or other proceedings, investigations or audits, including decisions in GSWC's general rate cases and the results of independent audits of GSWC's construction contracting procurement practices or other independent audits of our costs;
- changes in the policies and procedures of the CPUC;
- timeliness of CPUC action on rates;
- availability of water supplies, which may be adversely affected by the California drought, changes in weather patterns in the West, contamination, and court decisions or other governmental actions restricting the use of water from the Colorado River, the California State Water Project, and/or pumping of groundwater;
- our ability to efficiently manage GSWC capital expenditures and operating and maintenance expenses within CPUC authorized levels and timely recover our costs through rates;
- the impact of opposition to GSWC rate increases on our ability to recover our costs through rates;
- the impact of condemnation actions on the size of our customer base;
- our ability to forecast the costs of maintaining GSWC’s aging water and electric infrastructure;
- our ability to recover increases in permitting costs and in costs associated with negotiating and complying with the terms of our franchise agreements with cities and counties and other demands made upon us by the cities and counties in which GSWC operates;
- changes in accounting valuations and estimates, including changes resulting from our assessment of anticipated recovery of GSWC's regulatory assets, liabilities and revenues subject to refund or regulatory disallowances;
- changes in environmental laws and water and wastewater quality requirements and increases in costs associated with complying with these laws and requirements;
- our ability to obtain adequate, reliable and cost-effective supplies of chemicals, electricity, fuel, water and other raw materials that are needed for our water and wastewater operations;
- our ability to recover the costs associated with the contamination of GSWC’s groundwater supplies from parties responsible for the contamination or through the ratemaking process, and the time and expense incurred by us in obtaining recovery of such costs;
- adequacy of our electric division's power supplies and the extent to which we can manage and respond to the volatility of electricity and natural gas prices;
- our electric division's ability to comply with the CPUC’s renewable energy procurement requirements;
- changes in GSWC's long-term customer demand due to changes in customer usage patterns as a result of conservation efforts, regulatory changes affecting demand such as mandatory restrictions on water use, new landscaping or irrigation requirements, recycling of water by customers or purchase of recycled water supplied by other parties,



unanticipated population growth or decline, changes in climate conditions, general economic and financial market conditions and cost increases;

- changes in accounting treatment for regulated utilities;
- effects of changes in or interpretations of tax laws, rates or policies;
- changes in estimates used in ASUS's revenue recognition under the percentage of completion method of accounting for construction activities;
- termination, in whole or in part, of one or more of our military utility privatization contracts to provide water and/or wastewater services at military bases for the convenience of the U.S. government or for default;
- termination of contracts and suspension or debarment for a period of time from contracting with the government due to violations of federal law or regulations in connection with military utility privatization activities;
- delays by the U.S. government in making timely payments to ASUS for water and/or wastewater services at military bases as a result of fiscal uncertainties over the funding of the U.S. government or otherwise;
- delays in obtaining redetermination of prices or economic price or equitable adjustments to our prices on one or more of our contracts to provide water and/or wastewater services at military bases;
- disallowance of costs on any of our contracts to provide water and/or wastewater services at military bases as a result of audits, cost reviews or investigations by contracting agencies;
- inaccurate assumptions used in preparing bids in our contracted services business;
- failure of the wastewater systems that we operate on military bases resulting in untreated wastewater or contaminants spilling into nearby properties, streams or rivers;
- failure to comply with the terms of our military privatization contracts;
- failure of any of our subcontractors to perform services for us in accordance with the terms of our military privatization contracts;
- issues with the implementation, maintenance or upgrading of our information technology systems;
- general economic conditions which may impact our ability to recover infrastructure investments and operating costs from customers;
- explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, the disruption of information technology and telecommunication systems, human error and similar events that may occur while operating and maintaining water and electric systems in California or operating and maintaining water and wastewater systems on military bases under varying geographic conditions;
- the impact of storms, earthquakes, floods, mudslides, drought, wildfires, disease and similar natural disasters, or acts of terrorism or vandalism, that affect customer demand or that damage or disrupt facilities, operations or information technology systems owned by us, our customers or third parties on whom we rely;
- potential costs, lost revenues, or other consequences resulting from misappropriation of assets or sensitive information, corruption of data, or operational disruption in connection with a cyber-attack or other cyber incident;
- restrictive covenants in our debt instruments or changes to our credit ratings on current or future debt that may increase our financing costs or affect our ability to borrow or make payments on our debt; and
- our ability to access capital markets and other sources of credit in a timely manner on acceptable terms.

Please consider our forward-looking statements in light of these risks as you read this Form 10-K. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

You should carefully read the risks described below and other information in this Form 10-K in order to understand certain of the risks of our business.

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

GSWC's revenues depend substantially on the rates and fees it charges its customers and the ability to recover its costs on a timely basis, including the ability to recover the costs of purchased water, groundwater assessments, electricity, natural gas, chemicals, water treatment, security at water facilities and preventative maintenance and emergency repairs. Any delays by the CPUC in granting rate relief to cover increased operating and capital costs at our public utilities or delays in obtaining approval of our requests at ASUS for economic price or equitable adjustments or price redeterminations for contracted services from the U.S. government may adversely affect our financial performance. We may file for interim rates in California in situations where there may be delays in granting final rate relief during a general rate case proceeding. If the CPUC approves lower rates, the CPUC will require us to refund to customers the difference between the interim rates and the rates approved by the CPUC. Similarly, if the CPUC approves rates that are higher than the interim rates, the CPUC may authorize us to recover the difference between the interim rates and the final rates. Interim rates may also be granted by the U.S. government should there be delays in the price redetermination process.

Regulatory decisions may also impact prospective revenues and earnings, affect the timing of the recognition of revenues and expenses, may overturn past decisions used in determining our revenues and expenses and could result in impairment charges and customer refunds. Management continually evaluates the anticipated recovery of regulatory assets, liabilities and revenues subject to refund and provides for allowances and reserves as deemed necessary. In the event that our assessment of the probability of recovery through the ratemaking process is incorrect, we will adjust the associated regulatory asset or liability to reflect the change in our assessment or any regulatory disallowances. A change in our evaluation of the probability of recovery of regulatory assets or a regulatory disallowance of all or a portion of our costs could have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

We are also, in some cases, required to estimate future expenses and, in others, we are required to incur the expense before recovering costs. As a result, our revenues and earnings may fluctuate depending on the accuracy of our estimates, the timing of our investments or expenses or other factors. If expenses increase significantly over a short period of time, we may experience delays in recovery of these expenses, the inability to recover carrying costs for these expenses and increased risks of regulatory disallowances or write-offs.

Regulatory agencies may also change their rules and policies which may adversely affect our profitability and cash flows. Changes in policies of the U.S. government may also adversely affect one or more of our Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries. In certain circumstances, the U.S. government may be unwilling or unable to appropriate funds to pay costs mandated by changes in rules and policies of federal or state regulatory agencies. The U.S. government may disagree with the increases that we request and may delay approval of requests for equitable adjustment or redetermination of prices which could adversely affect our anticipated rates of return.

We may also be subject to fines or penalties if a regulatory agency, including the U.S. government, determines that we have failed to comply with laws, regulations or orders applicable to our businesses, unless we successfully appeal such an adverse determination. Regulatory agencies may also disallow certain costs if audit findings determine that we have failed to comply with our policies and procedures for procurement or other practices.

***Our costs involved in maintaining water quality and complying with environmental regulation have increased and are expected to continue to increase***

Our capital and operating costs at GSWC can increase substantially as a result of increases in environmental regulation arising from increases in the cost of upgrading and building new water treatment plants, disposing of residuals from our water treatment plants, compliance-monitoring activities and securing alternative supplies when necessary. GSWC may be able to recover these costs through the ratemaking process. We may also be able to recover these costs under settlement and contractual arrangements.

***We may sustain losses that exceed or are excluded from our insurance coverage or for which we are not insured***

We are, from time to time, parties to legal or regulatory proceedings. These proceedings may pertain to regulatory investigations, employment matters or other disputes. Management periodically reviews its assessment of the probable outcome of these proceedings, the costs and expenses reasonably expected to be incurred, and the availability and extent of insurance coverage. On the basis of this review, management establishes reserves for such matters. We may, however, from time to time be required to pay fines, penalties or damages that exceed our insurance coverage and/or reserves if our estimate of the probable outcome of such proceedings proves to be inaccurate.

We maintain insurance coverage as part of our overall legal and risk management strategy to minimize our potential liabilities. However, our insurance policies contain exclusions and other limitations that may not cover our potential liabilities. Generally, our insurance policies cover property, workers compensation, employer liability, general liability and automobile liability. Each policy includes deductibles or self-insured retentions and policy limits for covered claims. As a result, we may sustain losses that exceed or that are excluded from our insurance coverage or for which we are not insured.

We have experienced increased costs and difficulties in obtaining insurance coverage for wildfires that could arise from BVES's ordinary operations. Uninsured losses and increases in the cost of insurance may not be recoverable in customer rates. A loss which is not insured or not fully insured or cannot be recovered in customer rates could materially affect GSWC's financial condition and results of operations.

**Additional Risks Associated with our Public Utility Operations**

***Our operating costs may increase as a result of groundwater contamination***

Our operations can be impacted by groundwater contamination in certain service territories. Historically, we have taken a number of steps to address contamination, including the removal of wells from service, decreasing the amount of groundwater pumped from wells in order to slow the movement of plumes of contaminated water, constructing water treatment facilities and securing alternative sources of supply from other areas not affected by the contamination. In emergency situations, we have supplied our customers with bottled water until the emergency situation has been resolved.

Our ability to recover these types of costs depends upon a variety of factors, including approval of rate increases, the willingness of potentially responsible parties to settle litigation and otherwise address the contamination and the extent and magnitude of the contamination. We may recover costs from certain third parties that may be responsible, or potentially responsible, for groundwater contamination. However, we often experience delays in obtaining recovery of these costs and incur additional costs associated with seeking recovery from responsible or potentially responsible parties which may adversely impact our liquidity. In some events we may be unable to recover all of these costs from third parties due to the inability to identify the potentially responsible parties, the lack of financial resources of responsible parties or the high litigation costs associated with obtaining recovery from responsible or potentially responsible parties.

We can give no assurance regarding the adequacy of any such recovery to offset the costs associated with contamination or the cost of recovery of any legal costs. To date, the CPUC has permitted us to establish memorandum accounts for potential recovery of these types of costs when they arise.

Management believes that rate recovery, proper insurance coverage and reserves are in place to appropriately manage these types of contamination issues. However, such issues, if ultimately resolved unfavorably to us, could, in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***The adequacy of our water supplies depends upon weather and a variety of other uncontrollable factors***

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

- rainfall, basin replenishment, flood control, snow pack levels in California and the West, reservoir levels and availability of reservoir storage;
- availability of Colorado River water and imported water from the State Water Project;
- the amount of usable water stored in reservoirs and groundwater basins;

- the amount of water used by our customers and others;
- water quality;
- legal limitations on production, diversion, storage, conveyance and use; and
- climate change.

The extended California drought and changes in weather patterns in the West and population growth in California have caused increased stress on surface water supplies and groundwater basins. In addition, low or no allocations of water from the State Water Project and court-ordered pumping restrictions on water obtained from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta decrease or eliminate the amount of water Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD") and other state water contractors are able to import from northern California.

We have implemented tiered rates and other practices in order to encourage water conservation. We have also implemented programs to assist customers in complying with mandated water usage reductions. Over the long term, we are acting to secure additional supplies from desalination and increase use of reclaimed water, where appropriate and feasible. We cannot predict the extent to which these efforts to reduce stress on our water supplies will be successful or sustainable, or the extent to which these efforts will enable us to continue to satisfy all of the water needs of our customers.

Water shortages at GSWC may:

- adversely affect our supply mix, for instance, by causing increased reliance upon more expensive water sources;
- adversely affect our operating costs, for instance, by increasing the cost of producing water from more highly contaminated aquifers or requiring us to transport water over longer distances, truck water to water systems or adopt other emergency measures to enable us to continue to provide water service to our customers;
- result in an increase in our capital expenditures over the long term, for example, by requiring future construction of pipelines to connect to alternative sources of supply, new wells to replace those that are no longer in service or are otherwise inadequate to meet the needs of our customers, and other facilities to conserve or reclaim water;
- adversely affect the volume of water sold as a result of such factors as mandatory or voluntary conservation efforts by customers, changes in customer conservation patterns, recycling of water by customers and imposition of new regulations impacting such things as landscaping and irrigation patterns;
- adversely affect aesthetic water quality if we are unable to flush our water systems as frequently due to water shortages or drought restrictions; and
- result in customer dissatisfaction and harm to our reputation if water service is reduced, interrupted or otherwise adversely affected as a result of the California drought, water contamination or other causes.

***Our liquidity may be adversely affected by changes in water supply costs***

We obtain our water supplies for GSWC from a variety of sources, which vary among our water systems. Certain systems obtain all of their supply from water that is pumped from aquifers within our service areas; some systems purchase all of the supply from wholesale suppliers; some systems obtain the supply from treating surface water sources; and other systems obtain the supply from a combination of wells, surface water sources or wholesale suppliers. The cost of obtaining these supplies varies, and overall costs can be impacted as use within a system varies from time to time. As a result, our cost of providing, distributing and treating water for our customers' use can vary significantly.

Furthermore, imported water wholesalers, such as MWD, may not always have an adequate supply of water to sell to us. Wholesale water suppliers may increase their prices for water delivered to us based on factors that affect their operating costs. Purchased-water rate increases are beyond our control.

GSWC has implemented a modified supply cost balancing account ("MCBA") to track and recover costs from supply mix changes and rate changes by wholesale suppliers, as authorized by the CPUC. However, cash flows from operations can be significantly affected as much of the balance we recognize in the MCBA account is collected from or refunded to customers primarily through surcharges or surcredits, respectively, generally over twelve to eighteen month periods.



***Our liquidity and earnings may be adversely affected by maintenance costs***

Some of our infrastructure in California is more than fifty years old. We have experienced leaks and mechanical problems in some of these older systems. In addition, well and pump maintenance expenses are affected by labor and material costs and more stringent water discharge requirements. These costs can increase substantially and unexpectedly.

We include estimated increases in maintenance costs for future years in each general rate case filed by GSWC for possible recovery. We may not recover overages from amounts estimated in rates.

***Our liquidity and earnings may be adversely affected by our conservation efforts***

Our water utility business is heavily dependent upon revenue generated from rates charged to our residential customers for the volume of water used. The rates we charge for water are regulated by the CPUC and may not be adequately adjusted to reflect changes in demand. Declining usage also negatively impacts our long-term operating revenues if we are unable to secure rate increases or if growth in the residential customer base does not occur to the extent necessary to offset per-customer residential-usage decline.

Conservation by all customer classes at GSWC is a top priority. However, customer conservation will result in lower volumes of water sold. We may experience a decline in per-residential-customer water usage due to factors such as:

- conservation efforts to reduce costs;
- drought conditions resulting in additional water conservation;
- the use of more efficient household fixtures and appliances by consumers to save water;
- voluntary or mandatory changes in landscaping and irrigation patterns; and
- recycling of water by our customers.

These types of changes may result in permanent decreases in demand even if our water supplies are sufficient to meet higher levels of demand after a drought ends. In addition, governmental restrictions on water usage during drought conditions may result in a decreased demand for our water, even if our water reserves are sufficient to serve our customers during such drought conditions.

We implemented a CPUC-approved water-revenue adjustment mechanism ("WRAM") at GSWC, which has the effect of reducing the adverse impact of our customers' conservation efforts on revenues. However, cash flows from operations can be significantly affected as much of the balance we recognize in the WRAM account is collected from or refunded to customers generally over a twelve, eighteen or thirty-six month period.

***Our earnings may be affected by weather during different seasons***

The demand for water and electricity varies by season. For instance, there can be a higher level of water consumption during the third quarter of each year when weather in California tends to be hot and dry. During unusually wet weather, our customers generally use less water. The CPUC-approved WRAM helps mitigate fluctuations in revenues due to changes in water consumption by our customers in California.

The demand for electricity in our electric customer service area is greatly affected by winter snow levels. An increase in winter snow levels reduces the use of snowmaking machines at ski resorts in the Big Bear area and, as a result, reduces our electric revenues. Likewise, unseasonably warm weather during a skiing season may result in temperatures too high for snowmaking conditions, which also reduces our electric revenues. GSWC has implemented a CPUC-approved base-revenue-requirement adjustment mechanism for our electric business which helps mitigate fluctuations in the revenues of our electric business due to changes in the amount of electricity used by GSWC's electric customers.

***Our liquidity may be adversely affected by increases in electricity and natural gas prices in California***

We generally purchase most of the electric energy sold to customers in our electric customer service area from others under purchased power contracts. In addition to purchased power contracts, we purchase additional energy from the spot market to meet peak demand and following the expiration of purchased power contracts if there are delays in obtaining CPUC

authorization of new power purchase contracts. We may sell surplus power to the spot market during times of reduced energy demand. As a result, our cash flows may be affected by increases in spot market prices of electricity purchased and decreases in spot market prices for electricity sold. However, GSWC has implemented supply-cost balancing accounts, as approved by the CPUC, to alleviate any fluctuation to supply costs. We also operate a natural-gas-fueled 8.4 megawatt generator in our electric service area.

Unexpected generator downtime or a failure to perform by any of the counterparties to our electric and natural gas purchase contracts could further increase our exposure to fluctuating natural gas and electricity prices.

Changes in electricity prices also affect the unrealized gains and losses on our block forward purchased power contracts that qualify as derivative instruments as we adjust the asset or liability on these contracts to reflect the fair market value of the contracts at the end of each month. The CPUC has authorized us to establish a memorandum account to track the changes in the fair market value of our purchased power contracts. As a result, unrealized gains and losses on these types of purchased power contracts do not impact earnings.

***We may not be able to procure sufficient renewable energy resources to comply with CPUC rules***

We are required to procure a portion of our electricity from renewable energy resources to meet the CPUC's renewable procurement requirements. We have an agreement with a third party to purchase renewable energy credits which we believe allows us to meet these requirements through 2023. In the event that the third party fails to perform in accordance with the terms of the agreement, we may not be able to obtain sufficient resources to meet the renewable procurement requirements. We may be subject to fines and penalties by the CPUC if the CPUC determines that we are not in compliance with the renewable resource procurement rules.

***Our assets are subject to condemnation***

Municipalities and other governmental subdivisions may, in certain circumstances, seek to acquire certain of our assets through eminent domain proceedings. It is generally our practice to contest these proceedings, which may be costly and may divert the attention of management from the operation of our business. If a municipality or other governmental subdivision succeeds in acquiring our assets, there is a risk that we will not receive adequate compensation for the assets acquired or be able to recover all charges associated with the condemnation of these assets. In addition, we would no longer be entitled to any portion of revenue generated from the use of such assets.

***Our costs of obtaining and complying with the terms of franchise agreements are increasing***

Cities and counties in which GSWC operates have granted GSWC franchises to construct, maintain and use pipes and appurtenances in public streets and rights of way. The costs of obtaining, renewing and complying with the terms of these franchise agreements have been increasing as cities and counties attempt to regulate GSWC's operations within the boundaries of the city or unincorporated areas of the counties in which GSWC operates. Cities and counties have also been attempting to impose new fees on GSWC's operations, including pipeline abandonment fees and road-cut or other types of capital improvement fees. At the same time, there is increasing opposition from consumer groups to rate increases that may be necessary to compensate GSWC for the increased costs of regulation by local governments. These trends may adversely affect GSWC's ability to recover its costs of providing water service in rates and to efficiently manage capital expenditures and operating and maintenance expenses within CPUC authorized levels.

***The generation, transmission and distribution of electricity are dangerous and involve inherent risks of damage to private property and injury to employees and the general public***

Electricity is dangerous for employees and the general public should they come in contact with electrical current or equipment, including through downed power lines or equipment malfunctions. Injuries and property damage caused by such events may subject GSWC to significant liabilities that may not be covered or fully covered by insurance. Additionally, the CPUC has delegated to its staff the authority to issue citations, which carry a fine of \$50,000-per-violation per day, to electric utilities subject to its jurisdiction for violations of safety rules found in statutes, regulations, and the General Orders of the CPUC which could also materially affect GSWC's liquidity and results of operations.

***We may be subject to financial losses, penalties and other liabilities if we fail to maintain safe work sites***

Our safety record is critical to our reputation. We maintain health and safety standards to protect our employees, customers, vendors and the public. Although we intend to adhere to such health and safety standards, it is unlikely that we will be able to avoid accidents at all times.

Our business sites, including construction and maintenance sites, often put our employees and others in close proximity with large pieces of equipment, moving vehicles, pressurized water, chemicals and other regulated materials. On many sites we are responsible for safety and, accordingly, must implement safety procedures. If we fail to implement such procedures or if the procedures we implement are ineffective or are not followed by our employees or others, our employees and others may be injured or die. Unsafe work sites also have the potential to increase our operating costs. Any of the foregoing could result in financial losses, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

In addition, our operations can involve the handling and storage of hazardous chemicals, which, if improperly handled, stored or disposed of, could subject us to penalties or other liabilities. We are also subject to regulations dealing with occupational health and safety. Although we maintain functional employee groups whose primary purpose is to ensure that we implement effective health, safety, and environmental work procedures throughout our organization, including construction sites and maintenance sites, a failure to comply with such regulations could subject us to liability.

**Additional Risks Associated with our Contracted Services**

We derive revenues from contract operations primarily from the operation and maintenance of water and/or wastewater systems at military bases and the construction of water and wastewater infrastructure on these bases (including renewal and replacement of these systems). As a result, these operations are subject to risks that are different from those of our public utility operations.

***Our 50-year contracts for servicing military bases create certain risks that are different from our public utility operations***

We have entered into contracts to provide water and/or wastewater services at military bases pursuant to 50-year contracts, subject to termination, in whole or in part, for the convenience of the U.S. government. In addition, the U.S. government may stop work under the terms of one or more of the contracts, delay performance of our obligations under the contracts or modify the contracts at its convenience.

Our contract pricing was based on a number of assumptions, including assumptions about prices and availability of labor, equipment and materials. We may be unable to recover all costs if any of these assumptions are inaccurate or if all costs incurred in connection with performing the work were not considered. Our contracts are also subject to periodic price adjustments at the time of price redetermination or in connection with economic price adjustments or requests for equitable adjustment or other changes permitted by the terms of the contracts. The contract price for each of these contracts is subject to redetermination every three years following the initial two years of the contracts or economic price adjustments on an annual basis. Prices are also subject to equitable adjustment based upon changes in circumstances, laws or regulations and service-requirement changes with respect to wages and fringe benefits to the extent provided in each of the contracts.

We are required to record all costs under these types of contracts as they are incurred. As a result, we may record losses associated with unanticipated conditions, higher than anticipated infrastructure levels and emergency work at the time such expenses occur. We recognize additional revenue for such work as, and to the extent that, our price redeterminations, economic price adjustments and/or requests for equitable adjustments are approved. Delays in obtaining approval of price redeterminations, economic price adjustments and/or equitable adjustments can negatively impact our results of operations and cash flows.

Certain payments under these contracts are subject to appropriations by Congress. We may experience delays in receiving payment or delays in redetermination of prices or other price adjustments due to canceled or delayed appropriations specific to our projects or reductions in government spending for the military generally or military-base operations specifically. Appropriations and the timing of payment may be influenced by, among other things, the state of the economy, competing

political priorities, budget constraints, the timing and amount of tax receipts and the overall level of government expenditures for the military generally or military-base operations specifically.

Management also reviews goodwill for impairment at least annually. ASUS has \$1.1 million of goodwill which may be at risk for potential impairment if requested price redeterminations, economic price adjustments and/or equitable adjustments are not granted.

***Risks associated with the collection of wastewater are different from those of our water distribution operations***

The wastewater-collection-system operations of our subsidiaries providing wastewater services on military bases are subject to substantial regulation and involve significant environmental risks. If collection or sewage systems fail, overflow or do not operate properly, untreated wastewater or other contaminants could spill onto nearby properties or into nearby streams and rivers, causing damage to persons or property, injury to aquatic life and economic damages. The cost of addressing such damages may not be recoverable. This risk is most acute during periods of substantial rainfall or flooding, which are common causes of sewer overflows and system failures. Liabilities resulting from such damage could adversely and materially affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. In the event that we are deemed liable for any damage caused by overflows, our losses may not be recoverable under our contracts with the U.S. government, covered by insurance policies or we may find it difficult to secure insurance for this business in the future at acceptable rates.

***Our contracts for the construction of infrastructure improvements on military bases create risks that are different from those of our operations and maintenance activities***

We have entered into contract modifications with the U.S. government and agreements with third parties for the construction of new water and/or wastewater infrastructure at the military bases on which we operate. Most of these contracts are firm fixed-price contracts. Under firm fixed-price contracts, we will benefit from cost savings, but are generally unable (except for changes in scope or circumstances approved by the U.S. government or third party) to recover any cost overruns to the approved contract price. Under most circumstances, the U.S. government or third party has approved increased-cost change orders due to changes in scope of work performed.

We generally recognize revenues from these types of contracts using the percentage-of-completion method of accounting. This accounting practice results in our recognizing contract revenues and earnings ratably over the contract term in proportion to contract costs incurred or the physical completion of the construction projects. The earnings or losses recognized on individual contracts are based on periodic estimates of contract revenues, costs and profitability as these construction projects progress.

We establish prices for these types of firm fixed-price contracts and the overall 50-year contracts taken as a whole, based, in part, on cost estimates that are subject to a number of assumptions, including assumptions regarding future economic conditions. If these estimates prove inaccurate or circumstances change, cost overruns could have a material adverse effect on our contracted business operations and results of operations.

***We may be adversely affected by disputes with the U.S. government regarding our performance of contracted services on military bases***

We are routinely audited or reviewed by the Defense Contract Auditing Agency ("DCAA") and/or the Defense Contract Management Agency ("DCMA") for compliance with federal acquisition regulations, cost-accounting standards and other laws, regulations and standards that are not applicable to the operations of GSWC. During the course of these audits/reviews, the DCAA or DCMA may question our incurred project costs or the manner in which we have accounted for such costs and recommend to our U.S. government administrative contracting officer that such costs be disallowed.

If there is a dispute with the U.S. government regarding performance under these contracts or the amounts owed to us, the U.S. government may delay, reject or withhold payment, delay price redeterminations or assert its right to offset damages against amounts owed to us. If we are unable to collect amounts owed to us on a timely basis or the U.S. government asserts its offset rights, profits and cash flows could be adversely affected.



If we fail to comply with the terms of one or more of our U.S. government contracts, other agreements with the U.S. government or U.S. government statutes and regulations, we could also be suspended or barred from future U.S. government contracts for a period of time and be subject to possible damages, fines and penalties and damage to our reputation in the water and wastewater industry.

***We depend, to some extent, upon subcontractors to assist us in the performance of contracted services on military bases***

We rely, to some extent, on subcontractors to assist us in the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems at military bases. The failure of any of these subcontractors to perform services for us in accordance with the terms of our contracts with the U.S. government could result in the termination of our contract to provide water and/or wastewater services at the affected base(s), a loss of revenues or increases in costs to correct a subcontractor's performance failures.

We are also required to make a good faith effort to achieve our small business subcontracting plan goals pursuant to U.S. government regulations. If we fail to use good faith efforts to meet these goals, the U.S. government may assess damages against us either at the end of each price redetermination or economic adjustment period or at the end of the contract. The U.S. government has the right to offset claimed damages against any amounts owed to us.

We also rely on third-party manufacturers, as well as third-party subcontractors, to complete our construction projects. To the extent that we cannot engage subcontractors or acquire equipment or materials, our ability to complete a project in a timely fashion or at a profit may be impaired. If the amount of costs we incur for these projects exceeds the amount we have estimated in our bid, we could experience reduced profits or losses in the performance of these contracts. In addition, if a subcontractor or manufacturer is unable to deliver its services, equipment or materials according to the negotiated terms for any reason, including the deterioration of its financial condition, we may be required to purchase the services, equipment or materials from another source at a higher price. This may reduce the profit to be realized or result in a loss on a project for which the services, equipment or materials were needed.

If these subcontractors fail to perform services to be provided to us or fail to provide us with the proper equipment or materials, we may be penalized for their failure to perform; however, our contracts with these subcontractors include certain protective provisions, which may include the assessment of liquidated damages. We mitigate these risks by requiring our subcontractors, as appropriate, to obtain performance bonds and to compensate us for any penalties we may be required to pay as a result of their failure to perform.

***Our earnings may be affected, to some extent, by weather during different seasons***

Seasonal weather conditions, such as hurricanes, heavy rainfall or significant winter storms, occasionally cause temporary office closures and/or result in temporary halts to construction activity at military bases. To the extent that our construction activities are impeded by these events, we will experience a delay in recognizing revenues from these construction projects.

***We continue to incur costs associated with the expansion of our contract activities***

We continue to incur additional costs in connection with the attempted expansion of our contract operations associated with the preparation of bids for new contract operations on prospective and existing military bases. 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 recovering these costs and other costs from new contract revenues.

**Other Risks**

***The accuracy of our judgments and estimates about financial and accounting matters will impact our operating results and financial condition***

The quality and accuracy of estimates and judgments used have an impact on our operating results and financial condition. If our estimates are not accurate, we will be required to make an adjustment in a future period. We make certain estimates and judgments in preparing our financial statements regarding, among others:

- timing of recovering of WRAM and MCBA regulatory assets;
- amounts to set aside for uncollectible accounts receivable, inventory obsolescence and uninsured losses;
- our legal exposure and the appropriate accrual for claims, including general liability and workers compensation claims;
- future costs and assumptions for pensions and other post-retirement benefits;
- regulatory recovery of deferred items; and
- possible tax uncertainties.

### ***Our business requires significant capital expenditures***

The utility business is capital intensive. We spend significant sums of money for additions to, or replacement of, our property, plant and equipment at our water and electric utilities. We obtain funds for these capital projects from operations, contributions by developers and others and advances from developers (which are repaid over a period of time at no interest). We also periodically borrow money or issue equity for these purposes. In addition, we have a syndicated bank credit facility that is partially used for these purposes. We cannot provide assurance 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.

Our subsidiaries providing water and wastewater services on military bases also expect to incur significant capital expenditures. To the extent that the U.S. government does not reimburse us for these expenditures as the work is performed or completed, the U.S. government will repay us over time.

### ***We may be adversely impacted by economic conditions***

Access to external financing on reasonable terms depends, in part, on conditions in the debt and equity markets. When business and market conditions deteriorate, we may no longer have access to the capital markets on reasonable terms. Our ability to obtain funds is dependent upon our ability to access the capital markets by issuing debt or equity to third parties or obtaining funds from our revolving credit facility. In the event of financial turmoil affecting the banking system and financial markets, consolidation of the financial services industry, significant financial service institution failures or our inability to renew or replace our existing revolving credit facility on favorable terms, it may become necessary for us to seek funds from other sources on less favorable terms.

### ***Market conditions and demographic changes may adversely impact the value of our benefit plan assets and liabilities***

Market factors can affect assumptions we use in determining funding requirements with respect to our pension and postretirement benefit plans. For example, a relatively modest change in our assumptions regarding discount rates can materially affect our calculation of funding requirements. To the extent that market data compels us to reduce the discount rate used in our assumptions, our benefit obligations could materially increase, which could adversely affect our financial position and our cash flow position. Further, changes in demographics, such as increases in life expectancy assumptions may also increase the funding requirements of our obligations related to the pension and other postretirement benefit plans.

Market conditions also affect the values of the assets that are held in trust to satisfy significant future obligations under our pension and postretirement benefit plans. These assets are subject to market fluctuations, which may cause investment returns to fall below our projected rates of return. A decline in the market value of our pension and postretirement benefit plan assets will increase the funding requirements under our pension and postretirement benefit plans if future returns on these assets are insufficient to offset the decline in value. Future increases in pension and other postretirement costs as a result of the reduced value of plan assets may not be fully recoverable in rates, and our results of operations and financial position could be negatively affected. These risks are mitigated to some extent by the two-way pension balancing account authorized by the CPUC which permits us to track differences between forecasted annual pension expense adopted in rates and actual pension expenses for future recovery or refund to customers.

***Payment of our debt may be accelerated if we fail to comply with restrictive covenants in our debt agreements***

Our failure to comply with restrictive covenants in our debt agreements could result in an event of default. If the default is not cured or waived, we may be required to repay or refinance this debt before it becomes due. Even if we are able to obtain waivers from our creditors, we may only be able to do so on unfavorable terms.

***The price of our Common Shares may be volatile and may be affected by market conditions beyond our control***

The trading price of our Common Shares may fluctuate in the future because of the volatility of the stock market and a variety of other factors, many of which are beyond our control. Factors that could cause fluctuations in the trading price of our Common Shares include: regulatory developments; general economic conditions and trends; price and volume fluctuations in the overall stock market from time to time; actual or anticipated changes or fluctuations in our results of operations; actual or anticipated changes in the expectations of investors or securities analysts; actual or anticipated developments in other utilities' businesses or the competitive landscape generally; litigation involving us or our industry; and major catastrophic events or sales of large blocks of our stock.

***AWR is a holding company that depends on cash flow from its subsidiaries to meet its financial obligations and to pay dividends on its Common Shares***

As a holding company, our subsidiaries conduct substantially all operations and our only significant assets are investments in our subsidiaries. This means that we are dependent on distributions of funds from our subsidiaries to meet our debt service obligations and to pay dividends on our Common Shares.

Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and generally have no obligation to pay any amounts due on our credit facility. Our subsidiaries only pay dividends if and when declared by the subsidiary board. Moreover, GSWC is obligated to give first priority to its own capital requirements and to maintain a capital structure consistent with that determined to be reasonable by the CPUC in its most recent decision on capital structure in order that customers not be adversely affected by the holding company structure. Furthermore, our right to receive cash or other assets in the unlikely event of liquidation or reorganization of any of our subsidiaries is generally subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary. If we are unable to obtain funds from a subsidiary in a timely manner, we may be unable to meet our financial obligations, make additional investments or pay dividends.

***Failure to attract, retain, train, motivate, develop and transition key employees could adversely affect our business***

In order to be successful, we must attract, retain, train, motivate, and develop key employees, including those in managerial, operational, financial, business-development and information-technology support positions. Our regulated business and contracted services operations are complex. Attracting and retaining high quality staff allows us to minimize the cost of providing quality service. In order to attract and retain key employees in a competitive marketplace, we must provide a competitive compensation package and be able to effectively recruit qualified candidates. The failure to successfully hire key employees or the loss of a material number of key employees could have a significant impact on the quality of our operations in the short term. Further, changes in our management team may be disruptive to our business, and any failure to successfully transition key new hires or promoted employees could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

***We must successfully maintain and/or upgrade our information technology systems as we are increasingly dependent on the continuous and reliable operation of these systems***

We rely on various information technology systems to manage our operations. Such systems require periodic modifications, upgrades and/or replacement, which subject us to inherent costs and risks including potential disruption of our internal control structure, substantial capital expenditures, additional administration and operating expenses, retention of sufficiently skilled personnel to implement and operate the new systems, and other risks and costs of delays or difficulties in transitioning to new systems or of integrating new systems into our current systems. In addition, the difficulties with implementing new technology systems may cause disruptions in our business operations and have an adverse effect on our business and operations, if not anticipated and appropriately mitigated.



We rely on our computer, information and communications technology systems in connection with the operation of our business, especially with respect to customer service and billing, accounting and, in some cases, the monitoring and operation of our treatment, storage and pumping facilities. Our computer and communications systems and operations could be damaged or interrupted by weather, natural disasters, telecommunications failures or acts of war or terrorism or similar events or disruptions. Any of these or other events could cause system interruption, delays and loss of critical data or delay or prevent operations and adversely affect our financial results.

***Security risks, data protection breaches and cyber-attacks could disrupt our internal operations, and any such disruption could increase our expenses, damage our reputation and adversely affect our stock price***

There have been an increasing number of cyber-attacks on companies around the world, which have caused operational failures or compromised sensitive corporate or customer data. These attacks have occurred over the internet, through malware, viruses or attachments to e-mails or through persons inside the organization or with access to systems inside the organization. Although we do not believe that our systems are at a materially greater risk of cyber security attacks than other similar organizations, our information technology systems remain vulnerable to damage or interruption from:

- computer viruses;
- malware;
- hacking; and
- denial of service actions.

We have implemented security measures and will continue to devote significant resources to address any security vulnerabilities in an effort to prevent cyber-attacks. Despite our efforts, we cannot be assured that a cyber-attack will not cause water, wastewater or electric system problems, disrupt service to our customers, compromise important data or systems or result in unintended release of customer or employee information. Moreover, if a computer security breach affects our systems or results in the unauthorized release of sensitive data, our reputation could be materially damaged. We could also be exposed to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability.

***Our operations are geographically concentrated in California***

Although we operate water and wastewater facilities in a number of states, our operations are concentrated in California, particularly Southern California. As a result, our financial results are largely subject to political, water supply, labor, utility cost and regulatory risks, economic conditions, natural disasters and other risks affecting California.

***We operate in areas subject to natural disasters or that may be the target of terrorist activities***

We operate in areas that are prone to earthquakes, fires, mudslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other natural disasters. While we maintain insurance policies to help reduce our financial exposure, a significant seismic event in Southern California, where GSWC's operations are concentrated, or other natural disasters in any of the areas that we serve could adversely impact our ability to deliver water and electricity or provide wastewater service and adversely affect our costs of operations. With respect to GSWC, the CPUC has historically allowed utilities to establish a catastrophic event memorandum account to potentially recover such costs.

Terrorists could seek to disrupt service to our customers by targeting our assets. We have invested in additional security for facilities throughout our regulated service areas to mitigate the risks of terrorist activities. We also may be prevented from providing water and/or wastewater services at the military bases we serve in times of military crisis affecting these bases.

***The final determination of our income tax liability may be materially different from our income tax provision***

Significant judgment is required in determining our provision for income taxes. Our calculation of the provision for income taxes is subject to our interpretation of applicable business tax laws in the jurisdictions in which we file. In addition, our income tax returns are subject to periodic examination by the Internal Revenue Service and other taxing authorities.

In December 2014, the Company changed its tax method of accounting to permit the expensing of qualifying utility asset improvement costs that were previously being capitalized and depreciated for tax purposes. As a result of the change, which included a cumulative adjustment for 2013 and prior years, the Company deducted a significant amount of asset costs that consisted primarily of water mains and connections. Our determination of costs that qualify as a capital asset versus a tax deduction for utility asset improvements is subject to subsequent adjustment arising from review by taxing authorities, and may impact the deductions that have been taken on recently filed income tax returns. Although we believe our income tax estimates are appropriate, there is no assurance that the final determination of our current taxes payable will not be materially different, either higher or lower, from the amounts reflected in our financial statements. In the event we are assessed additional income taxes, our financial condition and cash flows could be adversely affected.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

## **Item 2. Properties**

### **Water Properties**

As of December 31, 2015, GSWC's physical properties consisted of water transmission and distribution systems which included 2,820 miles of pipeline together with services, meters and fire hydrants and approximately 425 parcels of land, generally less than one acre each, on which are located wells, pumping plants, reservoirs and other water utility facilities, including four surface water treatment plants. GSWC also has franchises, easements and other rights of way for the purpose of accessing wells and tanks and constructing and using pipes and appurtenances for transmitting and distributing water. All of GSWC's properties are located in California.

As of December 31, 2015, GSWC owned 238 wells, of which 191 are active operable wells equipped with pumps with an aggregate production capacity of approximately 203 million gallons per day. GSWC has 63 connections to the water distribution facilities of the MWD and other municipal water agencies. GSWC's storage reservoirs and tanks have an aggregate capacity of approximately 113.6 million gallons. GSWC owns no dams. The following table provides information regarding the water utility plant of GSWC:

Pumps		Distribution Facilities			Reservoirs	
Well	Booster	Mains*	Services	Hydrants	Tanks	Capacity*
238	384	2,820	260,321	25,658	141	113,554 (1)

\* Reservoir capacity is measured in thousands of gallons. Mains are in miles.

(1) GSWC has additional capacity in its Bay Point system through an exclusive capacity right to use 4.4 million gallons from a treatment plant owned by the Contra Costa Water District. GSWC also has additional reservoir capacity through an exclusive right to use an eight-million-gallon reservoir, one-half of another eight-million-gallon reservoir, and one-half of a treatment plant's capacity, all owned by the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, to serve the cities of Claremont and San Dimas.

### **Electric Properties**

GSWC's electric properties are located in the Big Bear area of San Bernardino County, California. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC owned and operated 30.23 miles of overhead 34.5 kilovolt ("kv") transmission lines, 1.42 miles of underground 34.5 kv transmission lines, 183.78 miles of 4.16 kv or 2.4 kv distribution lines, 54.2 miles of underground cable, 13 sub-stations and a natural-gas-fueled 8.4 MW peaking generation facility. GSWC also has franchises, easements and other rights of way for the purpose of constructing and using poles, wires and other appurtenances for transmitting electricity.

### **Adjudicated and Other Water Rights**

GSWC owns groundwater and surface water rights in California. Groundwater rights are further subject to classification as either adjudicated or unadjudicated rights. Adjudicated rights have been subjected to comprehensive litigation in the courts, are typically quantified and are actively managed for optimization and sustainability of the resource. Surface water rights are quantified and managed by the State Water Resources Control Board, unless they originated prior to 1914. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC had adjudicated groundwater rights and surface water rights of 74,332 and 11,335 acre feet per year, respectively. GSWC also has a number of unadjudicated groundwater rights, which have not been quantified and are not subject to predetermined limitations, but are typically measured by historical usage.

### **Office Buildings**

Registrant owns its general headquarters facilities in San Dimas, California. GSWC also owns and leases certain facilities that house district and customer service offices. ASUS leases office facilities in California, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina. However, in 2015, ASUS entered into an agreement to sublet its office facility in California to a third party, which expires in August 2017. TUS rents a temporary service center facility in Maryland, pending the completion of a facility expected to be constructed at that location. FBWS has a ten-year, renewable, no-cost license for use of space in a U.S. government building at Fort Bliss as a service center. PSUS, ODUS and ONUS own service centers in South Carolina, Virginia and North Carolina, respectively.



## **Mortgage and Other Liens**

As of December 31, 2015, neither AWR, GSWC, nor ASUS, or any of its subsidiaries, had any mortgage debt or liens securing indebtedness outstanding.

Under the terms of certain debt of AWR and GSWC, AWR and GSWC are prohibited from issuing any secured debt, without providing equal and ratable security to the holders of this existing debt.

## **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 necessary and in the public interest. In addition, these laws provide that the owner of utility property (i) may contest whether the condemnation is actually necessary and in the public interest, and (ii) is entitled to receive the fair market value of its property if the property is ultimately taken.

### **Claremont System:**

On November 4, 2014, voters in the City of Claremont ("Claremont" or "the City") approved a measure authorizing the issuance of \$135.0 million in water revenue bonds by the City to finance the acquisition of GSWC's Claremont water system. On December 9, 2014, the City filed an eminent domain lawsuit against GSWC. GSWC does not believe the seizure is necessary and continues to vigorously defend against the potential condemnation. The eminent domain Right to Take trial is scheduled to begin on June 13, 2016. At this time, management cannot predict the outcome of the eminent domain proceeding. The Claremont water system has a net book value of approximately \$49.3 million. GSWC serves approximately 11,000 customers in Claremont.

### **Ojai System:**

In March 2013, the Casitas Municipal Water District ("CMWD") passed resolutions under the Mello-Roos Communities Facilities District Act of 1982 ("Mello-Roos Act") authorizing the establishment of a Community Facilities District, and the issuance of bonds to finance the potential acquisition of GSWC's Ojai system through eminent domain. At this time, management cannot predict the potential for an eminent domain proceeding. GSWC serves approximately 3,000 customers in Ojai.

## **Environmental Clean-Up and Remediation of Properties**

GSWC has been involved in environmental remediation and cleanup at a plant site ("Chadron Plant") that contained an underground storage tank which was used to store gasoline for its vehicles. This tank was removed from the ground in July 1990 along with the dispenser and ancillary piping. Since then, GSWC has been involved in various remediation activities at this site. Analysis indicates that offsite monitoring wells may also be necessary to document effectiveness of remediation.

GSWC has accrued an estimated liability which includes costs for two years of continued activities of groundwater cleanup and monitoring, future soil treatment and site-closure-related activities. The ultimate cost may vary as there are many unknowns in remediation of underground gasoline spills and the estimated liability is based on currently available information. Management also believes it is probable that the estimated additional costs will be approved in rate base by the CPUC.

## **Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

On December 9, 2014, the City of Claremont filed an eminent domain lawsuit in the County of Los Angeles Superior Court against GSWC (*City of Claremont v. Golden State Water Company*, Case No. BC 566125) to acquire the portion of GSWC's system which serves the City of Claremont. GSWC is vigorously contesting this action.

Registrant is subject to ordinary routine litigation incidental to its business. 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. Registrant is unable to predict an estimate of the loss, if any, resulting from any pending suits or administrative proceedings.

## **Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosure**

Not applicable.

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

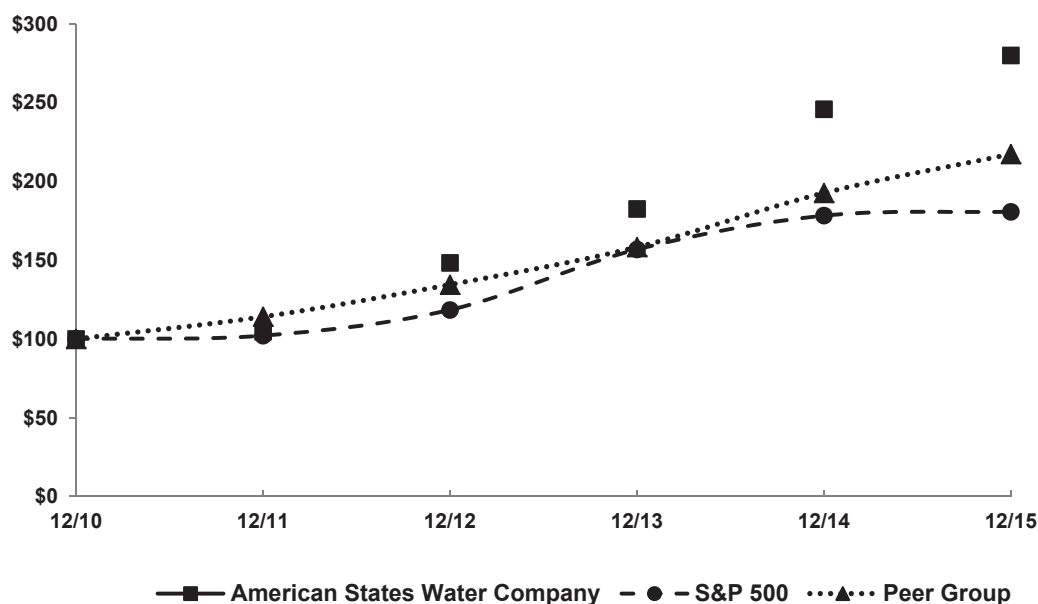
#### Stock Performance Graph

The graph below compares the cumulative 5-year total return provided shareholders on American States Water Company's Common Shares relative to the cumulative total returns of the S&P 500 index and a customized peer group of eight companies. The eight companies included in the Company's customized peer group are: American Water Works Company Inc., Aqua America Inc., Artesian Resources Corp, California Water Service Group, Connecticut Water Service Inc., Middlesex Water Company, York Water Company and SJW Corp.

An investment of \$100 (with reinvestment of all dividends) is assumed to have been made in our Common Shares, and in the common stock in the index and in the peer group on December 31, 2010. Relative performance is tracked through December 31, 2015.

#### **COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN\***

Among American States Water Company, the S&P 500 Index, and a Peer Group



\*\$100 invested on 12/31/10 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.  
Fiscal year ending December 31.

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	12/2010	12/2011	12/2012	12/2013	12/2014	12/2015
American States Water Company	\$ 100.00	\$ 104.54	\$ 148.29	\$ 182.46	\$ 245.77	\$ 279.96
S&P 500	\$ 100.00	\$ 102.11	\$ 118.45	\$ 156.82	\$ 178.29	\$ 180.75
Peer Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 114.09	\$ 134.47	\$ 158.27	\$ 192.68	\$ 217.32

*The stock price performance included in this graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.*

### **Market Information Relating to Common Shares**

Common Shares of American States Water Company are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the symbol “AWR”. The intra-day high and low NYSE prices on the Common Shares for each quarter during the past two years, were:

	Stock Prices	
	High	Low
<b><u>2015</u></b>		
First Quarter	\$ 41.73	\$ 36.86
Second Quarter	\$ 40.70	\$ 35.87
Third Quarter	\$ 41.84	\$ 35.80
Fourth Quarter	\$ 44.14	\$ 39.67
<b><u>2014</u></b>		
First Quarter	\$ 32.97	\$ 27.02
Second Quarter	\$ 33.27	\$ 27.82
Third Quarter	\$ 34.00	\$ 30.11
Fourth Quarter	\$ 38.74	\$ 30.26

The closing price of the Common Shares of American States Water Company on the NYSE on February 22, 2016 was \$46.84.

### **Approximate Number of Holders of Common Shares**

As of February 22, 2016, there were 2,434 holders of record of the 36,523,179 outstanding Common Shares of American States Water Company. AWR owns all of the outstanding Common Shares of GSWC and ASUS. ASUS owns all of the outstanding stock of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.

### **Frequency and Amount of Any Dividends Declared and Dividend Restrictions**

For the last two years, AWR has paid dividends on its Common Shares on or about March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. The following table lists the amounts of dividends paid on Common Shares of American States Water Company:

	2015	2014
First Quarter	\$ 0.2130	\$ 0.2025
Second Quarter	\$ 0.2130	\$ 0.2025
Third Quarter	\$ 0.2240	\$ 0.2130
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.2240	\$ 0.2130
Total	\$ 0.8740	\$ 0.8310

AWR’s ability to pay dividends is subject to the requirement in its \$100.0 million revolving credit facility to maintain compliance with all covenants described in footnote (14) to the table in the section entitled “*Contractual Obligations, Commitments and Off Balance Sheet Arrangements*” included in Part II, Item 7, in Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation. GSWC’s maximum ability to pay dividends is restricted by certain Note Agreements to the sum of \$21.0 million plus 100% of consolidated net income from certain dates plus the aggregate net cash proceeds received from capital stock offerings or other instruments convertible into capital stock from various dates. Under the most restrictive of the Note Agreements, \$353.3 million was available from GSWC to pay dividends to AWR as of December 31, 2015. GSWC is also prohibited under the terms of senior notes from paying dividends if, after giving effect to the dividend, its total indebtedness to capitalization ratio (as defined) would be more than 0.6667-to-1. GSWC would have to issue additional debt of \$499.4 million to invoke this covenant as of December 31, 2015.

Under California law, AWR, GSWC and ASUS are each permitted to distribute dividends to its shareholders and repurchase its shares so long as the Board of Directors determines, in good faith, that either: (i) the value of the corporation's assets equals or exceeds the sum of its total liabilities immediately after the dividend, or (ii) its retained earnings equals or exceeds the amount of the distribution. Under the least restrictive of the California tests, approximately \$220.9 million was available to pay dividends to AWR's common shareholders and repurchase shares from AWR's common shareholders at December 31, 2015. Approximately \$184.9 million was available for GSWC to pay dividends to AWR at December 31, 2015. ASUS's ability to pay dividends is subject to the ability of each of its subsidiaries to pay dividends to it, which may, in turn, be restricted by the laws under the states in which the applicable subsidiary was formed.

AWR paid \$32.7 million in dividends to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2015, as compared to \$32.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. GSWC paid dividends of \$62.0 million and \$52.0 million to AWR in 2015 and 2014, respectively. ASUS did not pay dividends to AWR in 2015 or 2014. AWR paid \$72.9 million and \$17.2 million to repurchase its Common Shares in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### **Other Information**

The shareholders of AWR have approved the material features of all equity-compensation plans under which AWR directly issues equity securities. AWR did not directly issue any unregistered equity securities during 2015.

The following table provides information about AWR repurchases of its Common Shares during the fourth quarter of 2015:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased under the Plans or Programs (1)(3)</b>
October 1—31, 2015	1,285	\$ 41.71	—	238,147
November 1—30, 2015	239,484	\$ 40.55	238,147	—
December 1—31, 2015	26,649	\$ 41.00	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,418</b>	<b>(2) \$ 40.60</b>	<b>238,147</b>	

- (1) On May 19, 2015, AWR's Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program to purchase up to 1.2 million shares of its Common Shares through June 30, 2017. AWR also from time to time purchases its Common Shares for employees pursuant to AWR's 401(k) plan and for participants in its Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (2) Of this amount, 21,000 Common Shares were acquired on the open market for employees pursuant to AWR's 401(k) Plan and 8,270 Common Shares were acquired on the open market for participants in the Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (3) Neither the 401(k) plan nor the Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan contains a maximum number of common shares that may be purchased in the open market.



**Item 6. Selected Financial Data****AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY (AWR):**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Income Statement Information:</b>					
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 458,641	\$ 465,791	\$ 472,077	\$ 466,908	\$ 419,913
Total Operating Expenses	340,152	346,746	353,005	355,814	324,809
Operating Income	118,489	119,045	119,072	111,094	95,104
Interest Expense	21,088	21,617	22,415	22,765	23,681
Interest Income	458	927	707	1,333	859
Income from Continuing Operations	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686	\$ 54,148	\$ 42,010
Income from Discontinued Operations, net of tax (2)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,849
<b>Basic Earnings per Common Share (1):</b>					
Income from Continuing Operations	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.12
Income from Discontinued Operations (2)	—	—	—	—	0.10
Total	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.22
<b>Fully Diluted Earnings per Common Share (1):</b>					
Income from Continuing Operations	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.41	\$ 1.11
Income from Discontinued Operations (2)	—	—	—	—	0.10
Total	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.41	\$ 1.21
Average Shares Outstanding	37,389	38,658	38,639	37,998	37,386
Average number of Diluted Shares Outstanding	37,614	38,880	38,869	38,262	37,674
Dividends Declared per Common Share	\$ 0.874	\$ 0.831	\$ 0.760	\$ 0.635	\$ 0.550
<b>Balance Sheet Information:</b>					
Total Assets (3)	\$ 1,348,600	\$ 1,378,298	\$ 1,310,183	\$ 1,280,943	\$ 1,238,362
Common Shareholders' Equity	465,945	506,801	492,404	454,579	408,666
Long-Term Debt	325,541	325,798	326,079	332,463	340,395
Total Capitalization	\$ 791,486	\$ 832,599	\$ 818,483	\$ 787,042	\$ 749,061

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY (GSWC):**

(in thousands)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Income Statement Information:</b>					
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 364,550	\$ 361,059	\$ 358,540	\$ 342,931	\$ 336,725
Total Operating Expenses	264,141	261,317	256,197	256,326	253,047
Operating Income	100,409	99,742	102,343	86,605	83,678
Interest Expense	20,998	21,524	22,287	22,609	23,292
Interest Income	440	894	615	1,293	801
Net Income	\$ 47,591	\$ 47,857	\$ 48,642	\$ 39,220	\$ 34,822
<b>Balance Sheet Information:</b>					
Total Assets (3)	\$ 1,276,520	\$ 1,282,374	\$ 1,233,381	\$ 1,214,052	\$ 1,173,383
Common Shareholder's Equity	423,730	435,190	437,613	416,257	384,806
Long-Term Debt	325,541	325,798	326,079	332,463	340,395
Total Capitalization	\$ 749,271	\$ 760,988	\$ 763,692	\$ 748,720	\$ 725,201

(1) On September 3, 2013, a two-for-one stock split became effective. The number of shares outstanding, and basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS") have been restated for all periods presented above to reflect the stock split.

(2) In May 2011, AWR completed its sale of Chaparral City Water Company ("CCWC") and recorded a gain on the sale (net of taxes and transaction costs) of approximately \$2.2 million, or \$0.06 per share. The results of CCWC for 2011 have been presented as a discontinued operation.

(3) Registrant adopted Accounting Standards Update 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, as of December 31, 2015 on a prospective basis, whereby all deferred tax assets and liabilities are classified as noncurrent on the Registrant's balance sheet. Prior periods were not retrospectively adjusted.

## **Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation**

The following discussion and analysis provides information on AWR's consolidated operations and assets, and where necessary, includes specific references to AWR's individual segments and/or its subsidiaries: GSWC and ASUS and its subsidiaries. Included in the following analysis is a discussion of water and electric gross margins. Water and electric gross margins are computed by subtracting total supply costs from total revenues. Registrant uses these gross margins and related percentages as an important measure in evaluating its operating results. Registrant believes this measure is a useful internal benchmark in evaluating the performance of GSWC.

The discussions and tables included in the following analysis also present Registrant's operations in terms of earnings per share by business segment. Registrant believes that the disclosure of earnings per share by business segment provides investors with clarity surrounding the performance of its different services. Registrant reviews these measurements regularly and compares them to historical periods and to its operating budget. However, these measures, which are not presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other entities and should not be considered as an alternative to operating income or earnings per share, which are determined in accordance with GAAP. A reconciliation of water and electric gross margins to the most directly comparable GAAP measures is included in the table under the section titled "*Operating Expenses: Supply Costs.*" Reconciliations to AWR's diluted earnings per share are included in the discussions under the sections titled "*Summary Results by Segment.*"

### **Overview**

GSWC's revenues, operating income and cash flows are earned primarily through delivering potable water to homes and businesses in California and the delivery of electricity in the Big Bear area of San Bernardino County, California. Rates charged to GSWC customers are determined by the CPUC. These rates are intended to allow recovery of operating costs and a reasonable rate of return on capital. Factors affecting the financial performance of GSWC are described under *Forward-Looking Information* and *Risk Factors* and include: the process and timing of setting rates charged to customers; the ability to recover, and the process for recovering in rates, the costs of distributing water and electricity and overhead costs; pressures on water supply caused by the drought in California, changing weather patterns in the West, population growth, more stringent water quality standards and deterioration in water quality and water supply from a variety of causes; fines, penalties and disallowances by the CPUC arising from failures to comply with regulatory requirements; the impact of increased water-quality standards and environmental regulations on the cost of operations and capital expenditures; changes in long-term customer demand due to changes in usage patterns as a result of conservation efforts, mandatory regulatory changes impacting the use of water, such as mandatory restrictions on water use, new landscaping or irrigation requirements, recycling of water by customers and purchases of recycled water by customers from other third parties; capital expenditures needed to upgrade water systems; increased costs and risks associated with litigation relating to water quality and water supply, including suits initiated by GSWC to protect its water supply and condemnation actions initiated by municipalities; fines, penalties and liabilities arising from failure to comply with health and safety standards and other liabilities related to hazards associated with electricity and chemicals used in our business; and increased costs and difficulties in obtaining insurance protecting BVES from wildfires in its service territory. GSWC plans to continue to seek additional rate increases in future years from the CPUC to recover operating and supply costs and receive reasonable returns on invested capital. Capital expenditures in future years at GSWC are expected to remain at higher levels than depreciation expense. When necessary, GSWC obtains funds from external sources in the capital markets and through bank borrowings.

ASUS's revenues, operating income and cash flows are earned by providing water and/or wastewater services, including the operation, maintenance, renewal and replacement of the water and/or wastewater systems at various military installations pursuant to 50-year firm, fixed-price contracts. The contract price for each of these contracts is subject to prospective price redeterminations or economic price adjustments. Additional revenues generated by contract operations are primarily dependent on new construction activities under contract modifications with the U.S. government or agreements with other third-party prime contractors. As a result, ASUS is subject to risks that are different from those of GSWC. Factors affecting the financial performance of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries are described under *Forward-Looking Information* and under *Risk Factors* and include delays in receiving payments from, and the redetermination and economic price or equitable adjustment of prices under, contracts with the U.S. government; fines, penalties or disallowance of costs by the U.S. government; and termination of contracts and suspension or debarment for a period of time from contracting with the government due to violations of federal statutes and regulations in connection with military utility privatization activities. ASUS's financial performance is also dependent upon its ability to accurately estimate costs in bidding on firm fixed-price contracts for additional construction work at existing bases and the costs of seeking new contracts for the operation

and maintenance and renewal and replacement of water and/or wastewater systems at military bases. ASUS is actively pursuing utility privatization contracts of other military bases to expand the contracted services segment.

During the third quarter of 2015, ASUS received retroactive contract modifications from the U.S. government for price redeterminations related to Joint Base Andrews, Fort Jackson and the military bases in Virginia. As a result, included in earnings for the year ended December 31, 2015 was approximately \$3.0 million in retroactive revenues related to these redeterminations for prior periods.

In 2014 and 2015, AWR's Board of Directors approved two stock repurchase programs, authorizing AWR to repurchase up to 2.45 million shares of AWR's Common Shares. Both stock repurchase programs were completed in 2015. The repurchase programs were intended to enable AWR to achieve a consolidated shareholders' equity ratio (as a percentage of total capitalization) that is more reflective of the current CPUC-authorized equity ratio for GSWC and an equity ratio for ASUS that is more consistent with firms in the government contracting industry. As a result, AWR repurchased 1.9 million and 545,000 shares of its stock in 2015 and 2014, respectively, resulting in reduced weighted-average shares outstanding on a diluted basis in both periods, which positively benefited earnings per share in 2015 and 2014. As of December 31, 2015, the equity ratio as a percent of total capitalization was 59%.

### **Summary Results by Segment**

The table below sets forth diluted earnings per share by business segment for AWR's operations:

	Diluted Earnings per Share			
	Year Ended			
	12/31/2015	12/31/2014	CHANGE	
Water	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.03	
Electric	0.07	0.07	—	
Contracted services	0.32	0.31	0.01	
AWR (parent)	0.02	0.03	(0.01)	
Totals from operations, as reported	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 0.03	

For the year ended December 31, 2015, fully diluted earnings per share for the water segment increased by \$0.03 per share to \$1.19 per share, as compared to \$1.16 per share for 2014. The discussion below includes the items which impacted the comparability of the two periods. The discussion excludes the effects of a decrease in water surcharges billed to customers to recover previously incurred costs, which resulted in lower water revenues of approximately \$2.0 million with a corresponding decrease in operating expenses and, therefore, had no impact on operating income.

- The water gross margin increased by \$1.2 million primarily as a result of CPUC-approved third-year rate increases and advice letter filings for the completion of certain capital projects not previously included in rates. These increases were partially offset by \$1.4 million of under-collections in the 2015 Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("WRAM") not recorded as revenue, as this amount is estimated to not be fully collectable within 24 months following the end of the year under current CPUC amortization guidelines. Under the accounting guidance for alternative revenue programs such as the WRAM, GSWC is required to collect its WRAM balances, net of MCBA, within 24 months following the year in which they are recorded. Due to the state-mandated water-conservation targets, lower water usage has resulted in an increase in under-collections recorded in the 2015 WRAM accounts. Based on the CPUC guidelines, some of GSWC's ratemaking areas will have recovery periods greater than 24 months. This accounting guidance impacts the timing of when WRAM revenues are recorded, but not the collectability; therefore, the \$1.4 million will be recognized as revenue in future periods as it becomes collectable within 24 months.
- Excluding supply costs, there was an increase in operating expenses of approximately \$1.0 million due primarily to increases in maintenance costs and depreciation expense. These increases in operating expenses were partially offset by lower other operation-related costs, such as water treatment, mainly as a result of decreases in water usage and pumped water.
- An increase in earnings per share for the water segment due to the Company's stock repurchase programs in 2014 and 2015 was partially offset by a decrease in other income, net of other expenses (including interest), of \$637,000 due to a decrease in interest income as well as a decrease in gains on investments held for a retirement benefit plan resulting from market conditions during 2015.

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, diluted earnings from the electric segment were \$0.07 per share. Third-year rate increases approved by the CPUC were mostly offset by an increase in operating expenses mainly attributable to costs associated with energy-efficiency and solar-initiative programs approved by the CPUC. The costs of these programs have been included in customer rates equally over the rate cycle. The spending of such funds increased in 2015 due to the delay in receiving the final decision in November 2014 of the BVES rate case, which authorized these programs.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, diluted earnings from contracted services were \$0.32 per share, compared to \$0.31 per share for the same period in 2014. Impacting the comparability of the two periods were the following items:

- An increase of \$2.6 million in operations and maintenance ("O&M") management fees in 2015 as a result of successful resolutions of various price redeterminations received during the third quarter of 2015. These price redeterminations included an increase of \$1.2 million in retroactive O&M management fees, as compared to the retroactive impact for the price redeterminations received in the same period of 2014.
- An increase in operating expenses of \$2.0 million primarily due to an increase in labor, insurance and other outside services costs.
- An overall decrease in construction activity reducing pretax operating income by approximately \$2.0 million due to significant work on several larger projects being substantially completed during 2014, which did not recur in 2015.
- An increase in earnings per share due to the Company's stock repurchase programs, as well as a reduction in state income taxes, which vary among the jurisdictions in which it operates.

Diluted earnings from AWR (parent) decreased \$0.01 per share as compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to higher state income taxes.

The following discussion and analysis for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 provides information on AWR's consolidated operations and assets and, where necessary, includes specific references to AWR's individual segments and subsidiaries: GSWC and ASUS and its subsidiaries.



**Consolidated Results of Operations — Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 (amounts in thousands, except per share amounts):**

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
OPERATING REVENUES				
Water	\$ 328,511	\$ 326,672	\$ 1,839	0.6%
Electric	36,039	34,387	1,652	4.8%
Contracted services	94,091	104,732	(10,641)	-10.2%
Total operating revenues	458,641	465,791	(7,150)	-1.5%
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Water purchased	62,726	57,790	4,936	8.5%
Power purchased for pumping	8,988	10,700	(1,712)	-16.0%
Groundwater production assessment	13,648	16,450	(2,802)	-17.0%
Power purchased for resale	10,395	9,649	746	7.7%
Supply cost balancing accounts	7,785	6,346	1,439	22.7%
Other operation	28,429	28,288	141	0.5%
Administrative and general	79,817	78,268	1,549	2.0%
Depreciation and amortization	42,033	41,073	960	2.3%
Maintenance	16,885	16,092	793	4.9%
Property and other taxes	16,636	16,722	(86)	-0.5%
ASUS construction	52,810	65,368	(12,558)	-19.2%
Total operating expenses	340,152	346,746	(6,594)	-1.9%
OPERATING INCOME	118,489	119,045	(556)	-0.5%
OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES				
Interest expense	(21,088)	(21,617)	529	-2.4%
Interest income	458	927	(469)	-50.6%
Other, net	356	751	(395)	-52.6%
	(20,274)	(19,939)	(335)	1.7%
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	98,215	99,106	(891)	-0.9%
Income tax expense	37,731	38,048	(317)	-0.8%
NET INCOME	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ (574)	-0.9%
Basic earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 0.04	2.5%
Fully diluted earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 0.03	1.9%

## *Operating Revenues*

### General

Registrant relies upon approvals by the CPUC of rate increases to recover operating expenses and to provide for a return on invested and borrowed capital used to fund utility plant for GSWC. Registrant relies on price redeterminations, economic price adjustments and equitable adjustments by the U.S. government in order to recover operating expenses and provide a profit margin for ASUS. If adequate rate relief or price redeterminations and other contract adjustments are not granted in a timely manner, operating revenues and earnings can be negatively impacted. ASUS's earnings are also impacted by the level of additional construction projects at the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries, which may or may not continue at current levels in future periods.

### Water

For the year ended December 31, 2015, revenues from water operations increased by \$1.8 million to \$328.5 million, compared to \$326.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. The increase in water revenues was primarily due to CPUC-approved third-year rate increases effective January 1, 2015 for certain rate-making areas and CPUC-approved increases generated from advice letter filings. There were also CPUC-approved increases in rates implemented during the second and third quarters of 2014 specifically intended to cover increases in supply costs experienced in certain rate-making areas, increasing revenues by \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. This increase in revenues was offset by a corresponding increase in supply cost, resulting in no impact to pretax operating income.

These increases were partially offset by a \$2.0 million decrease in surcharges during the year ended December 31, 2015 to recover previously incurred costs approved by the CPUC. Most of these surcharges were implemented in 2013 and expired during 2014. The decrease in revenues from these surcharges was offset by a corresponding decrease in operating expenses (primarily administrative and general) resulting in no impact to pretax operating income.

Billed water consumption for the year ended December 31, 2015 decreased by approximately 16% as compared to the same period in 2014. In general, changes in consumption do not have a significant impact on recorded revenues due to the CPUC-approved WRAM accounts in place in all three water regions. However, under the accounting guidance for alternative revenue programs such as the WRAM, significant decreases in consumption may impact the timing of when revenues are recorded. During the fourth quarter of 2015, GSWC did not record \$1.4 million of the 2015 WRAM under-collection balance as revenue, as previously discussed. GSWC records the difference between what it bills its water customers and that which is authorized by the CPUC in the WRAM accounts as regulatory assets or liabilities.

### Electric

For the year ended December 31, 2015, revenues from electric operations increased by \$1.6 million to \$36.0 million as compared to \$34.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. In November 2014, the CPUC issued a final decision on BVES's general rate case, which set new rates for years 2013—2016. The new rates were retroactive to January 1, 2013. The newly adopted revenues for the years 2013 through 2016 are lower than revenues in the previous rate cycle resulting from a revised return on equity of 9.95%, as well as lower depreciation and certain other operating expenses. As a result of the final decision, a cumulative reduction in revenues was recorded during the fourth quarter of 2014, along with a cumulative reduction in depreciation expense. The impact of the retroactive effect of the new rates to BVES's 2014 net earnings was not significant. However, because the new rates were retroactive to January 1, 2013, a portion of the retroactive adjustment recorded during the fourth quarter of 2014 related to 2013. Excluding the impact of 2013's retroactive adjustment, electric revenues increased by approximately \$500,000 in 2015 as compared to 2014 due primarily to the CPUC-approved third-year rate increases effective January 1, 2015, and the CPUC-approved increases generated from advice letter filings.

Billed electric usage for the year ended December 31, 2015 increased 5.4% as compared to the same period in 2014. The winters experienced in California during the first and fourth quarters of 2014 were too warm for snowmaking, resulting in less electric usage in the Big Bear area than in 2015. Due to the CPUC-approved base revenue requirement adjustment mechanism, which adjusts base revenues to adopted levels authorized by the CPUC, changes in usage do not have a significant impact on earnings.

### Contracted Services

Revenues from contracted services are composed of construction revenues (including renewal and replacements) and management fees for operating and maintaining the water and/or wastewater systems at various military bases. For the year ended December 31, 2015, revenues from contracted services were \$94.1 million as compared to \$104.7 million for 2014. The decrease was due primarily to the completion of several large capital upgrade projects during 2014 which did not recur in 2015. The decrease in construction revenues was partially offset by an increase in O&M management fees as a result of successful

resolutions of various price redeterminations received during the third quarter of 2015, increasing earnings by approximately \$3.0 million as compared to 2014. These price redeterminations also included an increase of \$1.2 million in retroactive O&M management fees, as compared to the retroactive impact for the price redeterminations received in 2014.

ASUS's subsidiaries continue to enter into U.S. government-awarded contract modifications and agreements with third-party prime contractors for new construction projects at the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries. During the third quarter of 2015, the U.S. government awarded ASUS approximately \$50.0 million in new construction projects, the majority of which are expected to be completed during 2016. Similarly, during the third quarter of 2014, the U.S. government awarded ASUS \$27.0 million in new construction projects, the majority of which were completed in 2015. Earnings and cash flows from modifications to the original 50-year contracts with the U.S. government and agreements with third-party prime contractors for additional construction projects may or may not continue in future periods.

### **Operating Expenses:**

#### **Supply Costs**

Supply costs for the water segment consist of purchased water, purchased power for pumping, groundwater production assessments and water-supply-cost balancing accounts. Supply costs for the electric segment consist of power purchased for resale, the cost of natural gas used by the electric segment's generating unit, the cost of renewable energy credits and the electric-supply-cost balancing account. Water and electric gross margins are each computed by subtracting total supply costs from total revenues. Registrant uses these gross margins and related percentages as important measures in evaluating its operating results. Registrant believes these measures are useful internal benchmarks in evaluating the utility business performance within its water and electric segments. Registrant reviews these measurements regularly and compares them to historical periods and to its operating budget. However, these measures, which are not presented in accordance with GAAP, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other entities and should not be considered as alternatives to operating income, which is determined in accordance with GAAP.

Total supply costs comprise the largest segment of total operating expenses. Supply costs accounted for 30.4% and 29.1% of total operating expenses for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The table below provides the amounts (in thousands) of increases (decreases) and percent changes in water and electric revenues, supply costs and gross margin during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
WATER OPERATING REVENUES (1)	\$ 328,511	\$ 326,672	\$ 1,839	0.6%
WATER SUPPLY COSTS:				
Water purchased (1)	62,726	57,790	4,936	8.5%
Power purchased for pumping (1)	8,988	10,700	(1,712)	-16.0%
Groundwater production assessment (1)	13,648	16,450	(2,802)	-17.0%
Water supply cost balancing accounts (1)	3,623	1,378	2,245	162.9%
TOTAL WATER SUPPLY COSTS	\$ 88,985	\$ 86,318	\$ 2,667	3.1%
WATER GROSS MARGIN (2)	\$ 239,526	\$ 240,354	\$ (828)	-0.3%
PERCENT MARGIN - WATER	72.9%	73.6%		
ELECTRIC OPERATING REVENUES (1)	\$ 36,039	\$ 34,387	\$ 1,652	4.8%
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COSTS:				
Power purchased for resale (1)	10,395	9,649	746	7.7%
Electric supply cost balancing accounts (1)	4,162	4,968	(806)	-16.2%
TOTAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY COSTS	\$ 14,557	\$ 14,617	\$ (60)	-0.4%
ELECTRIC GROSS MARGIN (2)	\$ 21,482	\$ 19,770	\$ 1,712	8.7%
PERCENT MARGIN - ELECTRIC	59.6%	57.5%		

- (1) As reported on AWR's Consolidated Statements of Income, except for supply-cost-balancing accounts. The sums of water and electric supply-cost balancing accounts in the table above are shown on AWR's Consolidated Statements of Income and totaled \$7.8 million and \$6.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Revenues include surcharges, which increase both revenues and operating expenses by corresponding amounts, thus having no net earnings impact.
- (2) Water and electric gross margins do not include depreciation and amortization, maintenance, administrative and general, property and other taxes, and other operation expenses.

Two of the principal factors affecting water supply costs are the amount of water produced and the source of the water. Generally, the variable cost of producing water from wells is less than the cost of water purchased from wholesale suppliers. Under the MCBA, GSWC tracks adopted and actual expense levels for purchased water, power purchased for pumping and pump taxes, as established by the CPUC. GSWC records the variances (which include the effects of changes in both rate and volume) between adopted and actual purchased water, purchased power and pump tax expenses. GSWC recovers from, or refunds to, customers the amount of such variances. GSWC tracks these variances individually for each water rate-making area.

The overall actual percentages for purchased water for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 were 41% and 35%, respectively, as compared to the adopted percentages of 36% and 35%, respectively. The increase in the supply mix was due to several wells being temporarily out of service during 2015, resulting in an increase in purchased water as compared to pumped water. The overall water gross margin percent was 72.9% for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to 73.6% for the same period of 2014. This decrease was primarily due to CPUC-approved increases in rates implemented in the second and third quarters of 2014 specifically intended to cover increases in supply costs experienced in certain rate-making areas, increasing revenues by \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. This increase in revenues was offset by a corresponding increase in supply cost, resulting in no impact to the water gross dollar margin but lowering the gross margin as a percentage of total water revenues. There was also \$1.4 million of WRAM revenue not recorded, as previously discussed.

Purchased water costs for the year ended December 31, 2015 increased by 8.5% to \$62.7 million as compared to \$57.8 million for the same period in 2014 primarily due to an increase of purchased water in the supply mix as a result of wells being out of service, and an increase in wholesale water costs as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. These increases were partially offset by a lower volume of water purchased due to lower water consumption.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the cost of power purchased for pumping decreased to \$9.0 million as compared to \$10.7 million for the same period in 2014 primarily due to decreases in pumped water resulting from lower water consumption and an increase in purchased water. Groundwater production assessments were \$13.6 million in 2015 as compared to \$16.5 million in 2014 due to a decrease in well production resulting from several wells being out of service during 2015 as compared to 2014.

The water-supply-cost balancing account increased \$2.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 due to rates implemented in mid-2014 specifically intended to cover increases in supply costs for certain rate-making areas. This increase in revenues was offset by a corresponding increase in the water-supply-cost balancing account, resulting in no impact to the water gross dollar margin. There was also an increase due to lower customer water usage during 2015 as compared to 2014. These increases in the water-supply-cost balancing account were partially offset by increases in water vendor rates and an increase in purchased water in the water supply mix as compared to 2014.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the cost of power purchased for resale to BVES's customers increased to \$10.4 million, as compared to \$9.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, due to an increase in customer usage during the year ended December 31, 2015, partially offset by a decrease in the average price per MWh. Customer usage increased 5.4% as compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. The average price per MWh decreased from \$48.00 per MWh for the year ended December 31, 2014 to \$46.39 per MWh for the same period in 2015. The electric-supply-cost balancing account included in total supply costs decreased by \$806,000 primarily due to a decrease in supply cost surcharges, which have no impact on pretax operating income.



### ***Other Operation***

The primary components of other operation expenses for GSWC include payroll, materials and supplies, chemicals and water treatment costs and outside service costs of operating the regulated water systems, including the costs associated with water transmission and distribution, pumping, water quality, meter reading, billing and operations of district offices. Registrant's contracted services operations incur many of the same types of expenses. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, other operation expenses by business segment consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 21,961	\$ 22,871	\$ (910)	-4.0%
Electric Services	2,931	2,677	254	9.5%
Contracted Services	3,537	2,740	797	29.1%
Total other operation expenses	\$ 28,429	\$ 28,288	\$ 141	0.5%

Excluding an overall reduction of \$286,000 in billed surcharges, which have no impact on earnings, other operation expenses at the utility segments decreased by \$370,000 during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. The decrease was due primarily to lower water treatment costs as a result of lower water consumption as well as a higher amount of filter replacements performed in 2014, and a reduction in materials and supplies and bad debt expenses at the water segment. These decreases were partially offset by an increase in drought-related costs at the water segment and labor-related expenses at the electric segment. In April 2015, as a response to ongoing drought conditions, the Governor of California issued an executive order mandating an overall 25% reduction in water usage as compared to 2013. GSWC has been authorized by the CPUC to track incremental drought-related costs incurred in a memorandum account for possible future recovery. Such incremental drought-related costs are being expensed until recovery is approved by the CPUC.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, other operation expenses for the contracted services segment increased by \$797,000 as compared to the same period in 2014 primarily due to a shift in labor costs to operation-related activities from administrative and general activities.

### ***Administrative and General***

Administrative and general expenses include payroll related to administrative and general functions, the related employee benefits, insurance expenses, outside legal and consulting fees, regulatory utility commission expenses, expenses associated with being a public company and general corporate expenses charged to expense accounts. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, administrative and general expenses by business segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 55,977	\$ 57,729	\$ (1,752)	-3.0%
Electric Services	8,900	8,085	815	10.1%
Contracted Services	14,929	12,406	2,523	20.3%
AWR (parent)	11	48	(37)	-77.1%
Total administrative and general expenses	\$ 79,817	\$ 78,268	\$ 1,549	2.0%

Excluding an overall reduction of \$1.7 million in billed surcharges, which have no impact on earnings, administrative and general expenses for the water services segment decreased slightly during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. Lower employee-related costs were mostly offset by increases in legal and other outside services costs primarily related to condemnation activities. Legal and outside services costs tend to fluctuate and are expected to continue to fluctuate.

Excluding an overall reduction of \$96,000 in billed surcharges, which have no impact on earnings, administrative and general expenses for the electric services segment increased by \$911,000 during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to an increase in costs associated with energy-efficiency and solar-initiative programs approved by the CPUC. The costs of these programs have been included in customer rates equally over the rate cycle. The spending of such funds increased in 2015 due to the delay in receiving the final decision in November 2014 of the BVES rate case, which authorized these programs.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, administrative and general expenses for contracted services increased by \$2.5 million primarily due to a shift in labor and other indirect costs to administrative and general-related activities, in support of various functions at ASUS, from construction-related activities. There was also an increase in insurance and other outside services costs, as compared to the same period in 2014.

#### ***Depreciation and Amortization***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, depreciation and amortization expense by segment consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 39,190	\$ 38,388	\$ 802	2.1%
Electric Services	1,703	1,466	237	16.2%
Contracted Services	1,140	1,219	(79)	-6.5%
Total depreciation and amortization	<u>\$ 42,033</u>	<u>\$ 41,073</u>	<u>\$ 960</u>	<u>2.3%</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2015, depreciation and amortization expense for the utility segments increased by \$1.0 million resulting primarily from additions to utility plant during 2014.

#### ***Maintenance***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, maintenance expense by segment consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 13,935	\$ 13,067	\$ 868	6.6%
Electric Services	758	878	(120)	-13.7%
Contracted Services	2,192	2,147	45	2.1%
Total maintenance	<u>\$ 16,885</u>	<u>\$ 16,092</u>	<u>\$ 793</u>	<u>4.9%</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2015, maintenance expense for water services increased by \$868,000 compared to the year ended December 31, 2014 due to higher levels of both planned and unplanned maintenance performed in 2015.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, maintenance expense for electric services decreased by \$120,000 due to a higher level of expenses related to unplanned maintenance and tree trimming performed in 2014.

#### ***Property and Other Taxes***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, property and other taxes by segment, consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,285	\$ (35)	-0.2%
Electric Services	994	936	58	6.2%
Contracted Services	1,392	1,501	(109)	-7.3%
Total property and other taxes	<u>\$ 16,636</u>	<u>\$ 16,722</u>	<u>\$ (86)</u>	<u>-0.5%</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2015, property and other taxes for contracted services decreased by \$109,000 due to lower gross receipts taxes primarily resulting from the elimination of such taxes in North Carolina effective July 1, 2014.

#### ***ASUS Construction***

For the year ended December 31, 2015, construction expenses for contracted services were \$52.8 million, decreasing by \$12.6 million compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to significant work on several larger projects being substantially completed during 2014, which did not recur in 2015. In addition, there was a higher amount of internal labor incurred for administrative and general-related activities, while in 2014 such labor was incurred for construction activities.

### ***Interest Expense***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, interest expense by segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 19,898	\$ 20,260	\$ (362)	-1.8%
Electric Services	1,100	1,264	(164)	-13.0%
Contracted Services	33	151	(118)	-78.1%
AWR (parent)	57	(58)	115	-198.3%
Total interest expense	\$ 21,088	\$ 21,617	\$ (529)	-2.4%

Overall, interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 decreased by \$529,000 as compared to the same period in 2014 due largely to an increase in capitalized interest at the water segment resulting from the approval of an allowance for funds used during construction ("AFUDC") from advice letter filings approved by the CPUC during the first quarter of 2015. In addition, GSWC replaced \$15.0 million of certain long-term notes during the fourth quarter of 2014 with a note that bears a lower interest rate.

### ***Interest Income***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, interest income by business segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 430	\$ 890	\$ (460)	-51.7%
Electric Services	10	4	6	150.0%
Contracted Services	7	9	(2)	-22.2%
AWR (parent)	11	24	(13)	-54.2%
Total interest income	\$ 458	\$ 927	\$ (469)	-50.6%

Interest income decreased by \$469,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014 due to interest collected on certain outstanding balances owed to GSWC during 2014. There was no similar item in 2015.

### ***Other, net***

For the year ended December 31, 2015, other income decreased by \$395,000 primarily due to lower gains recorded on investments held for a retirement benefit plan resulting from recent market conditions as compared to 2014.

### ***Income Tax Expense***

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, income tax expense by segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2015	Year Ended 12/31/2014	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 30,302	\$ 30,410	\$ (108)	-0.4%
Electric Services	2,170	1,596	574	36.0%
Contracted Services	6,069	7,038	(969)	-13.8%
AWR (parent)	(810)	(996)	186	-18.7%
Total income tax expense	\$ 37,731	\$ 38,048	\$ (317)	-0.8%

Consolidated income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 decreased by \$317,000 due primarily to a decrease in pretax income. AWR's consolidated effective income tax rate ("ETR") was 38.4% for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. The ETR for GSWC was 40.6% for 2015 as compared to 40.1% for 2014 due primarily to differences between book and taxable income that are treated as flow-through adjustments in accordance with regulatory requirements, and permanent differences such as deductions related to production activities. The increase in ETR for GSWC was partially offset by a lower ETR at the contracted services segment due mostly to lower state taxes, which vary among the jurisdictions in which it operates.

**Consolidated Results of Operations — Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollar amounts in thousands, except per share amounts):**

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
OPERATING REVENUES				
Water	\$ 326,672	\$ 320,131	\$ 6,541	2.0%
Electric	34,387	38,409	(4,022)	-10.5%
Contracted services	104,732	113,537	(8,805)	-7.8%
Total operating revenues	465,791	472,077	(6,286)	-1.3%
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Water purchased	57,790	58,930	(1,140)	-1.9%
Power purchased for pumping	10,700	9,518	1,182	12.4%
Groundwater production assessment	16,450	15,541	909	5.8%
Power purchased for resale	9,649	13,392	(3,743)	-27.9%
Supply cost balancing accounts	6,346	214	6,132	*
Other operation	28,288	27,767	521	1.9%
Administrative and general	78,268	77,289	979	1.3%
Depreciation and amortization	41,073	40,090	983	2.5%
Maintenance	16,092	17,772	(1,680)	-9.5%
Property and other taxes	16,722	15,865	857	5.4%
ASUS construction	65,368	76,627	(11,259)	-14.7%
Total operating expenses	346,746	353,005	(6,259)	-1.8%
OPERATING INCOME	119,045	119,072	(27)	—%
OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES				
Interest expense	(21,617)	(22,415)	798	-3.6%
Interest income	927	707	220	31.1%
Other, net	751	1,105	(354)	-32.0%
	(19,939)	(20,603)	664	-3.2%
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	99,106	98,469	637	0.6%
Income tax expense	38,048	35,783	2,265	6.3%
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686	\$ (1,628)	-2.6%
Basic earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ (0.04)	-2.5%
Diluted earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ (0.04)	-2.5%

\* Not meaningful



The table below sets forth diluted earnings per share by business segment for AWR's operations:

	Diluted Earnings per Share		
	Year Ended		
	12/31/2014	12/31/2013	CHANGE
Water	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.19	\$ (0.03)
Electric	0.07	0.06	0.01
Contracted services	0.31	0.30	0.01
AWR (parent)	0.03	0.06	(0.03)
Totals from operations, as reported	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ (0.04)

For the year ended December 31, 2014, fully diluted earnings per share for the water segment decreased by \$0.03 per share to \$1.16 per share, as compared to \$1.19 per share for 2013. In May 2013, the CPUC issued a final decision on GSWC's water general rate case which approved, among other things, recovery of \$3.1 million of previously incurred costs. The approval of these items increased earnings for the year ended December 31, 2013 by \$0.05 per share, with no similar increase in 2014. Excluding this \$0.05 per share impact, diluted earnings from the water segment increased by \$0.02 per share for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. Impacting the comparability of the two periods were the following items:

- An increase in the water gross margin of \$0.05 per share, primarily resulting from second-year rate increases and additional revenues approved by the CPUC for advice letter capital projects. There was also a decrease of approximately \$580,000 in revenues with a corresponding decrease in operating expenses representing lower surcharges billed to customers to recover previously incurred costs. These surcharges had no impact on net earnings.
- Excluding supply costs, the one-time recovery of previously incurred costs and the impact of the surcharges discussed above, there was an increase in operating expenses of approximately \$2.1 million, or \$0.03 per share, due primarily to increases in outside service costs, depreciation expense and property taxes. These increases were partially offset by lower planned maintenance.
- A decrease in interest expense and other non-operating expenses (net of interest income), increasing earnings by \$0.01 per share due primarily to the refinance of certain long-term notes with notes at a lower interest rate as well as other debt maturing during the fourth quarter of 2013 and 2014.
- An increase in the effective income tax rate for the water segment during the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 2013, which decreased earnings by approximately \$0.01 per share. The change in the tax rate is primarily due to changes between book and taxable income from items that are treated as flow-through adjustments in accordance with regulatory requirements as well as changes in permanent items.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, diluted earnings from the electric segment increased by \$0.01 per share as compared to 2013 due primarily to an overall decrease in operating expenses and a lower electric effective income tax rate. The decrease in expenses in 2014 was partially offset by the recovery of legal and outside services costs in connection with the CPUC's renewables portfolio standard approved by the CPUC in May 2013. As a result, in the second quarter of 2013, GSWC recorded an \$834,000 reduction in legal and outside services costs, increasing earnings by \$0.01 per share. There was no similar reduction in 2014. The final decision on BVES's general rate case approved by the CPUC in November 2014 did not have a significant impact on BVES's earnings for 2014.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, diluted earnings from contracted services were \$0.31 per share, compared to \$0.30 per share for the same period in 2013. Impacting the comparability of the two periods were the following items:

- An increase in management fees as a result of successful resolutions of various price redeterminations received during the third quarter of 2014, increasing earnings by \$0.05 per share for 2014. Included in this increase were retroactive amounts totaling \$1.7 million, or \$0.03 per share, related to prior years.
- An increase of \$0.02 per share due to the recording of additional revenues during the close-out of a large pipe replacement construction project at Fort Bragg. ONUS began work on this large project in 2010, which was completed and closed-out during the fourth quarter of 2014.
- An overall decrease in construction activity reducing earnings by \$0.03 per share due to significant work on several projects being substantially completed during 2013, with less work performed during 2014.
- A decrease of \$0.03 per share as compared to 2013 as a result of cumulative tax deductions taken in 2013 related to certain construction activities for years 2013 and prior. There was no similar cumulative amount deducted for 2014.

Diluted earnings from AWR (parent) decreased \$0.03 per share as compared to the same period in 2013 due primarily to a cumulative tax benefit recorded during the third quarter of 2013 for deductions related to an employee benefit program, with no similar cumulative benefit recorded in 2014.

The following discussion and analysis for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 provides information on AWR's consolidated operations and assets and, where necessary, includes specific references to AWR's individual segments and/or other subsidiaries: GSWC and ASUS and its subsidiaries.

## ***Operating Revenues***

### ***Water***

For the year ended December 31, 2014, revenues from water operations increased by \$6.5 million to \$326.7 million, compared to \$320.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. During 2014, the CPUC approved an increase in rates to specifically cover increases in supply costs experienced in certain rate-making areas. This \$3.5 million increase in revenues for the year ended December 31, 2014 is offset by a corresponding increase in supply cost, resulting in no impact to the water gross margin. There were also second-year rate increases approved by the CPUC effective January 1, 2014 for certain rate-making areas as well as increases related to advice letter filings. These increases were partially offset by a decrease of approximately \$580,000 in surcharges during the year ended December 31, 2014 to recover previously incurred costs approved by the CPUC. The decrease in revenues from these surcharges is offset by a corresponding decrease in operating expenses (primarily administrative and general) resulting in no impact to pretax operating income.

Billed water consumption for the year ended December 31, 2014 decreased by approximately 2.8% as compared to the same period in 2013. Changes in consumption do not have a significant impact on revenues due to the CPUC-approved WRAM account in place in all three water regions. GSWC records the difference between what it bills its water customers and that which is authorized by the CPUC in the WRAM accounts as regulatory assets or liabilities.

### ***Electric***

For the year ended December 31, 2014, revenues from electric operations were \$34.4 million compared to \$38.4 million for 2013. In November 2014, the CPUC issued a final decision on BVES's general rate case which sets new rates for the years 2013—2016. The new rates were retroactive to January 1, 2013. Prior to the decision, electric revenues for 2013 and 2014 were recorded based on 2012 adopted levels. The new adopted revenues for years 2013 through 2016 are lower than revenues in the previous rate cycle resulting from a revised return on equity of 9.95%, as well as lower depreciation and certain other operating expenses. As a result of the decision, a \$2.2 million cumulative reduction in revenues was recorded during the fourth quarter of 2014, along with a cumulative reduction in depreciation expense. The impact of the retroactive effect of the new rates to BVES's 2014 net earnings was not significant. There was also a \$936,000 decrease in surcharges to recover previously incurred costs during 2014 as compared to 2013, with a corresponding \$936,000 decrease in operating expenses resulting in no impact to pretax income. The remaining decrease in electric revenues was primarily due to lower electric usage, resulting in lower revenues and lower electric supply costs.

Billed electric usage for the year ended December 31, 2014 decreased 5.4% as compared to 2013. The winter experienced in the Big Bear area during the first quarter of 2014 was too warm for snowmaking, resulting in less electric usage than in the prior year. Due to the CPUC-approved base revenue requirement adjustment mechanism, which adjusts certain revenues to adopted levels authorized by the CPUC, this change in usage did not have a significant impact on earnings.

### ***Contracted Services***

Revenues from contracted services are composed of construction revenues and management fees for operating and maintaining the water and/or wastewater systems at military bases. For the year ended December 31, 2014, revenues from contracted services decreased to \$104.7 million as compared to \$113.5 million for 2013. The decrease was mainly due to lower construction activity at various military bases, including a reduction in initial capital upgrade work at Fort Bragg and the military bases in Virginia. In addition, ASUS subsidiaries completed or are nearing completion of significant work on major capital projects at Fort Bliss and Fort Bragg, resulting in less revenue during the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. The decrease in construction activity was partially offset by the resolution of price redeterminations at Fort Bragg, Fort Jackson and Joint Base Andrews resulting in increased management fee revenues during the third quarter of 2014, including retroactive amounts related to prior years totaling \$1.7 million. Additionally, ASUS recorded \$1.6 million of additional revenues during the fourth quarter of 2014 in conjunction with the close-out of a large construction project at Fort Bragg. ONUS began work on this large project in 2010, which was completed and closed-out during the fourth quarter of 2014.

## Operating Expenses:

### Supply Costs

Supply costs accounted for 29.1% and 27.6% of total operating expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The table below provides the amounts of increases (decreases), percent changes in supply costs, and gross margins during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
WATER OPERATING REVENUES (1)	\$ 326,672	\$ 320,131	\$ 6,541	2.0%
WATER SUPPLY COSTS:				
Water purchased (1)	57,790	58,930	(1,140)	-1.9%
Power purchased for pumping (1)	10,700	9,518	1,182	12.4%
Groundwater production assessment (1)	16,450	15,541	909	5.8%
Water supply cost balancing accounts (1)	1,378	(1,958)	3,336	-170.4%
TOTAL WATER SUPPLY COSTS	\$ 86,318	\$ 82,031	\$ 4,287	5.2%
WATER GROSS MARGIN (2)	\$ 240,354	\$ 238,100	\$ 2,254	0.9%
PERCENT MARGIN - WATER	73.6%	74.4%		
ELECTRIC OPERATING REVENUES (1)	\$ 34,387	\$ 38,409	\$ (4,022)	-10.5%
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COSTS:				
Power purchased for resale (1)	9,649	13,392	(3,743)	-27.9%
Electric supply cost balancing accounts (1)	4,968	2,172	2,796	128.7%
TOTAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY COSTS	\$ 14,617	\$ 15,564	\$ (947)	-6.1%
ELECTRIC GROSS MARGIN (2)	\$ 19,770	\$ 22,845	\$ (3,075)	-13.5%
PERCENT MARGIN - ELECTRIC	57.5%	59.5%		

- (1) As reported on AWR's Consolidated Statements of Income, except for supply-cost balancing accounts. The sums of water and electric supply-cost balancing accounts in the table above is shown on AWR's Consolidated Statements of Income and totaled \$6,346,000 and \$214,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Revenues include surcharges, which increase both revenues and operating expenses by corresponding amounts, thus having no net earnings impact.
- (2) Water and electric gross margins do not include depreciation and amortization, maintenance, administrative and general, property and other taxes, and other operation expenses.

The overall actual percentages for purchased water for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 approximated the adopted overall percentage of 35%. The overall water gross margin percent was 73.6% for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 74.4% in the same period of 2013. The decrease in the overall water gross margin as a percentage of total water revenue was primarily due to CPUC-approved increases in rates implemented in the second and third quarters of 2014 specifically intended to cover increases in supply costs experienced in certain rate-making areas, increasing revenues by \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. This increase in revenues was offset by a corresponding increase in supply cost, resulting in no impact to the water gross dollar margin but lowering the gross margin as a percentage of total water revenues. There was also a \$580,000 decrease in surcharge revenues as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013, with a corresponding decrease in operating expenses, resulting in no impact to pretax operating income.

Purchased water costs for the year ended December 31, 2014 decreased by 1.9% to \$57.8 million as compared to \$58.9 million in 2013 primarily due to a decrease in customer usage, partially offset by increases in wholesale water costs.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the cost of power purchased for pumping increased to \$10.7 million as compared to \$9.5 million for 2013 primarily due to an increase in average electric costs. Groundwater production assessments were \$16.5 million in 2014 as compared to \$15.5 million in 2013 due to an increase in rates levied by government agencies.

The water-supply-cost balancing account increased \$3.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 due to an increase in rates specifically to cover increases in supply costs for certain rate-making areas, as previously discussed. This increase in revenues is offset by a corresponding increase in the water-supply-cost balancing account, resulting in no impact to the water gross margin.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the cost of power purchased for resale to customers in GSWC's BVES division decreased to \$9.6 million, as compared to \$13.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, due primarily to a decrease in the average price per MWh during the year ended December 31, 2014. The average price per MWh decreased from \$62.18 per MWh for the year ended December 31, 2013 to \$48.00 per MWh for the same period in 2014. There was also a 5.4% decrease in customer usage as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. The electric-supply-cost balancing account included in total supply costs increased by \$2.8 million due to the decrease in the average price per MWh.

### ***Other Operation***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, other operation expenses by segment consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 22,871	\$ 22,356	\$ 515	2.3%
Electric Services	2,677	2,754	(77)	-2.8%
Contracted Services	2,740	2,657	83	3.1%
Total other operation expenses	\$ 28,288	\$ 27,767	\$ 521	1.9%

For the year ended December 31, 2014, other operation expense for water services increased by \$515,000 as compared to 2013. As part of the CPUC's final decision on the water rate case approved in May 2013, during the first quarter of 2013 GSWC recorded a \$1.0 million reduction in other operation expense as a result of the CPUC approval for recovery of certain previously expensed costs. There was no similar reduction in 2014. Excluding the impact of this item, other operation expense for water services decreased by approximately \$485,000 due primarily to a decrease in labor resulting from a lower number of employees, and a decrease in conservation and outside service costs.

### ***Administrative and General***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, administrative and general expenses by segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 57,729	\$ 55,053	\$ 2,676	4.9%
Electric Services	8,085	9,592	(1,507)	-15.7%
Contracted Services	12,406	12,637	(231)	-1.8%
AWR (parent)	48	7	41	585.7%
Total administrative and general expenses	\$ 78,268	\$ 77,289	\$ 979	1.3%

For the year ended December 31, 2014, administrative and general expenses for water services increased by \$2.7 million compared to 2013. During the first quarter of 2013, as part of the CPUC's final decisions on the water rate case, GSWC recorded a \$1.7 million reduction in administrative and general expenses as a result of the CPUC approval of recovery of certain previously expensed costs. There was no similar reduction in 2014. Additionally, during the year ended December 31, 2014, there was a decrease of \$547,000 in surcharges billed for the recovery of various administrative and general costs previously incurred, as compared to the same period in 2013. As these costs are recovered in revenue through surcharges, a corresponding dollar amount is recorded to administrative and general expenses, having no impact on pretax operating income.



Excluding the effect of these two items, administrative and general expenses for water services increased by approximately \$1.5 million due primarily to an increase in legal and outside service costs, partially offset by lower general liability and workers' compensation reserves and pension expense. Registrant expects pension expense to increase during 2015 as a result of lower discount rates and new mortality tables. CPUC-approved rate increases effective January 1, 2015 are expected to provide adequate rate recovery for these expected increases. In addition, for the water and electric segments, differences between actual pension expense and forecasted pension expense included in rates are tracked in the two-way pension balancing accounts, resulting in no impact to pretax income.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, administrative and general expenses for electric services decreased by \$1.5 million compared to 2013. Surcharges billed in 2014 for the recovery of various previously incurred administrative and general costs decreased by \$501,000 as compared to the same period in 2013. As discussed previously, as these surcharges are recorded as revenue, a corresponding dollar amount is recorded to administrative and general expenses, having no impact on pretax operating income. In May 2013 the CPUC approved recovery of \$834,000 in legal and outside service costs related to compliance with the CPUC's renewables portfolio standard. There was no similar reduction in 2014. Excluding the impact of these items, administrative and general expenses for electric services decreased by \$1.8 million due primarily to decreases in legal and outside service costs, pension expense and workers' compensation and general liability reserves.

### ***Depreciation and Amortization***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, depreciation and amortization by segment consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 38,388	\$ 36,636	\$ 1,752	4.8%
Electric Services	1,466	2,316	(850)	-36.7%
Contracted Services	1,219	1,138	81	7.1%
Total depreciation and amortization	\$ 41,073	\$ 40,090	\$ 983	2.5%

For the year ended December 31, 2014, depreciation and amortization expense for water services increased by \$1.8 million due primarily to approximately \$91 million of additions to utility plant during 2013, partially offset by approximately \$11 million of asset retirements.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, depreciation and amortization expense for electric services decreased by \$850,000 primarily due to lower depreciation composite rates approved by the CPUC in the electric general rate case in November 2014.

### ***Maintenance***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, maintenance expense by segment consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 13,067	\$ 14,994	\$ (1,927)	-12.9%
Electric Services	878	829	49	5.9%
Contracted Services	2,147	1,949	198	10.2%
Total maintenance	\$ 16,092	\$ 17,772	\$ (1,680)	-9.5%

For the year ended December 31, 2014, maintenance expense for water services decreased by \$1.9 million compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 due to a higher level of planned maintenance performed in 2013.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, maintenance expense for contracted services increased by \$198,000 due to increased maintenance activities performed at various military bases as compared to the same period in 2013.

### ***Property and Other Taxes***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, property and other taxes by segment, consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 14,285	\$ 13,130	\$ 1,155	8.8%
Electric Services	936	942	(6)	-0.6%
Contracted Services	1,501	1,793	(292)	-16.3%
Total property and other taxes	\$ 16,722	\$ 15,865	\$ 857	5.4%

For the year ended December 31, 2014, property and other taxes for water services increased by \$1.2 million due primarily to increases in property taxes of approximately \$985,000 resulting from capital additions and associated higher assessed property values. There was also an increase in franchise fees.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, property and other taxes for contracted services decreased by \$292,000 due to lower accrued gross receipt taxes for the military bases in Virginia as a result of lower construction activity, and also at Fort Bragg as a result of the elimination of the gross receipt tax in North Carolina effective July 1, 2014.

### ***ASUS Construction***

For the year ended December 31, 2014, construction expenses for contracted services were \$65.4 million, decreasing by \$11.3 million compared to the same period in 2013 due to lower overall construction activity, primarily at FBWS, ONUS and ODUS, partially offset by higher construction activity at TUS. As previously discussed, ASUS subsidiaries completed or are nearing completion of significant work on major capital projects at Fort Bliss and Fort Bragg, resulting in less construction expenses during the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013.

### ***Interest Expense***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, interest expense by segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 20,260	\$ 20,849	\$ (589)	-2.8%
Electric Services	1,264	1,438	(174)	-12.1%
Contracted Services	151	286	(135)	-47.2%
AWR (parent)	(58)	(158)	100	-63.3%
Total interest expense	\$ 21,617	\$ 22,415	\$ (798)	-3.6%

Overall, interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 decreased by \$798,000 as compared to 2013 due primarily to the redemption of \$15.0 million of certain long-term notes in July 2014, as well as other debt maturing during the fourth quarter of 2013 totaling \$3.1 million. This was partially offset by an increase in short-term borrowings under the credit facility. The average bank balances under Registrant's revolving credit facility was \$6.2 million during 2014. There were no borrowings under the credit facility during 2013. The average interest rate on short-term borrowings was 0.81% during 2014.

### ***Interest Income***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, interest income by segment, including AWR (parent) consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 890	\$ 613	\$ 277	45.2%
Electric Services	4	2	2	100.0%
Contracted Services	9	22	(13)	-59.1%
AWR (parent)	24	70	(46)	-65.7%
Total interest income	\$ 927	\$ 707	\$ 220	31.1%

Interest income increased by \$220,000 for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 2013 due primarily to interest collected on certain outstanding balances owed to GSWC. There was no similar item in 2013.

### ***Other, net***

For the year ended December 31, 2014, other income decreased by \$354,000 primarily due to lower accrued interest related to GSWC's allowance for funds used during construction and lower gains on investments held for a retirement benefit plan as compared to the same period in 2013.

### ***Income Tax Expense***

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, income tax expense by segment, including AWR (parent), consisted of the following (dollar amounts in thousands):

	Year Ended 12/31/2014	Year Ended 12/31/2013	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Water Services	\$ 30,410	\$ 30,679	\$ (269)	-0.9%
Electric Services	1,596	2,455	(859)	-35.0%
Contracted Services	7,038	4,911	2,127	43.3%
AWR (parent)	(996)	(2,262)	1,266	-56.0%
Total income tax expense	\$ 38,048	\$ 35,783	\$ 2,265	6.3%

Consolidated income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 increased by \$2.3 million due primarily to an overall higher effective income tax rate ("ETR") and higher pre-tax income. AWR's consolidated ETR was 38.4% for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to 36.3% for 2013. The consolidated ETR increased primarily as a result of certain cumulative tax deductions taken at ASUS and at AWR (parent) in 2013, with no similar cumulative benefit recorded in 2014. These deductions related to certain construction activities at ASUS and an employee benefit program at AWR (parent). The ETR at GSWC decreased slightly to 40.1% in 2014 as compared to 40.5% in 2013.

## **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Critical accounting policies and estimates 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. The following are accounting policies that are critical to the financial statements of AWR. For more information regarding the significant accounting policies of Registrant, see Note 1 of "*Notes to Financial Statements*" included in Part II, Item 8, in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

***Accounting for Rate Regulation*** — Because the Registrant operates extensively in a regulated business, it is subject to the authoritative guidance for accounting for the effects of certain types of regulation. Application of this guidance requires accounting for certain transactions in accordance with regulations adopted by the regulatory commissions of the states in which operations are conducted. Utility companies defer costs and credits on the balance sheet as regulatory assets and liabilities when it is probable that those costs and credits will be recognized in the ratemaking process in a period different from the period in which they would have been reflected in income by an unregulated company. These deferred regulatory assets and liabilities are then reflected in the income statement in the period in which the same amounts are reflected in the rates charged for service.

Regulation and the effects of regulatory accounting have the most significant impact on the financial statements. When GSWC files for adjustments to rates, the capital assets, operating costs and other matters are subject to review, and disallowances may occur. In the event that a portion of the Registrant's operations is no longer subject to the accounting guidance for the effects of certain types of regulation, Registrant is required to write off related regulatory assets that are not specifically recoverable and determine if other assets might be impaired. If the CPUC determines that a portion of the Registrant's assets are not recoverable in customer rates, Registrant is required to determine if it has suffered an asset impairment that would require a write-down in the asset valuation. At December 31, 2015, the consolidated balance sheet included net regulatory assets of approximately \$132.7 million. Management continually evaluates the anticipated recovery of regulatory assets, liabilities, and revenues subject to refund and will provide for allowances and/or reserves as necessary. In the event that Registrant's assessment as to the probability of the inclusion in the ratemaking process is incorrect, the associated regulatory asset or liability will be adjusted to reflect the change in assessment or the impact of regulatory approval of rates. Reviews by the CPUC may also result in additional regulatory liabilities to refund previously collected revenues to customers if the CPUC disallows costs included in the ratemaking process.

Registrant also reviews its utility plant in service for possible impairment in accordance with accounting guidance for regulated entities for abandonments and disallowances of plant costs.

***Revenue Recognition*** — GSWC records water and electric utility operating revenues when the service is provided to customers. Operating revenues include unbilled revenues that are earned (i.e., the service has been provided) but not billed by the end of each accounting period. Unbilled revenues are calculated based on the number of days and total usage from each customer's most recent billing record that was billed prior to the end of the accounting period and is used to estimate unbilled consumption as of the year-end reporting period. Unbilled revenues are recorded for both monthly and bi-monthly customers.

The CPUC granted GSWC the authority to implement revenue decoupling mechanisms through the adoption of the WRAM and the Base Revenue Requirement Adjustment Mechanism ("BRRAM"). With the adoption of these alternative revenue programs, GSWC adjusts revenues in the WRAM and BRRAM for the difference between what is billed to its regulated customers and that which is authorized by the CPUC.

As required by the accounting guidance for alternative revenue programs, GSWC is required to collect its WRAM balances, net of its MCBA, within 24 months following the year in which they are recorded. In April 2012, the CPUC set the recovery period for under-collected balances that are up to 15% of adopted annual revenues at 18 months or less. For net WRAM under-collected balances greater than 15%, the recovery period is 19 to 36 months. In addition to adopting an amortization schedule, the CPUC set a cap on total net WRAM/MCBA surcharges in any given calendar year of 10% of the last authorized revenue requirement. As a result of the accounting guidance and CPUC-adopted recovery periods, Registrant must estimate if any WRAM and BRRAM revenues will be collected beyond the 24-month requirement, which can affect the timing of when such revenues are recognized.



Revenues for operations and maintenance contracts are recognized when services have been rendered to the U.S. government pursuant to 50-year contracts. Revenues from construction activities are recognized based on either the percentage-of-completion or cost-plus methods of accounting. In accordance with GAAP, revenue recognition under these methods requires management to estimate the progress toward completion on a contract in terms of efforts (such as costs incurred) or, in the case of the percentage-of-completion method, in terms of results achieved (such as units constructed). These approaches are used because management considers it to be the best available measure of progress on these contracts. Changes in job performance, job conditions, change orders and estimated profitability, including those arising from any contract penalty provisions, and final contract settlements may result in revisions to costs and income and are recognized in the period in which the revisions are determined. Unbilled receivables from the U.S. government represent amounts to be billed for construction work completed and/or for services rendered pursuant to the 50-year contracts with the U.S. government, which are not presently billable but which will be billed under the terms of the contracts.

**Income Taxes** — Registrant's income tax calculations require estimates due principally to the regulated nature of the operations of GSWC, the multiple states in which Registrant operates, and potential future tax rate changes. Registrant uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which these temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Changes in regulatory treatment, or significant changes in tax-related estimates, assumptions or law, could have a material impact on the financial position and results of operations of Registrant.

As a regulated utility, GSWC treats certain temporary differences as flow-through adjustments in computing its income tax expense consistent with the income tax approach approved by the CPUC for ratemaking purposes. Flow-through adjustments increase or decrease tax expense in one period, with an offsetting decrease or increase occurring in another period. Giving effect to these temporary differences as flow-through adjustments typically results in a greater variance between the effective tax rate and the statutory federal income tax rate in any given period than would otherwise exist if GSWC were not required to account for its income taxes as a regulated enterprise. As of December 31, 2015, Registrant's total amount of unrecognized tax benefits was zero. In addition, effective January 1, 2014, the Company changed its tax method of accounting for certain repairs and maintenance expenditures pursuant to regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Department in September 2013. The new tax regulations allow the Company to deduct a significant amount of linear asset costs previously capitalized for tax purposes. The Company completed its analysis of this deduction for 2014 and prior years and recorded the cumulative effect in 2014. See Note 10 (Income Taxes) of *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements*.

**Pension Benefits** — Registrant's pension benefit obligations and related costs are calculated using actuarial concepts within the framework of accounting guidance for employers' accounting for pensions and post-retirement benefits other than pensions. Two critical assumptions, the discount rate and the expected return on plan assets, are important elements of expense and/or liability measurement. We evaluate these critical assumptions annually. Other assumptions include employee demographic factors such as retirement patterns, mortality, turnover and rate of compensation increase. The discount rate enables Registrant to state expected future cash payments for benefits as a present value on the measurement date. The guideline for setting this rate is a high-quality, long-term corporate bond rate. Registrant's discount rates were determined by considering the average of pension yield curves constructed using a large population of high-quality corporate bonds. The resulting discount rates reflect the matching of plan liability cash flows to the yield curves. A lower discount rate increases the present value of benefit obligations and increases periodic pension expense. Conversely, a higher discount rate decreases the present value of benefit obligations and decreases periodic pension expense. To determine the expected long-term rate of return on the plan assets, Registrant considers the current and expected asset allocation, as well as historical and expected returns on each plan asset class. A lower expected rate of return on plan assets will increase pension expense. The long-term expected return on plan assets was 7.00% in 2015 and 2014 for the pension plan.

For the pension plan obligation, Registrant increased the discount rate to 4.65% as of December 31, 2015 from 4.25% as of December 31, 2014 to reflect market interest-rate conditions at December 31, 2015. A 25 basis point decrease in the assumed discount rate would have increased total net periodic pension expense for 2015 by approximately \$797,000, or 13.1%, and would have increased the projected benefit obligation ("PBO") and accumulated benefit obligation ("ABO") at December 31, 2015 by a total of \$6.4 million, or 3.8%. A 25 basis point decrease in the long-term return on pension plan asset assumption would have increased 2015 pension cost by approximately \$350,000, or 5.8%.

In addition, changes in the fair value of plan assets will impact future pension cost and the Plan's funded status. Volatile market conditions can affect the value of AWR's trust established to fund its future long-term pension benefits. Any reductions in the value of plan assets will result in increased future expense, an increase in the underfunded position and increased future contributions.

Previous CPUC decisions in the water and electric general rate cases have authorized GSWC to continue using a two-way balancing account to track differences between the forecasted annual pension expenses adopted in rates and the actual annual expense to be recorded by GSWC in accordance with the accounting guidance for pension costs. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has a net \$2.2 million under-collection in the two-way pension balancing accounts, consisting of a \$2.5 million under-collection related to the general office and water regions, and a \$319,000 over-collection related to BVES.

Funding requirements for qualified defined benefit pension plans are determined by government regulations. In establishing the contribution amount, Registrant has considered the potential impact of funding-rule changes under the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Registrant contributes the minimum required contribution as determined by government regulations or the forecasted annual pension cost authorized by the CPUC and included in customer rates, whichever is higher. In accordance with this funding policy, for 2016 the pension contribution is expected to be at least \$5.5 million. As previously discussed, any differences between the forecasted annual pension costs in rates and the actual pension costs are included in the two-way pension balancing accounts.

Additionally, our pension plan liabilities are sensitive to changes in interest rates. As interest rates decrease, thereby reducing returns, our liabilities increase, potentially increasing benefit expense and funding requirements. In addition, market factors can affect assumptions we use in determining funding requirements with respect to our pension plan. For example, a relatively modest change in our assumptions regarding discount rates can materially affect our calculation of funding requirements. To the extent that market data compels us to reduce the discount rate used in our assumptions, our benefit obligations could be materially increased.

Changes in demographics, including increased numbers of retirees or increases in life expectancy assumptions may also increase the funding requirements of our obligations related to the pension and other postretirement benefit plans. Mortality assumptions are a critical component of benefit obligation amounts and a key factor in determining the expected length of time for annuity payments. In 2014, the Society of Actuaries released new mortality tables for pension plans. Beginning with 2014, the benefit obligation amounts assume a longer life expectancy of participants as a result of the actuarial update to mortality tables. The update to the mortality tables increases future annual net periodic costs. Assuming no other changes in actuarial assumptions or plan amendments, the costs over the long term are expected to decrease due to the closure of Registrant's defined benefit pension plan to new employees as of January 1, 2011. In January 2011, the Board of Directors approved an amendment to the pension plan, closing the plan to employees hired after December 31, 2010. Employees hired or rehired after December 31, 2010 are eligible to participate in a defined contribution plan.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

### ***AWR***

Registrant's regulated business is capital intensive and requires considerable capital resources. A portion of these capital resources is provided by internally generated cash flows from operations. AWR anticipates that interest expense will increase in future periods due to the need for additional external capital to fund its construction program, and as market interest rates increase. AWR believes that costs associated with capital used to fund construction at GSWC will continue to be recovered through water and electric rates charged to customers.

AWR funds its operating expenses and pays dividends on its outstanding Common Shares primarily through dividends from GSWC. The ability of GSWC to pay dividends to AWR is restricted by California law. Under these restrictions, approximately \$184.9 million was available on December 31, 2015 to pay dividends to AWR.

When necessary, Registrant obtains funds from external sources in the capital markets and through bank borrowings. Access to external financing on reasonable terms depends on the credit ratings of AWR and GSWC and current business conditions, including that of the water utility industry in general as well as conditions in the debt and equity capital markets. AWR also has access to a \$100.0 million revolving credit facility which expires in May 2018. AWR may elect to increase the aggregate commitment by up to an additional \$50.0 million. AWR borrows under this facility and provides funds to its subsidiaries, including GSWC, in support of their operations. Any amounts owed to AWR for borrowings under this facility are included in inter-company payables on GSWC's balance sheet. The interest rate charged to GSWC and other affiliates is sufficient to cover AWR's interest cost under the credit facility. As of December 31, 2015, there were \$28.0 million of outstanding borrowings under this facility and \$10.4 million of letters of credit outstanding. As of December 31, 2015, AWR had \$61.6 million available to borrow under the credit facility.

In May 2015, Standard & Poor's Rating Services ("S&P") affirmed the A+ credit rating on both American States Water Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Golden State Water Company. S&P also revised its rating outlook to stable from positive for both companies as a result of the announcement of the second stock repurchase program. S&P debt ratings range from AAA (highest rating possible) to D (obligation is in default). In December 2015, Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") affirmed its A2 rating with a stable outlook for GSWC. 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 AWR's sound capital structure and A+ credit rating, combined with its financial discipline, will enable AWR to access the debt and/or equity markets. However, unpredictable financial market conditions in the future may limit its access or impact the timing of when to access the market, in which case, Registrant may choose to temporarily reduce its capital spending. During 2016, GSWC's company-funded capital expenditures are estimated to be approximately \$85—\$95 million, which may change once a decision is issued by the CPUC on the pending water rate case.

AWR's ability to pay cash dividends on its Common Shares outstanding depends primarily upon cash flows from GSWC. AWR intends to continue paying quarterly cash dividends in the future, on or about March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1, subject to earnings and financial conditions, regulatory requirements and such other factors as the Board of Directors may deem relevant. Registrant has paid dividends on its Common Shares for over 75 consecutive years. On January 26, 2016, AWR's Board of Directors approved a first quarter dividend of \$0.224 per share on AWR's Common Shares. Dividends on the Common Shares will be paid on March 1, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 16, 2016.

AWR's Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program in each of 2014 and 2015, authorizing AWR to repurchase up to 2.45 million shares of AWR's Common Shares. Under these programs, Registrant repurchased 1,905,000 and 545,000 Common Shares on the open market during 2015 and 2014, respectively. Both stock repurchase programs were completed in 2015. The repurchase programs were intended to enable AWR to achieve a consolidated shareholders' equity ratio as a percentage of total capitalization that is more reflective of the current CPUC-authorized equity ratio for GSWC and an equity ratio for ASUS that is more consistent with the government contracting industry. As of December 31, 2015, the ratio is 59% equity and 41% debt. Based upon current expectations, including the projected infrastructure needs of GSWC and the expected growth of ASUS, which is currently not capital intensive, management does not anticipate AWR will conduct a secondary offering of its Common Shares in the near term.

#### Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

Cash flows from operating activities have generally generated sufficient cash to fund operating requirements, including a portion of construction expenditures, and pay dividends. Registrant's future cash flows from operating activities are expected to be affected by a number of factors, including utility regulation; infrastructure investment; maintenance expenses; inflation; compliance with environmental, health and safety standards; production costs; customer growth; per customer usage of water and electricity; weather and seasonality; conservation efforts; compliance with local governmental requirements, including mandatory restrictions on water use; and required cash contributions to pension and post-retirement plans. Cash flows are also affected by drought-related costs resulting from the California Governor's order to reduce overall water usage by an aggregate statewide reduction of 25% as compared to 2013. GSWC has been authorized by the CPUC to track incremental drought-related costs incurred in a memorandum account for possible future recovery. In addition, future cash flows from contracted services subsidiaries will depend on new business activities, existing operations, the construction of new and/or replacement infrastructure at military bases, timely redetermination, economic price and equitable adjustment of prices and timely collection of payments from the U.S. government and other prime contractors operating at the military bases.

Cash flows from operating activities are primarily generated by net income, adjusted for non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization, and deferred income taxes. Cash generated by operations varies during the year. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$95.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$163.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, and \$135.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. The decrease in operating cash flow during 2015 was due, in large part, to a decrease in customer water usage resulting from conservation efforts, which lowered customer billings at GSWC and increased the WRAM regulatory assets. There was also a decrease in cash generated by ASUS due to the timing of billing and cash receipts for construction work at military bases during the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. The billings (and cash receipts) for construction work at ASUS generally occur at completion of the work or in accordance with a billing schedule contractually agreed to with the U.S. government and/or other prime contractors. During the year ended December 31, 2014, cash payments were received for the completion of several large capital upgrade projects that did not recur during the same period in 2015. Cash flow from construction-related activities will fluctuate from period to period with such fluctuations representing timing differences of when the work is performed and when the cash is received for payment of such work. These decreases were partially offset by lower income tax payments made during 2015 mainly due to the implementation of new tax repair regulations during the fourth quarter of 2014.

The increase in net cash provided by operating activities during 2014 compared to 2013 was primarily due to cash generated by contracted services resulting from the billing of and cash receipts for several large capital upgrade projects at military bases. The timing of cash receipts and disbursements related to other working capital items also affected the changes in net cash provided by operating activities.

#### Cash Flows from Investing Activities:

Net cash used in investing activities was \$90.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$74.1 million used in 2014 and \$98.8 million used in 2013. The capital expenditures incurred in 2015 were consistent with GSWC's capital investment program and were higher than in 2014. Capital expenditures during 2014 were lower due to project delays for several projects at GSWC. Project delays in 2014 resulted from new paving moratoriums, additional paving requirements imposed by local cities and a delay in drilling a well because suitable groundwater was not found in the area. Registrant expects 2016 company-funded capital expenditures to be between \$85 and \$95 million, which may change once a decision is issued by the CPUC on the pending water rate case.

Registrant invests capital to provide essential services to its regulated customer base, while working with its regulators to have the opportunity to earn a fair rate of return on investment. Registrant's infrastructure investment plan consists of both infrastructure renewal programs, where infrastructure is replaced, as needed, and major capital investment projects, where new water treatment and delivery facilities are constructed. GSWC may also be required from time to time to relocate existing infrastructure in order to accommodate local infrastructure improvement projects. Projected capital expenditures and other investments are subject to periodic review and revision.

ASUS funds its operating expenses primarily through internal operating sources, which include U.S. government funding under 50-year contracts for operations and maintenance costs and construction activities, as well as investments by, or loans from, AWR. ASUS, in turn, provides funding to its subsidiaries.

Cash used for other investments consists primarily of cash invested in a trust for a retirement benefit plan.

#### Cash Flows from Financing Activities:

Registrant's financing activities include primarily: (i) the sale proceeds from, and repurchase of, Common Shares and stock option exercises and short-term and long-term debt; (ii) the issuance and repayment of long-term debt and notes payable to banks; and (iii) the payment of dividends on Common Shares. In order to finance new infrastructure, Registrant also receives customer advances (net of refunds) for, and contributions in aid of, construction. Short-term borrowings are used to fund capital expenditures until long-term financing is arranged.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$76.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$51.4 million and \$22.2 million for the same periods in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The increase in cash used during 2015 and 2014 as compared to 2013 was primarily due to the repurchase of approximately \$72.9 million and \$17.2 million, respectively, in AWR Common Shares as part of the stock repurchase programs approved by the Board of Directors. Additionally, GSWC repaid \$21.3 million of long-term debt, including the redemption of \$15 million in certain long-term notes, in 2014. There were also decreases in cash receipts from advances for, and contributions in aid of, construction for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. The amount of cash receipts from advances for, and contributions in aid of, construction will fluctuate from period to period depending on the level of activities from developers. AWR also increased the dividend payment in 2015 and 2014 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. These increases in cash used in financing activities were partially offset by proceeds from an increase in short-term borrowings under Registrant's revolving credit line of \$28.0 million in 2015 and the issuance of long-term debt, net of issuance costs, of \$14.8 million in 2014.

#### **GSWC**

GSWC funds the majority of its operating expenses, payments on its debt, and dividends on its outstanding common shares and a portion of its construction expenditures 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, conservation efforts, environmental regulation, litigation, deferred taxes, changes in supply costs and regulatory decisions affecting GSWC's ability to recover these supply costs, timing of rate relief, increases in maintenance expenses and capital expenditures, surcharges authorized by the CPUC to enable GSWC to recover expenses previously incurred from customers and CPUC requirements to refund amounts previously charged to customers. As previously discussed, GSWC has been authorized by the CPUC to track incremental drought-related costs incurred in a memorandum account for possible future recovery.

GSWC may, at times, utilize external sources, including equity investments and short-term borrowings from AWR, and long-term debt to help fund a portion of its construction expenditures. In addition, GSWC receives advances and contributions from customers, home builders and real estate developers to fund construction necessary to extend service to new areas. Advances for construction are generally refundable at a rate of 2.5% in equal annual installments over 40 years. Amounts which are no longer refundable are reclassified to contributions in aid of construction. Utility plant funded by advances and contributions is excluded from rate base. Generally, GSWC amortizes contributions in aid of construction at the same composite rate of depreciation for the related property.

As is often the case with public utilities, GSWC's current liabilities may at times exceed its current assets. Management believes that internally generated funds along with the proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt, borrowings from AWR and Common Shares issuances to AWR will be adequate to provide sufficient capital to enable GSWC to maintain normal operations and to meet its capital and financing requirements pending recovery of costs in rates.

#### Cash Flows from Operating Activities:

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$97.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$132.7 million and \$138.2 million for the same periods in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decrease in 2015 compared to 2014 is primarily due to a decrease in customer water usage resulting from conservation efforts, which lowers customer billings and increases the WRAM regulatory assets. This was partially offset by lower income tax payments made during 2015 mainly due to the implementation of new tax repair regulations during the fourth quarter of 2014.



The decrease in 2014 compared to 2013 was partly due to the expiration of certain CPUC-approved water surcharges implemented in mid-2013 in connection with the CPUC's May 2013 final decision on the water general rate case. The CPUC approved recovery of previously incurred costs in the general rate case final decision. There was also an increase in pension contributions during 2014 as compared to 2013. These items were partially offset by lower tax payments made during 2014 as a result of a tax method change for repairs and maintenance deductions. The timing of cash receipts and disbursements related to working capital items affected the changes in net cash provided by operating activities.

*Cash Flows from Investing Activities:*

Net cash used in investing activities was \$89.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$72.0 million and \$98.6 million for the same periods in 2014 and 2013, respectively. As previously discussed, the capital expenditures incurred in 2015 were consistent with GSWC's capital investment program. Capital expenditures were lower during 2014 due to project delays for several projects at GSWC. Registrant expects 2016 company-funded capital expenditures to be between \$85 and \$95 million, which may change once a decision is issued by the CPUC on the pending water rate case. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC had capital expenditures of \$86.1 million, \$70.9 million and \$96.7 million, respectively.

During 2013, GSWC executed an interest-bearing note from AWR which expires in May 2018, whereby AWR may borrow up to \$20.0 million for working capital purposes. This amount was increased to \$40.0 million in 2015. During 2013, AWR borrowed \$18.2 million from GSWC, of which \$17.7 million was repaid by AWR during that year. During 2014, AWR temporarily borrowed \$8.3 million from GSWC, all of which was repaid during 2014. During 2015, AWR temporarily borrowed \$20.7 million from GSWC, all of which was repaid during 2015. As of December 31, 2015, there were no amounts outstanding under this note.

*Cash Flows from Financing Activities:*

Net cash used in financing activities was \$50.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to cash used of \$54.6 million and \$24.3 million for the same periods in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The increase in cash used in financing activities during 2015 and 2014 as compared to 2013 was due to an increase in dividends paid by GSWC to AWR and a decrease in cash receipts from advances for, and contributions in aid of, construction. Additionally, GSWC repaid \$21.3 million of long-term debt, including the redemption of \$15 million in certain long-term notes, in 2014. These increases in cash used in financing activities were partially offset by proceeds from inter-company borrowings from AWR of \$12.0 million in 2015.

## **Contractual Obligations, Commitments and Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements**

Registrant has various contractual obligations which are recorded as liabilities in the consolidated financial statements. Other items, such as certain purchase commitments and operating leases are not recognized as liabilities in the consolidated financial statements, but are required to be disclosed.

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 payments to service debt are generally made from cash flows from operations.

The following table reflects Registrant's contractual obligations and commitments to make future payments pursuant to contracts as of December 31, 2015. All obligations and commitments are obligations and commitments of GSWC unless otherwise noted.

(\$ in thousands)	Payments/Commitments Due by Period (1)				
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
Notes/Debentures (2)	\$ 187,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 187,000
Private Placement Notes (3)	123,000	—	—	40,000	83,000
Tax-Exempt Obligations (4)	11,730	138	286	301	11,005
Other Debt Instruments (5)	4,123	174	368	363	3,218
Total AWR Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 325,853</u>	<u>\$ 312</u>	<u>654</u>	<u>\$ 40,664</u>	<u>\$ 284,223</u>
Interest on Long-Term Debt (6)	\$ 318,922	\$ 21,646	\$ 43,226	\$ 38,285	\$ 215,765
Advances for Construction (7)	71,255	3,214	6,429	6,429	55,183
Renewable Energy Credit Agreement (8)	3,667	117	791	901	1,858
Purchased Power Contracts (9)	24,755	6,694	12,542	5,519	—
Capital Expenditure Commitments (10)	44,535	44,535	—	—	—
Water Purchase Agreements (11)	5,537	393	787	787	3,570
Operating Leases (12)	9,663	2,526	3,868	2,439	830
Employer Contributions (13)	14,921	5,515	9,406	—	—
SUB-TOTAL	<u>\$ 493,255</u>	<u>\$ 84,640</u>	<u>\$ 77,049</u>	<u>\$ 54,360</u>	<u>\$ 277,206</u>
Other Commitments (14)	<u>14,509</u>				
TOTAL	<u>\$ 833,617</u>				

(1) Excludes dividends and facility fees.

(2) The notes and debentures have been issued by GSWC under an Indenture dated September 1, 1993, as amended in December 2008. The notes and debentures do not contain any financial covenants that Registrant believes to be material or any cross default provisions.

(3) GSWC issued private placement notes in the amount of \$28 million pursuant to the terms of note purchase agreements with substantially similar terms. These 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 terms of these agreements, GSWC must maintain a minimum interest coverage ratio of two times interest expense. In addition, two senior notes in the amount of \$40 million each were issued by GSWC in October 2005 and in March 2009 to CoBank, ACB. A senior note in the amount of \$15 million was issued to The Prudential Insurance Company of America in December 2014. Under the terms of these senior notes, GSWC may not incur any additional debt or pay any distributions to its shareholders if, after giving effect thereto, it would have a debt to capitalization ratio in excess of 0.6667-to-1 or a debt to Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA") ratio of more than 8-to-1. GSWC is in compliance with these covenant provisions as of December 31, 2015. GSWC does not currently have any outstanding mortgages or other liens on indebtedness on its properties.

- (4) Consists of obligations at GSWC related to: (i) a loan agreement supporting \$7.7 million in outstanding debt issued by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority, and (ii) \$4.0 million of obligations with respect to GSWC's 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. In regards to its SWP entitlement, GSWC has entered into agreements with various developers for a portion of its 500 acre-foot entitlement to water from the SWP.
- (5) Consists of (i) \$4.0 million outstanding representing the debt portion of funds received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") for reimbursements of capital costs related to the installation of meters for conversion of non-metered service to metered service in GSWC's Arden-Cordova District, and (ii) \$89,000 outstanding under a variable rate obligation of GSWC incurred to fund construction of water delivery facilities with the Three Valleys Municipal Water District. These obligations do not contain any financial covenants believed to be material to Registrant or any cross default provisions.
- (6) Consists of expected interest expense payments based on the assumption that GSWC's long-term debt remains outstanding until maturity. Current interest rates were used to estimate expected interest expense payments on variable-rate long-term debt.
- (7) Advances for construction represent annual contract refunds by GSWC to developers for the cost of water systems paid for by the developers. The advances are generally refundable in equal annual installments over 40-year periods.
- (8) Consists of an agreement by GSWC to purchase a total of 582,000 renewable energy credits through 2023. These renewable energy credits are used by GSWC's electric division to meet California's renewables portfolio standard.
- (9) Consists of fixed-cost purchased power contracts effective January 1, 2015 between BVES and Shell Energy North America (US), L.P. and EDF Trading North America, LLC.
- (10) Consists of noncancelable commitments primarily for capital projects under signed contracts at GSWC.
- (11) Water purchase agreements consist of: (i) a remaining amount of \$3.0 million under an agreement expiring in 2028 to lease water rights from a third party, and (ii) an aggregate amount of \$2.5 million of other water purchase commitments with other third parties which expire through 2038.
- (12) Reflects future minimum payments under noncancelable operating leases for both GSWC and ASUS.
- (13) Consists of expected contributions to Registrant's pension plan for the years 2016 through 2018. Contribution to the pension plan will be the higher of the minimum required contribution under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") or the contribution amounts that are recovered in customer rates and approved by the CPUC. These amounts are estimates and are subject to change based on, among other things, the limits established for federal tax deductibility (pension plan) and the significant impact that returns on plan assets and changes in discount rates have on such amounts.
- (14) Other commitments consist primarily of: (i) a \$4.2 million asset retirement obligation of GSWC that reflects the retirement of wells by GSWC, which by law need to be properly capped at the time of removal; (ii) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$340,000 for the deductible in Registrant's business automobile insurance policy; (iii) an irrevocable letter of credit issued on behalf of GSWC in the amount of \$585,000 as security for the purchase of power by GSWC under an energy scheduling agreement with Automated Power Exchange; (iv) \$5.8 million in letters of credit issued on behalf of GSWC representing a percentage of total ARRA funds received for reimbursement of capital costs related to the installation of meters for conversion of non-metered service to metered service in GSWC's Arden-Cordova district; (v) a \$15,000 irrevocable letter of credit issued on behalf of GSWC pursuant to a franchise agreement with the City of Rancho Cordova, and (vi) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$3.6 million pursuant to a settlement agreement with Southern California Edison Company to cover GSWC'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 from Moody's or S&P of Baa3 or BBB-, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, AWR was in compliance with these covenants with an interest coverage ratio of 7.68 times interest expense, a debt ratio of 0.44-to-1.00 and debt ratings of A+ and A2.

## **Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements**

As noted above, Registrant has various contractual obligations which are recorded as liabilities in the consolidated financial statements. Other items, such as certain purchase commitments and operating leases, are not recognized as liabilities in the consolidated financial statements, but are required to be disclosed. Except for those disclosed above in the table, Registrant does not have any other off-balance-sheet arrangements.

## **Effects of Inflation**

The rates of GSWC are established to provide recovery of costs and a fair return on shareholders' investment. Recovery of the effects of inflation through higher water rates is dependent upon receiving adequate and timely rate increases. However, authorized rates charged to customers are usually based on a forecast of expenses and capital costs for GSWC. Rates may lag increases in costs caused by unanticipated inflation. During periods of moderate to low inflation, as has been experienced for the past several years, the effects of inflation on operating results have not been significant. Furthermore, the CPUC approves projections for a future test year in general rate cases which reduces the impact of inflation to the extent that GSWC's inflation forecasts are accurate.

For the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries, under the terms of the contracts with the U.S. government, the contract price is subject to (a) price redetermination every three years after the initial two years of the contract, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, and include adjustments to reflect changes in operating conditions, as well as inflation in costs, or (b) an economic price adjustment on an annual basis. ASUS has experienced delays in some of its previous redetermination of prices. However, when adjustments are finalized, they are implemented retroactively to the effective date of the price redetermination.

## **Climate Change**

### *Water:*

Based on historical data for greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions generated from its water operations, GSWC has developed a baseline carbon footprint. Annually, GSWC compares the GHG emissions generated by its water operations to this baseline as part of monitoring its carbon footprint and making efforts to reduce it. Additionally, GSWC's ongoing operations and maintenance activities include, among other things, pump-efficiency-testing programs to monitor the performance of its pumping facilities.

In addition, as part of the planning process, GSWC intends to continue to assess the possible impact climate change may have on its water supply and operations.

### *Electric:*

The California Air Resources Board ("CARB") published regulations in December 2011 establishing a California cap-and-trade program under which the first compliance period commenced with the 2013 GHG Emissions Report. While BVES's power-plant emissions are below the reporting threshold, as a "Covered Entity" BVES has an obligation to file a report in June of each year under the program.

The CPUC issued a final decision in December 2011 establishing renewable-energy-procurement-requirement timelines. BVES has entered into a ten-year contract for renewable energy credits that was approved by the CPUC. As a result of this agreement, BVES believes it will be in compliance with both the CPUC's past renewable-energy-procurement requirements and future requirements through 2023.

BVES is also required to comply with the CPUC's emission performance standards ("EPS") regarding GHG emissions. Under these standards, BVES must file an annual attestation with the CPUC stating that BVES is in compliance with the EPS. Specifically, BVES must attest to having no new ownership investment in generation facilities or no long-term commitments for generation. In January 2016, BVES filed with the CPUC stating that BVES was in compliance with the EPS for 2015.

At this time, management cannot estimate the impact, if any, that these regulations may have on the cost of BVES's power plant operations or the cost of BVES's purchased power from third party providers.

## **BVES Power-Supply Arrangements**

BVES began taking power effective January 1, 2015 at a fixed cost over three and five year terms depending on the amount of power and period during which the power is purchased under contracts approved by the CPUC in December 2015. During 2014, BVES's power purchases were based on month-to-month arrangements, as the previous purchase power contract had expired in 2013.

In addition to the purchased power contracts, BVES buys additional energy to meet peak demand and sells surplus power as needed. The average cost of power purchased, including the transactions in the spot market, was approximately \$46.39 per MWh for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to \$48.00 per MWh for the same period of 2014. BVES's average energy costs are impacted by pricing fluctuations on the spot market. However, BVES has implemented an electric-supply-cost balancing account, as approved by the CPUC, to alleviate any impacts to earnings.

## **Construction Program**

GSWC maintains an ongoing water distribution main replacement program throughout its customer service areas based on the age and type of distribution-system materials, priority of leaks detected, remaining productive life of the distribution system and an underlying replacement schedule. In addition, GSWC upgrades its electric and water supply facilities in accordance with industry standards, local requirements and CPUC requirements. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has unconditional purchase obligations for capital projects of approximately \$44.5 million. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC had capital expenditures of \$95.5 million, \$65.4 million and \$104.8 million, respectively. A portion of these capital expenditures is funded by developers through advances, which must be repaid, or contributions in aid of construction, which are not required to be repaid. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, capital expenditures funded by developers were \$4.4 million, \$4.6 million and \$5.9 million, respectively. During 2016, GSWC's company-funded capital expenditures are estimated to be approximately \$85—\$95 million, which may change once a decision is issued by the CPUC on the pending water rate case.

## **Contracted Services**

Under the terms of the current utility privatization contracts with the U.S. government, each contract's price is subject to (a) price redetermination every three years after the initial two years of the contract, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, or (b) an economic price adjustment on an annual basis. In the event that ASUS (i) is managing more assets at specific military bases than were included in the U.S. government's request for proposal; (ii) is managing assets that are in substandard condition as compared to what was disclosed in the request for proposal; (iii) prudently incurs costs not contemplated under the terms of the utility privatization contract; and/or (iv) becomes subject to new regulatory requirements, such as more stringent water-quality standards, ASUS is permitted to file, and has filed, requests for equitable adjustment ("REA"). The timely filing for and receipt of price redeterminations and/or economic price adjustments continues to be critical in order for ASUS to recover increasing costs of operating and maintaining, and renewing and replacing, the water and/or wastewater systems at the military bases it serves.

In 2011, Congress enacted the Budget Control Act (the "Act") which committed the U.S. government to significantly reduce the federal deficit over ten years. The Act called for very substantial automatic spending cuts, known as "sequestration," that have impacted the expected levels of Department of Defense budgeting. ASUS has not experienced any earnings impact to its existing operations and maintenance and renewal and replacement services, as utility privatization contracts are an "excepted service" within the Act. While the ongoing effects of sequestration have been mitigated through the passage of a fiscal year 2016 Department of Defense budget, similar issues may arise as part of fiscal uncertainty and/or future debt-ceiling-limit debates in Congress. However, any future impact on ASUS and its operations will likely be limited to the timing of funding to pay for services rendered, delays in the processing of price redeterminations or economic price adjustments, issuance of contract modifications for new construction work not already funded by the U.S. government, and/or delays in the solicitation and/or awarding of new utility privatization opportunities under the Department of Defense utility privatization program.

The timing of future filings of price redeterminations may be impacted by government actions, including audits or reviews by the DCAA and/or the DCMA. Both DCAA and DCMA conduct, at times at the request of a contracting officer, audits/reviews of contractors for compliance with government guidance and regulations such as Federal Acquisition Regulations ("FAR"), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplements ("DFARS") and, as applicable, Cost Accounting Standards ("CAS"). If the DCAA/DCMA believes ASUS and/or its subsidiaries have accounted for costs in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of FAR, DFARS or applicable CAS, the auditor may recommend to the U.S. government



administrative contracting officer that such costs be disallowed. In addition, certain audit findings such as system deficiencies for government-contract-business-system requirements may result in delays in the timing of resolution of price redetermination filings and/or the ability to file new proposals with the U.S. government. At times, the processing of our filing of price redeterminations and requests for equitable adjustment may be delayed pending the outcome of such audits/reviews or upon mutual agreement with the U.S. government.

Below is a summary of significant projects, price redeterminations, REAs, and other filings by subsidiaries of ASUS. With the issuance of modifications on price redeterminations as noted below, ASUS is current on all such filings for contracts at all of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.

- FBWS - A filing to operate and maintain the East Bliss area at Fort Bliss was finalized in the third quarter of 2014, which, in addition to providing additional funding for operations and maintenance ("O&M") and renewal and replacement ("R&R"), included approximately \$2.9 million of funding for East Bliss capital upgrade modifications, which were approximately 93.2% complete as of December 31, 2015. The fourth price redetermination for Fort Bliss was filed in the third quarter of 2015 and is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2016.
- TUS - The second price redetermination, covering the period February 2011 through January 2014, was approved in September 2014. This agreement, which included a true-up of infrastructure to be operated by TUS, provided for an annualized increase in O&M and R&R fees. The third price redetermination, for the period February 2014 through January 2017, was finalized through the issuance of a contract modification in July 2015.
- ODUS - The second and third price redeterminations for the Fort Lee privatization contract in Virginia, for the six-year period beginning February 2011, and for the other bases that ODUS operates in Virginia, for the six-year period beginning April 2011, were finalized through the issuance of contract modifications in September 2015.

REA filings were made in 2015 to recover costs associated with work done at Joint-Base Langley Eustis, VA, under a new capital upgrade project. The REAs covered work that was approved to be performed by the base and included requests for additional revenue totaling \$630,000. These REAs are expected to be resolved in the first quarter of 2016.

ODUS filed an REA to recover added costs incurred for a major R&R project. These costs had been included in the previously mentioned redeterminations but were withdrawn to be included in this REA. ODUS expects this filing to be resolved early in the first quarter of 2016.

- PSUS - The first price redetermination for PSUS was approved in September 2014. The approved agreement provided for an annual increase in operations and maintenance fees above the previously approved level. The second redetermination for Fort Jackson, covering the period mid-February 2013 through mid-February 2016, was finalized through the issuance of a contract modification in September 2015.
- ONUS - The second price redetermination for the period covering March 2013 through February 2016 was approved in September 2014, resulting in an annualized increase in operations and maintenance fees as well as an annualized increase in R&R funding.

In March 2012, ONUS received a contract modification based on a request for equitable adjustment regarding installation of new water meters at Fort Bragg. The contract modification provided for a reduction in the number of water meters to be installed and reduced the price associated with the revised scope. This project commenced during the second quarter of 2012 and was completed in the fourth quarter of 2015.

## **Regulatory Matters**

### ***Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity***

GSWC holds Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") granted by the CPUC in each of the ratemaking areas it serves. FBWS holds a CPCN from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The Virginia State Corporation Commission exercises jurisdiction over ODUS as a public service company. The Maryland Public Service Commission approved the right of TUS to operate as a water and wastewater utility at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, based on certain conditions. The South Carolina Public Service Commission exercises jurisdiction over PSUS as a public service company. ONUS is regulated by the North Carolina Public Service Commission.

### ***Rate Regulation***

GSWC is subject to regulation by the CPUC, which has broad authority over service and facilities, rates, classification 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.

Rates that GSWC is authorized to charge are determined by the CPUC in general rate cases and are derived using rate base, cost of service and cost of capital, as projected for a future test year. 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 fair return on rate base. Rate base generally consists of the original cost of utility plant in service, 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.

GSWC is required to file a water general rate case ("GRC") application every three years according to a schedule established by the CPUC. GRCs typically include an increase in the first test year with inflation-rate adjustments for expenses for the second and third years of the GRC cycle. For capital projects, there are two test years. Rates are based on a forecast of expenses and capital costs for each test year. Electric GRCs are typically filed every four years.

Rates may also be increased by offsets for certain expense increases, including, but not limited to, supply-cost offset and balancing-account amortization, advice letter filings related to certain plant additions and other operating cost increases.

Neither the operations nor rates of AWR and ASUS are directly regulated by the CPUC. The CPUC does, however, regulate certain transactions between GSWC and ASUS and between GSWC and AWR.

### ***Changes in Rates***

In May 2013, the CPUC issued a final decision on GSWC's water general rate case approving rates for 2013 through 2015 at GSWC's three water regions, and which include recovery of costs incurred at the general office. The rates were retroactive to January 1, 2013 and generated approximately \$10 million in additional annual revenues in 2013 as compared to 2012 adopted revenues. The adopted water gross margin increased by approximately \$14 million, or 6.6%, when compared to the 2012 CPUC-adopted water gross margin. The CPUC also approved attrition year rate increases for five rate-making areas effective January 1, 2014. Attrition rate increases are based on an earnings test and inflation factors.

During 2014, the CPUC also approved rate increases at two of GSWC's largest rate-making areas related to supply-cost increases experienced in those rate-making areas, which on an annual basis are expected to increase revenue by approximately \$6 million. These increases in revenues are offset by a corresponding increase in supply cost, resulting in no impact to earnings.

### ***Changes in Rates for 2015***

The CPUC approved third-year water rate increases effective January 1, 2015. These increases, in addition to rate increases for approval of advice letters for the completion of certain capital projects, as well as for supply-cost increases, increased adopted water revenues by \$5.7 million as compared to 2014 and increased the adopted water gross margin for 2015 by approximately \$2.6 million as compared to the gross margin in 2014. Attrition rate increases are based on an earnings test and inflation factors.

For BVES, the CPUC-approved base revenues for 2015, including approval of advice letters for the completion of certain capital projects, generated an additional \$500,000 in revenues as compared to the adopted 2014 base revenues.

### ***Pending Rate Requests***

In July 2014, GSWC filed a GRC for all of its water regions and the general office. The application will determine rates for the years 2016—2018. GSWC's requested capital budgets in the application average approximately \$90 million a year for the three-year period. The 2016 water gross margin is expected to decrease as compared to the currently adopted levels due, in part, to a decrease in annual depreciation expense resulting from an updated depreciation study and other expenses. Hearings for the rate case were completed in June 2015, and settlements for certain items and legal briefs were filed in July 2015. The consumption levels used to calculate rates for 2016—2018 and incorporated into the settlement with the CPUC's Office of Ratepayer Advocates ("ORA") reflect the state-mandated conservation targets for each ratemaking area. In April 2015, a special phase of the rate case was authorized by the CPUC in order to address a specific matter within one of GSWC's

service areas. In September 2015, a settlement was reached between GSWC and ORA, whereby GSWC agreed to additional reporting requirements. The CPUC issued a decision adopting the settlement.

In July 2015, GSWC filed a motion with the CPUC for interim water rates to be effective January 1, 2016 in the event the CPUC did not issue a final decision on the water GRC by January 1, 2016. As part of the filing, GSWC also requested authorization to establish a memorandum account to track the difference between the interim rates, which GSWC proposed to remain at current levels, and final rates once approved by the CPUC. The CPUC approved this filing in October 2015. A final decision on this rate case is expected by the end of the second quarter of 2016, with new rates retroactive to January 1, 2016.

### ***Cost of Capital Proceedings for Water Regions***

In July 2012, the CPUC issued a decision on GSWC's last water cost-of-capital proceeding. Among other things, the decision authorized GSWC to continue the Water Cost of Capital Mechanism ("WCCM"). The WCCM adjusts ROE and rate of return on rate base between the three-year cost of capital proceedings only if there is a positive or negative change of more than 100 basis points in the average of the Moody's Aa utility bond rate as measured over the period October 1 through September 30. If the average Moody's rate for this period changes by over 100 basis points from the benchmark, the ROE will be adjusted by one half of the difference. Since 2012, there has not been a change by more than 100 basis points from the benchmark. As a result, GSWC's current water ROE of 9.43% remained unchanged from 2013 through 2015.

GSWC was scheduled to file its next cost-of-capital application in March 2016 based on an extension previously granted. In December 2015, GSWC, along with three other Class A California water companies, filed a request with the CPUC for a further extension by which each of them is required to file its next cost-of-capital application. The water companies requested approval to postpone this filing date by one additional year until March 31, 2017, with a corresponding effective date of January 1, 2018 in compliance with the CPUC's rate case plan. GSWC believes that the current economic environment is such that a change from the currently adopted return on equity would be small. On February 1, 2016, the CPUC approved the one-year extension, until March 31, 2017, by which date each Class A Utility must file its next cost-of-capital application.

### ***BVES General Rate Case***

In BVES's previous GRC decision, the CPUC adopted an uncontested settlement agreement between BVES, ORA and three other parties, which resolved many of the issues in that GRC proceeding. Included in the settlement adopted by the CPUC was a provision that BVES would file its next GRC application on or prior to January 31, 2016. In November 2015, BVES filed a petition to modify the GRC decision requesting a change to the provision of the settlement that would defer the GRC filing by one year, to January 31, 2017. In February 2016, the administrative law judge issued a proposed decision granting BVES's request to defer the GRC to January 31, 2017. The CPUC is expected to vote on the proposed decision during the first quarter of 2016.

### ***Nipomo Supplemental Water Project***

In November 2015, GSWC filed an application to recover the costs of a water supply project intended to deliver water to the Nipomo Mesa area in GSWC's Santa Maria ratemaking area. In February 2016, GSWC and ORA jointly filed a motion to adopt a settlement, which would resolve all of the cost-recovery issues in GSWC's application.

### ***Other Regulatory Matters***

#### ***New Service Territory Application, Sutter County:***

On June 26, 2014, the CPUC approved a CPCN application granting GSWC the authority to provide water utility services to an area to be developed near Sacramento, in Sutter County, California, called Sutter Pointe. The CPUC's decision approved a settlement that was jointly filed by GSWC, Sutter County, the Sutter Pointe Developers, and a coalition of Sutter County residents. With the CPUC's approval, GSWC will create a water service district to supply the Sutter Pointe development with groundwater and surface water from the Sacramento River. The project will involve the construction of underground infrastructure and groundwater wells with a treatment plant and storage facility to serve retail, industrial and approximately 17,000 residential customers at final build-out. The decision also sets a cap on the revenue requirement per Sutter Pointe customer during the first two rate cycles. As part of the agreement, GSWC will also request approval from the CPUC to acquire the water system that currently serves the community of Robbins in Sutter County. In August 2014, ORA filed an application for rehearing on the application. In 2015, the CPUC, in response to ORA's Application for Rehearing, granted a limited rehearing. The rehearing is limited to the single issue of the rate cap adopted by the CPUC. GSWC is

scheduled to file testimony on that issue in March 2016, with hearings scheduled later in 2016. At this time, management cannot predict the outcome of any rehearing.

*New Service Territory Application, Westborough Development, Sacramento County:*

On October 12, 2004, GSWC and Aerojet-General Corporation (“Aerojet”) reached a settlement relating to groundwater contamination impacting GSWC’s Arden-Cordova Water System. Portions of the settlement called for GSWC to serve new territory, subject to CPUC approval, on property owned by Aerojet known as Westborough. Aerojet and GSWC are working cooperatively to identify and implement the best alternative to meet the long-term water supply needs of GSWC’s Rancho Cordova customers within the Arden-Cordova service area as well as supply for the new Westborough development area owned by Aerojet. The County of Sacramento and the City of Folsom, through various arrangements, have agreed not to protest GSWC’s application to the CPUC for a CPCN for this territory.

GSWC intends to file with the CPUC to incorporate the Westborough development in Sacramento County into the Rancho Cordova service area and to provide water service to that new development following completion of a water supply solution for the area.

*Affiliate Transaction Rules:*

Rules adopted by the CPUC regarding affiliate transactions and use of regulated assets establish a standard set of rules to govern transactions between a regulated water utility, its parent, and other affiliated companies. Registrant monitors its cost allocation and management of the regulated and non-regulated segments for compliance with these rules.

*Balanced Rates Order Instituting Ratemaking:*

In April 2015, the CPUC issued a ruling establishing a second phase to its on-going rulemaking addressing the CPUC's Water Action Plan objective of setting rates that balance investment, conservation, and affordability. The intended purpose of the second phase is to review the CPUC’s water-conservation rate structure, tiered rates, forecasting methods, accounting mechanisms and other standards and programs that guide water investor-owned utility rates, charges, and cost recovery. In September 2015, the assigned Administrative Law Judge issued a ruling setting a schedule, including workshops, and indicated that the CPUC would like to explore realignment of the utility ratemaking process. At the conclusion of the workshops in October 2015, the CPUC suspended the remaining schedule for the proceeding until further notice. GSWC cannot predict the final outcome of this proceeding.

For more information regarding significant regulatory matters, see Note 2 of “Notes to Financial Statements” included in Part II, Item 8, in Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

**Environmental Matters**

AWR’s subsidiaries are subject to stringent environmental regulations, including the 1996 amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

GSWC is required to comply with the safe drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the Division of Drinking Water (“DDW”), under the State Water Resources Control Board (“SWRCB”). The EPA regulates contaminants that may have adverse health effects that 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 DDW, acting on behalf of the EPA, administers the EPA’s program in California. Similar state agencies administer these rules in the other states in which Registrant operates.

GSWC currently tests its water supplies and water systems according to, among other things, requirements listed in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (“SDWA”). In compliance with the SDWA and to assure a safe drinking water supply to its customers, GSWC has incurred operating costs for testing to determine the levels, if any, of the constituents in its sources of supply and additional expense to treat contaminants in order to meet the federal and state maximum contaminant level (“MCL”) standards and consumer demands. GSWC expects to incur additional capital costs as well as increased operating costs to maintain or improve the quality of water delivered to its customers in light of anticipated stress on water resources associated with watershed and aquifer pollution, as well as to meet future water quality standards. The CPUC ratemaking process provides GSWC with the opportunity to recover prudently incurred capital and operating costs in future filings associated with achieving water quality standards. Management believes that such incurred and expected future costs should be authorized for recovery by the CPUC.

### ***Matters Relating to GSWC's Arden-Cordova Water System***

In GSWC's Arden-Cordova system, several wells have been removed from service and destroyed due to perchlorate, and/or nitrosodimethylamine levels that exceed the regulatory standards or notification levels.

It is believed that this contamination is related to the activities of Aerojet who has, in the past, used ammonium perchlorate in oxidizing rocket fuels.

On October 12, 2004, GSWC and Aerojet reached a settlement relating to this contamination. Under the terms of the settlement, Aerojet paid GSWC \$8.7 million in 2004 and paid an additional \$8 million over a period of five years from 2009 through 2013, plus interest. These payments offset GSWC's costs of utility plant and purchased water of \$16 million and \$735,000, respectively incurred in addressing the water supply impacted by this contamination.

GSWC and Aerojet are developing alternatives to meet the water supply needs of GSWC to ensure a continued reliable and safe water supply for GSWC's Rancho Cordova customers within the Arden-Cordova service area as well as supply for the new Westborough development area owned by Aerojet.

### ***Matters Relating to GSWC's Florence Graham Water System***

Perchlorate has been detected in three wells servicing GSWC's Florence-Graham System. Two of these wells exceeded the perchlorate drinking water standard and were removed from service. Continued monitoring shows that perchlorate levels are increasing in these wells. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is partnering with the Department of Toxic Substances Control to examine the perchlorate contamination in this area and is trying to determine the source(s) of the plume.

To maintain reliable water supply within the Florence-Graham system, GSWC used blending and treatment to return the two wells to service in 2014.

### ***Matters Relating to GSWC's Norwalk Water System***

Volatile Organic Compounds ("VOCs") have been detected in seven wells in GSWC's Norwalk Water System. Three of these wells are equipped with granular-activated carbon-filter treatment for VOC removal, three wells are run through an air-stripper treatment unit for VOC removal and one well is on stand-by. These wells are located within a Superfund site that the EPA has designated as the Omega Operable Unit 2. EPA is currently working on a remediation project to clean up the VOC plume. Recent modeling data have shown that at least three GSWC wells, and potentially more, are impacted by the Omega plume. GSWC intends to work closely with the EPA to ensure that the remediation plan proposed by the EPA will address GSWC's concerns regarding impacts to its water supply.

### ***Matters Relating to Environmental Cleanup***

GSWC has been involved in environmental remediation and cleanup at a plant site ("Chadron Plant") that contained an underground storage tank which was used to store gasoline for its vehicles. This tank was removed from the ground in July 1990 along with the dispenser and ancillary piping. Since then, GSWC has been involved in various remediation activities at this site. As of December 31, 2015, the total spent to cleanup and remediate GSWC's plant facility was approximately \$4.9 million, of which \$1.5 million has been paid by the State of California Underground Storage Tank Fund. Amounts paid by GSWC have been included in rate base and approved by the CPUC for recovery. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has a regulatory asset and an accrued liability for the estimated additional cost of \$1.4 million to complete the cleanup at the site. The estimate includes costs for two years of continued activities of groundwater cleanup and monitoring, future soil treatment, and site closure related activities. The ultimate cost may vary as there are many unknowns in remediation of underground gasoline spills and this is an estimate based on currently available information. Management also believes it is probable that the estimated additional costs will be approved in rate base by the CPUC.

### ***Matters Relating to Military Privatization Contracts***

Each of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries is responsible for testing the water and wastewater systems on the military bases on which it operates in accordance with applicable law.

Each of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries has the right to seek an equitable adjustment to its contract in the event that there are changes in environmental laws, a change in the quality of water used in providing water service or wastewater discharged by the U.S. government or contamination of the air or soil not caused by the fault or negligence of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiary. These changes can impact O&M and R&R costs under the contracts. The U.S. government is responsible for environmental contamination due to its fault or negligence and for environmental contamination that occurred prior to the execution of a contract.



## **Security Issues**

GSWC has implemented measures to increase security in accordance with a vulnerability assessment of its water systems and has upgraded its facilities to enhance the safety of water system operations. GSWC also has security systems and infrastructure in place intended to prevent cyber-attacks. Despite its efforts, GSWC cannot be assured that a cyber or terrorist attack will not cause water or electric system problems, disrupt service to customers, compromise important data or systems or result in unintended release of customer or employee information.

GSWC periodically revises its Emergency Response Plan and periodically conducts operational security exercises for all of its water systems. GSWC also considers advances in security technology and relevant industry developments in developing its capital-improvement plans. GSWC intends to seek approval of the CPUC to recover any additional costs that it incurs in enhancing the security of its water systems.

The Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries operate facilities within the boundaries of military bases which provide limited access to the general public. To further enhance security, in prior years, certain upgrades were completed at various military bases through contract modifications funded by the U.S. government.

## **California Drought**

In response to the ongoing drought experienced in California, in April 2015, the Governor of California passed an Executive Order directing the SWRCB to impose water-use restrictions to achieve an aggregate statewide 25% reduction in urban water use through February 2016, which has now been extended through October 31, 2016. In May 2015, the SWRCB adopted additional emergency regulations to meet the Governor's executive order. The reductions required by the SWRCB vary by area, depending on historical water use per capita and reductions through 2013. The emergency regulations also include mandatory restrictions on certain outdoor urban water uses. Any violation of these uses is considered a criminal offense with possible fines of up to \$500 per day. In addition, urban water suppliers are required to implement their Water Shortage Contingency Plans at a level that meets the SWRCB mandated reductions. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in potential fines of \$10,000 per day issued by the SWRCB.

In June 2015, GSWC filed updated drought response actions with the CPUC for each service area to meet the new mandates. In July 2015, the CPUC approved the filings. As a result, all of GSWC's water service areas are currently in Stage 1 of the Staged Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing Plan, which outlines restrictions for outdoor irrigation for GSWC water customers. Failure to comply with these restrictions could result in a written warning, installation of a flow restrictor (including fees for installation/removal) or termination of water service. If Stage 1 restrictions are deemed insufficient to achieve water use reductions, water allocations may be implemented as part of Stage 2, or higher, of the Staged Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing Plan. Compliance with the mandatory reductions may result in higher costs to customers and general dissatisfaction with the supply reduction mandates, resulting in increased complaints.

As previously mentioned, in February 2016 the SWRCB extended the mandatory restrictions through October 31, 2016. In addition, the SWRCB amended the required reductions, allowing limited allowances for warmer climate regions as well as credit for certain drought-resilient water-supply investments. Additional amendments to the allocations may be granted to account for growth in customers since January 1, 2013. Water suppliers must request amended reductions through application to the SWRCB by March 15, 2016. GSWC plans to apply for the amended reductions in certain of its service territories. GSWC intends to implement Stage 2 or higher of the Staged Mandatory Conservation and Rationing Plan in those areas which have not met their cumulative targets once the final allocations are determined based on the amended regulations. Based on GSWC's drought response actions and customers' conservation efforts to date, at this time, management does not believe GSWC will be subject to SWRCB penalties for failure to implement a Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

The U.S. Drought Monitor lists 86 percent of California in the rank of "Severe Drought." Reduced rainfall results in reduced recharge to the State's groundwater basins. Water levels in several of these basins, especially smaller basins, are dropping. GSWC utilizes groundwater from seventeen groundwater basins throughout the State. Several GSWC service areas rely on groundwater as their only source of supply. In the event of water-supply shortages beyond the mandated reductions, GSWC would need to transport additional water from other areas, increasing the cost of water supply.

### ***GSWC's Water Supply***

During 2015, GSWC delivered approximately 58,848,000 hundred cubic feet ("ccf") of water to its customers, which is an average of about 370 acre-feet per day. An acre-foot is approximately 435.6 ccf or 326,000 gallons. Approximately 65% of GSWC's supply came from groundwater production wells situated throughout GSWC's service areas. GSWC supplemented groundwater production with wholesale purchases from MWD member agencies and regional water suppliers (roughly 37% of total demand) and with authorized diversions from rivers (roughly 5%) under contracts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation ("Bureau") and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District ("SMUD"). During 2014, GSWC supplied 69,248,000 ccf of water, approximately 60% of which was produced from groundwater sources and 40% was purchased from regional wholesalers and surface water diversions under contracts with the Bureau and SMUD. GSWC continually assesses its water rights and groundwater storage assets.

### ***Groundwater***

Over the years, population growth in GSWC's service areas and increases in the amount of groundwater used have resulted in both cooperative and judicially enforced regimes for owning water rights and managing groundwater basins for long-term sustainability. GSWC management actively participates in efforts to protect groundwater basins from over-use and from contamination and to protect its water rights. In some periods, these efforts require reductions in groundwater pumping and increased reliance on alternative water resources.

GSWC owns approximately 86,000 acre-feet of adjudicated water rights, mostly groundwater, and a number of unadjudicated water rights to help meet supply requirements. The productivity of GSWC's groundwater resources varies from year to year depending upon a variety of factors, including the amount, duration, length and location of rainfall, the availability of imported replenishment water, the amount of water previously stored in groundwater basins, the amount and seasonality of water use by GSWC's customers and others, evolving challenges to water quality, and a variety of legal limitations on use, if a groundwater basin is, or may be, in an overdrafted condition.

On September 16, 2014, California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed a package of three bills, which taken together are known as the "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act." The purpose of the act is to provide local agencies with tools and authority to manage groundwater basins in a sustainable manner over the long term. Local "Groundwater Sustainability Agencies" are to be formed for each defined groundwater basin, and Groundwater Sustainability Plans must be completed for those basins considered in critical overdraft. The Act contains numerous provisions to protect existing water rights, and is not anticipated to infringe upon or otherwise alter existing surface water or groundwater rights under current law. GSWC intends to cooperate to the fullest extent allowed in the development of these Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and resulting Groundwater Sustainability Plans to protect its interests in proper management of these groundwater basins.

### ***Imported Water***

GSWC also manages a portfolio of water supply arrangements with water wholesalers. For example, GSWC has contracts with various governmental entities (principally MWD's member agencies) and other parties to purchase water through a total of 63 connections for distribution to customers, in addition to numerous emergency connections. MWD is a public agency organized and managed to provide a supplemental, imported supply to its member public agencies. There are 26 such member agencies, consisting of 14 cities, 11 municipal water districts and one county water authority. GSWC has 46 connections to MWD's water distribution facilities and those of member agencies. GSWC purchases MWD water through six separate member agencies aggregating 50,527 acre-feet annually. MWD's principal source of water is the SWP, which conveys water from northern California and the Colorado River.

GSWC has contracts to purchase water or water rights for an aggregate amount of \$5.5 million as of December 31, 2015. Included in the \$5.5 million is a remaining commitment of \$3.0 million under an agreement with the City of Claremont ("the City") to lease water rights that were ascribed to the City as part of the Six Basins adjudication. The initial term of the agreement expires in 2028. GSWC can exercise an option to renew this agreement for 10 additional years. The remaining \$2.5 million are commitments for purchased water with other third parties which expire through 2038.

### ***Metropolitan Water District / State Water Project***

Water supplies available to the MWD through the SWP vary from year to year based on several factors. Historically, weather was the primary factor in determining annual deliveries. However, biological opinions issued in late 2007 have limited water diversions through the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta ("Delta") resulting in pumping restrictions on the SWP. Even with variable SWP deliveries, MWD has been able to provide sufficient quantities of water to satisfy the needs of its member agencies and their customers. Under its Integrated Resources Plan, MWD estimates that it can meet its member agencies' demands over at least the next 20 years.

Every year, the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") establishes the SWP allocation for water deliveries to the state water contractors. DWR generally establishes a percentage allocation of delivery requests based on a number of factors, including weather patterns, snow-pack levels, reservoir levels and biological diversion restrictions. The SWP is a major source of water for the MWD.

Given the status of the current drought, MWD has implemented a mandatory reduction in overall supply delivery of 15%, effective July 1, 2015. The actual reduction will vary by member agency, and agencies exceeding their allocated reduction will face a surcharge per acre-foot of additional water, up to four times the normal MWD rate. For GSWC, these increases may result in increased purchase water costs, which would be included in the MCBA.

### ***Colorado River***

On October 17, 2003, the Federal government, acting through the Bureau in its capacity as Colorado River watermaster, the state of California, and four Southern California water agencies, including MWD, reached an agreement, known as the Quantification Settlement Agreement ("QSA"). The QSA allocates California's annual 4.4 million acre-feet ("MAF") share of the Colorado River among those agencies and provides the framework for accounting and transfers among them.

### ***Potential Additional Sources of Supply***

GSWC continues to assess additional water supply opportunities to expand and firm up its water supply portfolio for service to customers. In June 2010, GSWC signed an agreement with Cadiz Inc. giving GSWC the right to acquire an annual supply of Cadiz water once Cadiz secures appropriate transport and conveyance facilities and necessary agreements to move water from Cadiz's property in Fenner Valley in San Bernardino County to metropolitan Southern California.

In March 2010, GSWC signed a nonbinding Letter of Intent with Poseidon Resources to purchase desalinated water from a seawater desalination plant under consideration for construction by Poseidon Resources in the City of Huntington Beach.

### ***Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries***

The U.S. government is responsible for providing the source of supply for all water on each of the bases served by the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries at no cost to the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.

### **New Accounting Pronouncements**

Registrant is subject to newly issued requirements as well as changes in existing requirements issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Differences in financial reporting between periods could occur unless and until the CPUC approves such changes for conformity through regulatory proceedings. See *Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements*.

## **Item 7A. 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.

### **Interest Rate Risk**

A significant portion of Registrant's capital structure is comprised primarily of fixed-rate debt. Market risk related to our fixed-rate debt is deemed to be the potential increase in fair value resulting from a decrease in interest rates. At December 31, 2015, the fair value of Registrant's long-term debt was \$403.8 million. A hypothetical ten percent decrease in market interest rates would have resulted in a \$17.5 million increase in the fair value of Registrant's long-term debt.

Market risk related to Registrant's variable-rate debt is estimated as the potential decrease in pretax earnings resulting from an increase in interest rates. As of December 31, 2015, Registrant had \$89,000 in variable-interest-rate debt outstanding. A hypothetical one percent rise in interest rates would not result in a material impact to earnings.

At December 31, 2015, Registrant did not believe that its short-term debt was subject to interest-rate risk due to the fair market value being approximately equal to the carrying value.

### **Commodity/Derivative Risk**

BVES is exposed to commodity price risk primarily relating to changes in the market price of electricity. To manage its exposure to energy price risk, BVES from time to time executes purchased power contracts that qualify as derivative instruments, requiring mark-to-market derivative accounting under the accounting guidance for derivatives. A derivative financial instrument or other contract derives its value from another investment or designated benchmark.

In December 2014, the CPUC approved an application, which allowed BVES to immediately execute long-term purchased power contracts with energy providers, which became effective on January 1, 2015. BVES began taking power under these long-term contracts at a fixed cost over three and five year terms depending on the amount of power and period during which the power is purchased under the contracts.

The long-term contracts executed in December 2014 qualify for derivative accounting treatment. Among other things, the CPUC approval in December 2014 also authorized BVES to establish a regulatory asset and liability memorandum account to offset the mark-to-market entries required by the accounting guidance. Accordingly, all unrealized gains and losses generated from these purchased power contracts are deferred on a monthly basis into a non-interest bearing regulatory memorandum account that tracks the changes in fair value of the derivative throughout the term of the contract. As a result, the unrealized gains and losses on these contracts do not impact BVES's earnings. As of December 31, 2015, there was a \$7.1 million unrealized loss in the memorandum account for the new purchased power contracts as a result of the recent drop in energy prices.

Except as discussed above, Registrant has had no other derivative financial instruments, financial instruments with significant off-balance sheet risks or financial instruments with concentrations of credit risk.

## **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

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**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Utility Plant</b>		
<u>Regulated utility plant, at cost:</u>		
Water	\$ 1,428,024	\$ 1,363,074
Electric	88,481	81,636
Total	1,516,505	1,444,710
Non-regulated utility property, at cost	11,032	10,706
Total utility plant, at cost	1,527,537	1,455,416
Less — accumulated depreciation	(529,698)	(500,239)
	997,839	955,177
Construction work in progress	62,955	48,343
Net utility plant	1,060,794	1,003,520
<b>Other Property and Investments</b>		
Goodwill	1,116	1,116
Other property and investments	18,710	17,536
Total other property and investments	19,826	18,652
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,364	75,988
Accounts receivable-customers, less allowance for doubtful accounts	18,940	18,814
Unbilled revenue	19,490	21,422
Receivable from U.S. government, less allowance for doubtful accounts	5,861	6,709
Other accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts	2,302	4,843
Income taxes receivable	10,793	20,993
Materials and supplies	5,415	3,588
Regulatory assets — current	30,134	12,379
Prepayments and other current assets	3,229	2,745
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on contracts	32,169	34,535
Deferred income taxes — current	—	7,435
Total current assets	132,697	209,451
<b>Regulatory and Other Assets</b>		
Regulatory assets	102,562	118,829
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on contracts	21,330	15,741
Other	11,391	12,105
Total regulatory and other assets	135,283	146,675
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ 1,348,600	\$ 1,378,298

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

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Capitalization and Liabilities</b>		
<b>Capitalization</b>		
Common shareholders' equity	\$ 465,945	\$ 506,801
Long-term debt	325,541	325,798
Total capitalization	791,486	832,599
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Notes payable to banks	28,000	—
Long-term debt — current	312	292
Accounts payable	50,585	41,855
Income taxes payable	68	638
Accrued other taxes	8,142	8,602
Accrued employee expenses	11,748	10,519
Accrued interest	3,626	3,549
Unrealized loss on purchased power contracts	7,053	3,339
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on contracts	3,764	11,736
Other	10,209	18,760
Total current liabilities	123,507	99,290
<b>Other Credits</b>		
Advances for construction	68,041	68,328
Contributions in aid of construction — net	117,810	116,629
Deferred income taxes	192,852	191,209
Unamortized investment tax credits	1,612	1,699
Accrued pension and other post-retirement benefits	42,666	61,773
Other	10,626	6,771
Total other credits	433,607	446,409
<b>Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 13 and 14)</b>		
<b>Total Capitalization and Liabilities</b>	\$ 1,348,600	\$ 1,378,298

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

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CAPITALIZATION**

(in thousands, except share data)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Common Shareholders' Equity:</b>		
Common Shares, no par value:		
Authorized: 60,000,000 shares		
Outstanding: 36,501,914 shares in 2015 and 38,286,626 shares in 2014	\$ 245,022	\$ 253,199
Earnings reinvested in the business	220,923	253,602
	<u>465,945</u>	<u>506,801</u>
 <b>Long-Term Debt (All are of GSWC)</b>		
Notes/Debentures:		
6.81% notes due 2028	15,000	15,000
6.59% notes due 2029	40,000	40,000
7.875% notes due 2030	20,000	20,000
7.23% notes due 2031	50,000	50,000
6.00% notes due 2041	62,000	62,000
Private Placement Notes:		
3.45% notes due 2029	15,000	15,000
9.56% notes due 2031	28,000	28,000
5.87% notes due 2028	40,000	40,000
6.70% notes due 2019	40,000	40,000
Tax-Exempt Obligations:		
5.50% notes due 2026	7,730	7,730
State Water Project due 2035	4,000	4,077
Other Debt Instruments:		
Variable Rate Obligation due 2018	89	125
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Obligation due 2033	4,034	4,158
	<u>325,853</u>	<u>326,090</u>
Less: Current maturities	<u>(312)</u>	<u>(292)</u>
	<u>325,541</u>	<u>325,798</u>
<b>Total Capitalization</b>	<u>\$ 791,486</u>	<u>\$ 832,599</u>

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

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Water	\$ 328,511	\$ 326,672	\$ 320,131
Electric	36,039	34,387	38,409
Contracted services	94,091	104,732	113,537
Total operating revenues	458,641	465,791	472,077
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Water purchased	62,726	57,790	58,930
Power purchased for pumping	8,988	10,700	9,518
Groundwater production assessment	13,648	16,450	15,541
Power purchased for resale	10,395	9,649	13,392
Supply cost balancing accounts	7,785	6,346	214
Other operation	28,429	28,288	27,767
Administrative and general	79,817	78,268	77,289
Depreciation and amortization	42,033	41,073	40,090
Maintenance	16,885	16,092	17,772
Property and other taxes	16,636	16,722	15,865
ASUS construction	52,810	65,368	76,627
Total operating expenses	340,152	346,746	353,005
<b>Operating Income</b>	118,489	119,045	119,072
<b>Other Income and Expenses</b>			
Interest expense	(21,088)	(21,617)	(22,415)
Interest income	458	927	707
Other, net	356	751	1,105
Total other income and expenses	(20,274)	(19,939)	(20,603)
<b>Income from operations before income tax expense</b>	98,215	99,106	98,469
Income tax expense	37,731	38,048	35,783
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686
<b>Weighted Average Number of Shares Outstanding</b>	37,389	38,658	38,639
<b>Basic Earnings Per Common Share</b>	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61
<b>Weighted Average Number of Diluted Shares</b>	37,614	38,880	38,869
<b>Fully Diluted Earnings Per Share</b>	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61
<b>Dividends Declared Per Common Share</b>	\$ 0.874	\$ 0.831	\$ 0.760

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

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES**  
**IN COMMON SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

(in thousands)	Common Shares		Earnings	Total
	Number of Shares	Amount	Reinvested in the Business	
<b>Balances at December 31, 2012</b>	38,474	\$ 249,322	\$ 205,257	\$ 454,579
Add:				
Net income			62,686	62,686
Exercise of stock options and other issuance of Common Shares	247	2,111		2,111
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		1,026		1,026
Compensation on stock-based awards		1,362		1,362
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		140		140
Deduct:				
Dividends on Common Shares			29,360	29,360
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			140	140
<b>Balances at December 31, 2013</b>	38,721	253,961	238,443	492,404
Add:				
Net income			61,058	61,058
Exercise of stock options and other issuance of Common Shares	111	589		589
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		533		533
Compensation on stock-based awards		1,508		1,508
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		197		197
Deduct:				
Repurchase of Common Shares	545	3,589	13,591	17,180
Dividends on Common Shares			32,111	32,111
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			197	197
<b>Balances at December 31, 2014</b>	38,287	253,199	253,602	506,801
Add:				
Net income			60,484	60,484
Exercise of stock options and other issuance of Common Shares	120	1,198		1,198
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		877		877
Compensation on stock-based awards		2,168		2,168
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		270		270
Deduct:				
Repurchase of Common Shares	1,905	12,690	60,203	72,893
Dividends on Common Shares			32,690	32,690
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			270	270
<b>Balances at December 31, 2015</b>	<u>36,502</u>	<u>\$ 245,022</u>	<u>\$ 220,923</u>	<u>\$ 465,945</u>

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



**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	42,674	41,751	40,967
Provision for doubtful accounts	870	991	1,145
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits	10,423	32,316	16,112
Stock-based compensation expense	2,754	2,222	2,009
Other — net	838	—	(440)
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable — customers	(923)	3,979	(5,306)
Unbilled revenue	1,932	(2,870)	(2,405)
Other accounts receivable	1,243	1,029	2,503
Receivables from the U.S. government	848	397	5,799
Materials and supplies	(1,827)	970	790
Prepayments and other assets	1,580	973	3,001
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on contracts	(3,223)	6,159	(13,761)
Regulatory assets	(26,422)	26,385	11,667
Accounts payable	679	(1,622)	1,815
Income taxes receivable/payable	9,630	(11,648)	7,329
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on contracts	(7,972)	4,884	(5,720)
Accrued pension and other post-retirement benefits	616	(2,356)	4,396
Other liabilities	941	(1,348)	3,124
Net cash provided	<u>95,145</u>	<u>163,270</u>	<u>135,711</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>			
Capital expenditures	(87,323)	(72,553)	(97,379)
Other investments	(2,869)	(1,568)	(1,408)
Proceeds from sale of property	54	62	12
Net cash used	<u>(90,138)</u>	<u>(74,059)</u>	<u>(98,775)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities:</b>			
Proceeds from stock option exercises	1,198	589	2,111
Repurchase of Common Shares	(72,893)	(17,180)	—
Tax benefits from stock-based awards	877	533	1,026
Receipt of advances for and contributions in aid of construction	3,731	7,598	12,133
Refunds on advances for construction	(3,660)	(3,469)	(3,711)
Retirement or repayments of long-term debt	(237)	(21,287)	(3,474)
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt, net of issuance costs	—	14,846	60
Net change in notes payable to banks	28,000	—	—
Dividends paid	(32,690)	(32,111)	(29,360)
Other	(957)	(968)	(981)
Net cash used	<u>(76,631)</u>	<u>(51,449)</u>	<u>(22,196)</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>(71,624)</u>	<u>37,762</u>	<u>14,740</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	75,988	38,226	23,486
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 4,364</u>	<u>\$ 75,988</u>	<u>\$ 38,226</u>

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

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Utility Plant, at cost</b>		
Water	\$ 1,428,024	\$ 1,363,074
Electric	88,481	81,636
Total	1,516,505	1,444,710
Less — accumulated depreciation	(522,749)	(494,000)
	993,756	950,710
Construction work in progress	62,360	48,170
Net utility plant	1,056,116	998,880
<b>Other Property and Investments</b>	16,581	15,395
	16,581	15,395
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,501	44,005
Accounts receivable-customers, less allowance for doubtful accounts	18,940	18,814
Unbilled revenue	18,181	17,733
Inter-company receivable	54	499
Other accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts	1,455	3,795
Income taxes receivable from Parent	11,000	29,580
Materials and supplies	4,860	2,791
Regulatory assets — current	30,134	12,379
Prepayments and other current assets	2,793	2,507
Deferred income taxes — current	—	6,500
Total current assets	89,918	138,603
<b>Regulatory and Other Assets</b>		
Regulatory assets	102,562	118,829
Other	11,343	10,667
Total regulatory and other assets	113,905	129,496
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,520</b>	<b>\$ 1,282,374</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Capitalization and Liabilities</b>		
<b>Capitalization</b>		
Common shareholder's equity	\$ 423,730	\$ 435,190
Long-term debt	325,541	325,798
Total capitalization	749,271	760,988
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Inter-company payable	12,000	—
Long-term debt — current	312	292
Accounts payable	39,610	29,619
Accrued other taxes	7,830	8,442
Accrued employee expenses	10,630	9,591
Accrued interest	3,599	3,593
Unrealized loss on purchased power contracts	7,053	3,339
Other	9,921	18,659
Total current liabilities	90,955	73,535
<b>Other Credits</b>		
Advances for construction	68,041	68,328
Contributions in aid of construction — net	117,810	116,629
Deferred income taxes	195,658	192,787
Unamortized investment tax credits	1,612	1,699
Accrued pension and other post-retirement benefits	42,666	61,773
Other	10,507	6,635
Total other credits	436,294	447,851
<b>Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 13 and 14)</b>		
<b>Total Capitalization and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,276,520</b>	<b>\$ 1,282,374</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**STATEMENTS OF CAPITALIZATION**

(in thousands, except share data)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Common Shareholder's Equity:</b>		
Common Shares, no par value, Outstanding: 146 shares in 2015 and 2014	\$ 238,795	\$ 235,607
Earnings reinvested in the business	184,935	199,583
	<u>423,730</u>	<u>435,190</u>
 <b>Long-Term Debt</b>		
Notes/Debentures:		
6.81% notes due 2028	15,000	15,000
6.59% notes due 2029	40,000	40,000
7.875% notes due 2030	20,000	20,000
7.23% notes due 2031	50,000	50,000
6.00% notes due 2041	62,000	62,000
Private Placement Notes:		
3.45% notes due 2029	15,000	15,000
9.56% notes due 2031	28,000	28,000
5.87% notes due 2028	40,000	40,000
6.70% notes due 2019	40,000	40,000
Tax-Exempt Obligations:		
5.50% notes due 2026	7,730	7,730
State Water Project due 2035	4,000	4,077
Other Debt Instruments:		
Variable rate obligation due 2018	89	125
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Obligation due 2033	4,034	4,158
	<u>325,853</u>	<u>326,090</u>
Less: Current maturities	<u>(312)</u>	<u>(292)</u>
	<u>325,541</u>	<u>325,798</u>
<b>Total Capitalization</b>	<u>\$ 749,271</u>	<u>\$ 760,988</u>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Water	\$ 328,511	\$ 326,672	\$ 320,131
Electric	36,039	34,387	38,409
Total operating revenues	<u>364,550</u>	<u>361,059</u>	<u>358,540</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Water purchased	62,726	57,790	58,930
Power purchased for pumping	8,988	10,700	9,518
Groundwater production assessment	13,648	16,450	15,541
Power purchased for resale	10,395	9,649	13,392
Supply cost balancing accounts	7,785	6,346	214
Other operation	24,892	25,548	25,110
Administrative and general	64,877	65,814	64,645
Depreciation and amortization	40,893	39,854	38,952
Maintenance	14,693	13,945	15,823
Property and other taxes	15,244	15,221	14,072
Total operating expenses	<u>264,141</u>	<u>261,317</u>	<u>256,197</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<u>100,409</u>	<u>99,742</u>	<u>102,343</u>
<b>Other Income and Expenses</b>			
Interest expense	(20,998)	(21,524)	(22,287)
Interest income	440	894	615
Other, net	212	751	1,105
Total other income and expenses	<u>(20,346)</u>	<u>(19,879)</u>	<u>(20,567)</u>
<b>Income from operations before income tax expense</b>	<u>80,063</u>	<u>79,863</u>	<u>81,776</u>
Income tax expense	<u>32,472</u>	<u>32,006</u>	<u>33,134</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>\$ 47,591</u>	<u>\$ 47,857</u>	<u>\$ 48,642</u>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*



**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN**  
**COMMON SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY**

(in thousands, except number of shares)	Common Shares		Earnings	
	Number of Shares	Amount	Reinvested in the Business	Total
<b>Balances at December 31, 2012</b>	146	\$ 231,480	\$ 184,777	\$ 416,257
Add:				
Net income			48,642	48,642
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		943		943
Compensation on stock-based awards		1,171		1,171
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		127		127
Deduct:				
Dividends on Common Shares			29,400	29,400
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			127	127
<b>Balances at December 31, 2013</b>	146	233,721	203,892	437,613
Add:				
Net income			47,857	47,857
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		514		514
Compensation on stock-based awards		1,206		1,206
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		166		166
Deduct:				
Dividends on Common Shares			52,000	52,000
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			166	166
<b>Balances at December 31, 2014</b>	146	235,607	199,583	435,190
Add:				
Net income			47,591	47,591
Tax benefit from employee stock-based awards		872		872
Compensation on stock-based awards		2,077		2,077
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash		239		239
Deduct:				
Dividends on Common Shares			62,000	62,000
Dividend equivalent rights on stock-based awards not paid in cash			239	239
<b>Balances at December 31, 2015</b>	146	\$ 238,795	\$ 184,935	\$ 423,730

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY**  
**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 47,591	\$ 47,857	\$ 48,642
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating			
Depreciation and amortization	41,534	40,532	39,829
Provision for doubtful accounts	845	1,054	1,056
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credits	10,719	34,352	16,051
Stock-based compensation expense	2,443	1,748	1,647
Other — net	822	(12)	(333)
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable — customers	(923)	3,979	(5,306)
Unbilled revenue	(448)	819	(2,405)
Other accounts receivable	1,067	670	3,251
Materials and supplies	(2,069)	(932)	385
Prepayments and other assets	440	583	4,992
Regulatory assets	(26,422)	26,386	11,667
Accounts payable	1,940	(1,676)	2,916
Inter-company receivable/payable	445	219	1,790
Income taxes receivable/payable from/to Parent	18,580	(19,876)	6,738
Accrued pension and other post-retirement benefits	616	(2,356)	4,396
Other liabilities	358	(664)	2,854
Net cash provided	<u>97,538</u>	<u>132,683</u>	<u>138,170</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>			
Capital expenditures	(86,144)	(70,888)	(96,705)
Note receivable from AWR parent	(20,700)	(8,300)	(18,236)
Receipt of payment of note receivable from AWR parent	20,700	8,800	17,736
Other investing activities	(2,869)	(1,568)	(1,408)
Net cash used	<u>(89,013)</u>	<u>(71,956)</u>	<u>(98,613)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities:</b>			
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt, net of issuance costs	—	14,846	60
Tax benefits from stock-based awards	872	514	943
Receipt of advances for and contributions in aid of construction	3,731	7,598	12,133
Refunds on advances for construction	(3,660)	(3,469)	(3,711)
Retirement or repayments of long-term debt	(237)	(21,287)	(3,474)
Net change in inter-company borrowings	12,000	—	—
Dividends paid	(62,000)	(52,000)	(29,400)
Other	(735)	(799)	(811)
Net cash used	<u>(50,029)</u>	<u>(54,597)</u>	<u>(24,260)</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(41,504)</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>15,297</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>44,005</u>	<u>37,875</u>	<u>22,578</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 2,501</b>	<b>\$ 44,005</b>	<b>\$ 37,875</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Nature of Operations:** American States Water Company (“AWR”) is the parent company of Golden State Water Company (“GSWC”) and American States Utility Services, Inc. (“ASUS”) (and its subsidiaries, Fort Bliss Water Services Company (“FBWS”), Terrapin Utility Services, Inc. (“TUS”), Old Dominion Utility Services, Inc. (“ODUS”), Palmetto State Utility Services, Inc. (“PSUS”) and Old North Utility Services, Inc. (“ONUS”)). AWR and its subsidiaries may be collectively referred to as “Registrant” or “the Company.” The subsidiaries of ASUS are collectively referred to as the “Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.”

GSWC is a public utility engaged principally in the purchase, production, distribution and sale of water in California serving approximately 260,000 customers. GSWC also distributes electricity in several San Bernardino County Mountain communities in California serving approximately 24,000 electric customers through its Bear Valley Electric Service (“BVES”) division. Although Registrant has a diversified base of residential, industrial and other customers, revenues derived from commercial and residential water customers accounted for approximately 90% of total water revenues in 2015, 2014 and 2013. The California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) regulates GSWC’s water and electric businesses in matters including properties, rates, services, facilities, and transactions by GSWC with its affiliates. AWR’s assets and operating income are primarily those of GSWC.

ASUS, through its wholly owned subsidiaries, operates, maintains and performs construction activities (including renewal and replacement capital work) on water and/or wastewater systems at various United States military bases pursuant to 50-year firm fixed-price contracts. These contracts are subject to periodic price redeterminations or economic price adjustments and modifications for changes in circumstances, changes in laws and regulations and additions to the contract value for new construction of facilities at the military bases.

There is no direct regulatory oversight by the CPUC over AWR or the operations, rates or services provided by ASUS or any of its wholly owned subsidiaries.

**Basis of Presentation:** The consolidated financial statements and notes thereto are presented in a combined report filed by two separate Registrants: AWR and GSWC. References in this report to “Registrant” are to AWR and GSWC, collectively, unless otherwise specified. Certain prior-period amounts in the Consolidated and GSWC Statements of Cash Flow have been reclassified to conform to the 2015 presentation of “Regulatory Assets” as a separate line item.

AWR owns all of the outstanding Common Shares of GSWC and ASUS. ASUS owns all of the outstanding Common shares of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries. The consolidated financial statements of AWR include the accounts of AWR and its subsidiaries, all of which are wholly owned. These financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Inter-company transactions and balances have been eliminated in the AWR consolidated financial statements.

**Related Party Transactions:** GSWC and ASUS provide and/or receive various support services to and from their parent, AWR, and among themselves. GSWC also allocates certain corporate office administrative and general costs to its affiliate, ASUS, using allocation factors approved by the CPUC. During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC allocated to ASUS approximately \$2.6 million, \$2.7 million and \$2.6 million, respectively, of corporate office administrative and general costs. In addition, AWR has a \$100.0 million syndicated credit facility. AWR borrows under this facility and provides funds to its subsidiaries, including GSWC, in support of their operations. The interest rate charged to GSWC and ASUS is sufficient to cover AWR’s interest cost under the credit facility. Amounts owed to GSWC by AWR, including for allocated expenses, are included in GSWC’s inter-company receivables as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

In October 2015, AWR issued interest bearing promissory notes (the “Notes”) to GSWC and ASUS for \$40 million and \$10 million, respectively, which expire on May 23, 2018. Under the terms of the Notes, AWR may borrow from GSWC and ASUS amounts up to \$40 million and \$10 million, respectively, for working capital purposes. AWR agrees to pay any unpaid principal amounts outstanding under these notes, plus accrued interest. As of December 31, 2015, there were no amounts outstanding under these Notes.

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Utility Accounting: Registrant's accounting policies conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), including the accounting principles for rate-regulated enterprises, which reflect the ratemaking policies of the CPUC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. GSWC has incurred various costs and received various credits reflected as regulatory assets and liabilities. Accounting for such costs and credits as regulatory assets and liabilities is in accordance with the guidance for accounting for the effects of certain types of regulation. This guidance sets forth the application of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for those companies whose rates are established by or are subject to approval by an independent third-party regulator.

Under such accounting guidance, rate regulated entities defer costs and credits on the balance sheet as regulatory assets and liabilities when it is probable that those costs and credits will be recognized in the ratemaking process in a period different from the period in which they would have been reflected in income by an unregulated company. These regulatory assets and liabilities are then recognized in the income statement in the period in which the same amounts are reflected in the rates charged for service. The amounts included as regulatory assets and liabilities that will be collected over a period exceeding one year are classified as long-term assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Property and Depreciation: GSWC capitalizes, as utility plant, the cost of construction and the cost of additions, betterments and replacements of retired units of property. Such cost includes labor, material and certain indirect charges. Water systems acquired are recorded at estimated original cost of utility plant when first devoted to utility service and the applicable accumulated depreciation is recorded to accumulated depreciation. The difference between the estimated original cost, less accumulated depreciation, and the purchase price, if recognized by the regulator, is recorded as an acquisition adjustment within utility plant.

Depreciation is computed on the straight-line, remaining-life basis, group method, based on depreciable plant in accordance with the applicable ratemaking process. GSWC's provision for depreciation expressed as a percentage of the aggregate depreciable asset balances was 3.2% for 2015 and 2014, and 3.4% for 2013. Depreciation computed on GSWC's transportation equipment is recorded in other operating expenses and totaled \$641,000, \$678,000 and \$877,000 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Replaced or retired property costs, including cost of removal, are charged to the accumulated provision for depreciation. Property owned and depreciation recorded by ASUS and its subsidiaries are not material to Registrant's financial statements.

Estimated useful lives of GSWC's utility plant, as authorized by the CPUC, are as follows:

Source of water supply	30 years to 50 years
Pumping	25 years to 40 years
Water treatment	20 years to 35 years
Transmission and distribution	25 years to 55 years
Generation	40 years
Other plant	7 years to 40 years

Asset Retirement Obligations: GSWC has a legal obligation for the retirement of its wells, which by law need to be properly capped at the time of removal. As such, GSWC incurs asset retirement obligations. GSWC records the fair value of a liability for these asset retirement obligations in the period in which they are incurred. When the liability is initially recorded, GSWC capitalizes the cost by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset. Upon settlement of the liability, GSWC either settles the obligation for its recorded amount or incurs a gain or loss upon settlement. Retirement costs have historically been recovered through rates subsequent to the retirement costs being incurred. Accordingly, GSWC's asset retirement obligations are reflected as a regulatory asset. GSWC also reflects the gain or loss at settlement as a regulatory asset or liability on the balance sheet.

With regards to removal costs associated with certain other long-lived assets, such as water mains, distribution and transmission assets, asset retirement obligations have not been recognized as GSWC believes that it will not be obligated to retire these assets. There are no CPUC rules or regulations that require GSWC to remove any of its other long-lived assets. In addition, GSWC's water pipelines are not subject to regulation by any federal regulatory agency. GSWC has franchise

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

agreements with various municipalities in order to use the public right of way for utility purposes (i.e., operate water distribution and transmission assets), and if certain events occur in the future, GSWC could be required to remove or relocate certain of its pipelines. However, it is not possible to estimate an asset retirement amount since the timing and the amount of assets that may be required to be removed, if any, is not known.

Amounts recorded for asset retirement obligations are subject to various assumptions and determinations, such as determining whether a legal obligation exists to remove assets, and estimating the fair value of the costs of removal, when final removal will occur and the credit-adjusted risk-free interest rates to be utilized on discounting future liabilities. Changes that may arise over time with regard to these assumptions will change amounts recorded in the future. The estimated fair value of the costs of removal was based on third party costs.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets: Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment annually or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be fully recoverable in accordance with accounting guidance for impairment or disposal of long-lived assets. Registrant would recognize an impairment loss on its regulated assets only if the carrying value amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable from customer rates authorized by the CPUC. Impairment loss is measured as the excess of the carrying value over the amounts recovered in customer rates. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, no impairment loss was incurred.

Goodwill: At December 31, 2015 and 2014, AWR had approximately \$1.1 million of goodwill. The \$1.1 million goodwill arose from ASUS's acquisition of a subcontractor's business at some of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries. In accordance with the accounting guidance for testing goodwill, AWR annually assesses qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads to a determination that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. For 2015, AWR's assessment of qualitative factors did not indicate that an impairment had occurred for the goodwill amount of \$1.1 million at ASUS.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: Cash and cash equivalents include short-term cash investments with an original maturity of three months or less. At times, cash and cash equivalent balances may be in excess of federally insured limits. Cash and cash equivalents are held with financial institutions with high credit standings.

Accounts Receivable: Accounts receivable is reported on the balance sheet net of any allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is Registrant's best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in Registrant's existing accounts receivable from its water and electric customers, and is determined based on historical write-off experience and the aging of account balances. Registrant reviews the allowance for doubtful accounts quarterly. Account balances are written off against the allowance when it is probable the receivable will not be recovered. When utility customers request extended payment terms, credit is extended based on regulatory guidelines, and collateral is not required. Other accounts receivable consist of amounts due from third parties (non-utility customers) for various reasons, including amounts due from contractors, amounts due under settlement agreements, and amounts due from the U.S. government or other third-party prime government contractors pursuant to modifications or contracts thereto or agreements to operate and maintain, and/or provide construction services for the water and/or wastewater systems at military bases. The allowance for these other accounts receivable is based on Registrant's evaluation of the receivable portfolio under current conditions and a review of specific problems and such other factors that, in Registrant's judgment, should be considered in estimating losses. Allowances for doubtful accounts are disclosed in Note 16.

Materials and Supplies: Materials and supplies are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is computed using average cost. Major classes of materials include pipe, hydrants and valves.

Interest: Interest incurred during the construction of capital assets has generally not been capitalized for financial reporting purposes as such policy is not followed in the ratemaking process. Interest expense is generally recovered through the regulatory process. However, the CPUC has authorized certain capital projects to be filed for revenue recovery with advice letters when those projects are completed. During the time that such projects are under development and construction, GSWC may accrue an allowance for funds used during construction ("AFUDC") on the incurred expenditures to offset the cost of financing project construction. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC recorded \$694,000, \$24,000 and \$270,000, respectively, of AFUDC related to these capital projects based on a weighted cost of capital of 8.34% for water and a cost of debt of 6.96% for electric, as approved by the CPUC.



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Water and Electric Operating Revenues: GSWC records water and electric utility operating revenues when the service is provided to customers. Revenues include amounts billed to customers on a cycle basis based on meter reading for services provided and unbilled revenues representing estimated amounts to be billed for usage from the last meter reading date to the end of the accounting period. Unbilled revenues are based on historic customer usage to estimate unbilled usage. Flat-rate customers are billed in advance at the beginning of the service period. Revenue from flat-rate customers is deferred and adjustments are calculated to determine the revenue related to the applicable period.

Alternative-Revenue Programs: As authorized by the CPUC, GSWC records in revenues the difference between the adopted level of volumetric revenues as authorized by the CPUC for metered accounts (volumetric revenues) and the actual volumetric revenues recovered in customer rates. If this difference results in an under-collection of revenues, GSWC records the additional revenue only to the extent that they are expected to be collected within 24 months following the year in which they are recorded in accordance with the accounting guidance for alternative-revenue programs.

Contracted Services Revenues: Revenues from ASUS contract operations and maintenance agreements are recognized on a monthly basis when services have been rendered to the customers under such agreements. Revenues from firm, fixed-price construction contracts are recognized based on the percentage-of-completion and cost-plus methods of accounting. In accordance with GAAP, revenue recognition under these methods require ASUS to estimate the progress toward completion on a contract in terms of efforts (such as costs incurred) or, in the case of the percentage of completion method, in terms of results achieved (such as units constructed). These approaches are used because management considers them to be the best available measure of progress on these contracts. Revenues from cost-plus-profit contracts of ASUS are recognized on the basis of costs incurred during the period plus the profit earned, measured by the cost-to-cost method. Unbilled receivables from the U.S. government represent amounts to be billed for construction work completed and/or for services rendered pursuant to 50-year contracts with the U.S government, which are not presently billable but which will be billed under the terms of those contracts.

Construction costs for ASUS include all direct material and labor costs charged by subcontractors and those indirect costs related to contract performance, such as indirect labor, supplies, and tools. The factors considered in including such costs in revenues and expenses are that ASUS and/or its subsidiaries: (i) are the primary obligor in these arrangements with the U.S. government and the third party prime contractors, (ii) have latitude in establishing pricing, and (iii) bear credit risk in the collection of receivables. Administrative and general costs are charged to expense as incurred. Precontract costs for ASUS, which consist of design and engineering labor costs, are deferred if they are probable of recovery and are expensed as incurred if they are not probable of recovery. Deferred precontract costs have been immaterial to date. Provisions for estimated losses on uncompleted contracts are made in the period in which such losses are determined.

Changes in job performance, job conditions, change orders and estimated profitability, including those arising from contract penalty provisions, and final contract settlements may result in revisions to costs and income for ASUS and are recognized in the period in which the revisions are determined.

The asset, "Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on contracts," represents revenues recognized in excess of amounts billed. The liability, "Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on contracts," represents billings in excess of revenues recognized. Amounts expected to be earned/collected in the next 12-months have been classified as current.

Debt Issuance Costs and Redemption Premiums: Original debt issuance costs are capitalized and amortized over the lives of the respective issues. Premiums paid on the early redemption of debt, which is reacquired through refunding, are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt issued to finance the refunding as Registrant normally receives recovery of these costs in rates.

Advances for Construction and Contributions in Aid of Construction: Advances for construction represent amounts advanced by developers for the cost to construct water system facilities in order to extend water service to their properties. Advances are generally refundable in equal annual installments, generally over 40 years. In certain instances, GSWC makes refunds on these advances over a specific period of time based on operating revenues related to the main or as new customers are connected to receive service from the main. Utility plant funded by advances and contributions is excluded from rate base. Generally, GSWC depreciates contributed property and amortizes contributions in aid of construction at the composite rate of the related property. Contributions in aid of construction are similar to advances, but require no refunding.

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**Fair Value of Financial Instruments:** For cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and short-term debt, the carrying amount is assumed to approximate fair value due to the short-term nature of the amounts. The table below estimates the fair value of long-term debt issued by GSWC. Rates available to GSWC at December 31, 2015 and 2014 for debt with similar terms and remaining maturities were used to estimate fair value for long-term debt. Changes in the assumptions will produce differing results.

(dollars in thousands)	2015		2014	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
Long-term debt—GSWC	\$ 325,853	\$ 403,844	\$ 326,090	\$ 417,057

The accounting guidance for fair value measurements applies to all financial assets and financial liabilities that are being measured and reported on a fair value basis. Under the accounting guidance, GSWC makes fair value measurements that are classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

*Level 1:* Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities;

*Level 2:* Quoted prices in markets that are not active, or inputs which are observable, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability; or

*Level 3:* Prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable (i.e., supported by little or no market activity).

Publicly issued notes, private placement notes and other long-term debt are measured using current U.S. corporate bond yields for similar debt instruments and are classified as Level 2. The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, GSWC's long-term debt measured at fair value as of December 31, 2015:

(dollars in thousands)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Long-term debt—GSWC	—	\$ 403,844	—	\$ 403,844

**Stock Awards:** AWR has issued stock awards to its employees under the 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, or 2000 employee plan, and the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, or 2008 employee plan, and to directors under the 2003 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan, or 2003 directors plan, and the 2013 Non-Employee Directors Plan, or 2013 directors plan. Registrant applies the provisions in the accounting guidance for share-based payments in accounting for all of its stock-based awards. See Note 12 for further discussion.

**Sales and Use Taxes:** GSWC bills certain sales and use taxes levied by state or local governments to its customers. Included in these sales and use taxes are franchise fees, which GSWC pays to various municipalities (based on ordinances adopted by these municipalities) in order to use public rights of way for utility purposes. GSWC bills these franchise fees to its customers based on a CPUC-authorized rate for each rate-making area as applicable. These franchise fees, which are required to be paid regardless of GSWC's ability to collect them from its customers, are accounted for on a gross basis. GSWC's franchise fees billed to customers and recorded as operating revenue were approximately \$3.8 million, \$3.7 million and \$3.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. When GSWC acts as an agent, and the tax is not required to be remitted if it is not collected from the customer, the taxes are accounted for on a net basis.

Depending on the state in which its subsidiary operations are conducted, ASUS is also subject to certain state non-income tax assessments generally computed on a "gross receipts" or "gross revenues" basis. These non-income tax assessments are required to be paid regardless of whether the subsidiary is reimbursed by the U.S. government for these assessments under its 50-year contracts. The non-income tax assessments are accounted for on a gross basis and totaled \$367,000, \$490,000 and \$864,000 during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

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Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements: In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued updated accounting guidance on revenue recognition. The guidance will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective. Under this guidance, an entity will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects what the entity expects in exchange for the goods or services. The guidance also requires more detailed disclosures to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers. In July 2015, the FASB decided to delay the effective date of the new revenue standard by one year. The guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2017, and adoption is not permitted earlier than the original effective date, that is, no earlier than 2017. The guidance allows entities to select one or two methods of adoption, either the full retrospective approach, meaning the guidance would be applied to all periods presented, or modified retrospective approach, meaning the cumulative effect of applying the guidance would be recognized as an adjustment to opening retained earnings at January 1, 2018, along with providing certain additional disclosures. Registrant will adopt this guidance in the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018. Management has not yet selected a transition method nor has it determined the effect of the standard on the Company's ongoing financial reporting.

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, which requires debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying value of the associated debt liability, rather than as an asset. The standard does not affect the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. The guidance is effective January 1, 2016. In August 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update 2015-15, *Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements*, which provided additional guidance for presentation of debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements. Under this guidance, entities may present debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortize the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. As of December 31, 2015, Registrant had \$4.7 million in debt issuance costs reflected under "Other Noncurrent Assets."

In May 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2015-07, *Fair Value Measurements (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (of Its Equivalent)*. Under the new guidance, investments measured at net asset value ("NAV"), as a practical expedient for fair value, are excluded from the fair value hierarchy. The FASB also amended ASC 715, *Compensation - Retirement Benefits*, to clarify that a plan sponsor's pension assets are eligible to be measured at NAV as a practical expedient and that those investments are not required to be categorized in the fair value hierarchy. The new guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015, however early adoption is permitted. Registrant has adopted this guidance as of December 31, 2015, whereby all pension assets measured at NAV are excluded from the fair value hierarchy within Note 11.

In November 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which requires that all deferred tax assets and liabilities, along with any related allowance, be classified as noncurrent on the balance sheet. The guidance may be applied either prospectively, for all deferred tax assets and liabilities, or retrospectively (i.e. by reclassifying the comparative balance sheet). If applied prospectively, entities are required to include a statement that prior periods were not retrospectively adjusted. If applied retrospectively, entities are also required to include quantitative information about the effects of the change on prior periods. The guidance is effective January 1, 2017, however early adoption is permitted. Registrant has adopted this guidance as of December 31, 2015 on a prospective basis, whereby all deferred tax assets and liabilities are classified as noncurrent on Registrant's balance sheets. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact to Registrant's balance sheets. Prior periods were not retrospectively adjusted.

**Note 2 — Regulatory Matters**

In accordance with accounting principles for rate-regulated enterprises, Registrant records regulatory assets, which represent probable future recovery of costs from customers through the ratemaking process, and regulatory liabilities, which represent probable future refunds that are to be credited to customers through the ratemaking process. At December 31, 2015, Registrant had approximately \$48.9 million of regulatory assets, net of regulatory liabilities, not accruing carrying costs. Of this amount, \$19.8 million relates to the underfunded position in Registrant's pension and other post-retirement obligations, \$7.1 million relates to a memorandum account authorized by the CPUC to track unrealized gains and losses on BVES's purchase power contracts over the term of the contracts, and \$16.2 million relates to deferred income taxes representing

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accelerated tax benefits flowed through to customers, which will be included in rates concurrently with recognition of the associated future tax expense. The remainder relates to other items that do not provide for or incur carrying costs.

Regulatory assets represent costs incurred by GSWC for which it has received or expects to receive rate recovery in the future. In determining the probability of costs being recognized in other periods, GSWC considers regulatory rules and decisions, past practices, and other facts or circumstances that would indicate if recovery is probable. If the CPUC determines that a portion of GSWC's assets are not recoverable in customer rates, GSWC must determine if it has suffered an asset impairment that requires it to write down the asset's value. Regulatory assets are offset against regulatory liabilities within each rate-making area. Amounts expected to be collected or refunded in the next twelve months have been classified as current assets and current liabilities by rate-making area. Regulatory assets, less regulatory liabilities, included in the consolidated balance sheets are as follows:

(dollars in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>GSWC</b>		
Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism, net of Modified Cost Balancing Account	\$ 45,171	\$ 9,369
Base Revenue Requirement Adjustment Mechanism	3,714	7,761
Costs deferred for future recovery on Aerojet case	12,699	13,629
Pensions and other post-retirement obligations (Note 11)	21,996	43,426
Derivative unrealized loss (Note 4)	7,053	3,339
Flow-through taxes, net (Note 10)	16,176	17,612
Low income rate assistance balancing accounts	8,699	9,109
Other regulatory assets	21,954	23,259
Various refunds to customers	(4,766)	(1,800)
Total	<u>\$ 132,696</u>	<u>\$ 125,704</u>

**Alternative-Revenue Programs:**

Under the Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("WRAM"), GSWC records the difference between the adopted level of volumetric revenues as authorized by the CPUC for metered accounts (adopted volumetric revenues) and the actual volumetric revenues recovered in customer rates. While the WRAM tracks volumetric-based revenues, the revenue requirements approved by the CPUC include service charges, flat rate charges, and other items that are not subject to the WRAM. The adopted volumetric revenues consider the seasonality of consumption of water based upon historical averages. The variance between adopted volumetric revenues and actual billed volumetric revenues for metered accounts is recorded as a component of revenue with an offsetting entry to an asset or liability balancing account (tracked individually for each rate making area). The variance amount may be positive or negative and represents amounts that will be billed or refunded to customers in the future. The WRAM only applies to customer classes with conservation rates in place. The majority of GSWC's water customers have conservation rate structures.

Under the Modified Cost Balancing Account ("MCBA"), GSWC tracks adopted expense levels for purchased water, purchased power and pump taxes, as established by the CPUC. Variances (which include the effects of changes in both rate and volume) between adopted and actual purchased water, purchased power, and pump tax expenses are recorded as a component of the MCBA to be recovered from or refunded to GSWC's customers at a later date. This is reflected with an offsetting entry to an asset or liability balancing account (tracked individually for each rate-making area). Unlike the WRAM, the MCBA applies to all customer classes.

The recovery or refund of the WRAM is netted against the MCBA over- or under-collection for the corresponding rate-making area and bears interest at the current 90-day commercial-paper rate. GSWC has implemented surcharges to recover its WRAM/MCBA balances as of December 31, 2014. During the year ended December 31, 2015, surcharges of \$3.1 million were billed to customers to decrease previously incurred under-collections in the pre-2015 WRAM, net of MCBA accounts. Also during the year ended December 31, 2015, GSWC recorded an additional \$38.9 million under-collection in the WRAM account, net of the MCBA. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC had a net aggregated regulatory asset of \$45.2 million, which is comprised of a \$46.7 million under-collection in the WRAM accounts and a \$1.5 million over-collection in the MCBA accounts. The increase in the WRAM balance during 2015 was due, in large part, to water conservation by customers in

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response to the ongoing drought conditions in California. Due to the state-mandated water-conservation targets, lower water usage has resulted in an increase in under-collections recorded in the WRAM accounts.

As required by the accounting guidance for alternative revenue programs, GSWC is required to collect its WRAM balances, net of its MCBA, within 24 months following the year in which an under-collection is recorded. In April 2012, the CPUC issued a final decision which, among other things, sets the recovery period for under-collected balances that are up to 15% of adopted annual revenues at 18 months or less. For under-collected balances greater than 15%, the recovery period is 19 to 36 months. In addition to adopting a new amortization schedule, the final decision sets a cap on total net WRAM/MCBA surcharges in any given calendar year of 10% of the last authorized revenue requirement. As of December 31, 2015, the recovery periods for the majority of GSWC's WRAM/MCBA balances were primarily within the 12 to 18 month period; however, there were some ratemaking areas that had recovery periods greater than 24 months. Based on the current CPUC-stipulated recovery periods, GSWC estimates that approximately \$1.4 million of its 2015 WRAM under-collection will not be collected within 24 months as required for revenue recognition under the accounting guidance for alternative revenue programs. As a result, during the fourth quarter of 2015, GSWC did not record \$1.4 million of the 2015 WRAM under-collection balance as revenue. This amount will be recognized as revenue in future periods when it is determined that the amounts will be collected within 24 months. In February 2016, GSWC filed with the CPUC for recovery of the 2015 WRAM balances, including the \$1.4 million.

For BVES, the CPUC-approved the Base Revenue Requirement Adjustment Mechanism ("BRRAM"), which adjusts certain revenues to adopted levels. Surcharges are currently in place to recover the BRRAM under-collections recorded through 2014. The BRRAM under-collection recorded in 2015 was not material and will be filed with the CPUC for recovery in March 2016.

**Costs Deferred for Future Recovery:**

The CPUC authorized a memorandum account to allow for the recovery of costs incurred by GSWC related to contamination lawsuits brought against Aerojet and the state of California. In July 2005, the CPUC authorized GSWC to recover approximately \$21.3 million of the Aerojet litigation memorandum account, through a rate surcharge, which will continue for no longer than 20 years. Beginning in October 2005, a surcharge went into effect to begin amortizing the memorandum account over a 20-year period.

Aerojet also agreed to reimburse GSWC \$17.5 million, plus interest accruing from January 1, 2004, for GSWC's past legal and expert costs, which is included in the Aerojet litigation memorandum account. The reimbursement of the \$17.5 million is contingent upon the issuance of land use approvals for development in a defined area within Aerojet property in Eastern Sacramento County and the receipt of certain fees in connection with such development. It is management's intention to offset any proceeds from the housing development by Aerojet in this area against the balance in this litigation memorandum account.

At this time, management believes the full balance of the Aerojet litigation memorandum account will be collected either from customers or Aerojet.

**Pensions and Other Postretirement Obligations:**

A regulatory asset has been recorded at December 31, 2015 and 2014 for the costs that would otherwise be charged to "other comprehensive income" within shareholders' equity for the underfunded status of Registrant's pension and other postretirement benefit plans because the cost of these plans has historically been recovered through rates. As discussed in Note 11, as of December 31, 2015, Registrant's underfunded position for these plans that have been recorded as a regulatory asset totaled \$19.8 million. Registrant expects this regulatory asset to be recovered through rates in future periods.

Previous CPUC decisions in the water and electric general rate cases have authorized GSWC to continue using a two-way balancing account to track differences between the forecasted annual pension expenses adopted in rates and the actual annual expense to be recorded by GSWC in accordance with the accounting guidance for pension costs. The two-way balancing accounts bear interest at the current 90-day commercial paper rate. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has a net \$2.2 million under-collection in the two-way pension balancing accounts, consisting of a \$2.5 million under-collection related to the general office and water regions, and a \$319,000 over-collection related to BVES.



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**Low Income Balancing Accounts:**

This regulatory asset reflects primarily the costs of implementing and administering the California Alternate Rates for Water program in GSWC's water regions and the California Alternate Rate for Energy program in GSWC's BVES division. These programs mandated by the CPUC provide a discount of a fixed dollar amount which is intended to represent a 15% discount based on a typical customer bill for qualified low-income water customers and 20% for qualified low-income electric customers. GSWC accrues interest on its low income balancing accounts at the prevailing rate for 90-day commercial paper. As of December 31, 2015, there is an aggregate \$8.7 million under-collection in the low income balancing accounts. Surcharges have been implemented to recover the costs included in these balancing accounts.

**Other Regulatory Assets:**

Other regulatory assets represent costs incurred by GSWC for which it has received or expects to receive rate recovery in the future. These regulatory assets are supported by regulatory rules and decisions, past practices, and other facts or circumstances that indicate recovery is probable.

**Other Regulatory Matters:**

**Procurement Audits:**

In December 2011, the CPUC issued a final decision adopting a settlement between GSWC and the CPUC on its investigation of certain work orders and charges paid to a specific contractor used previously for numerous construction projects primarily in one of GSWC's three main geographic water regions. As part of the settlement reached with the CPUC on this matter, GSWC agreed to be subject to three separate independent audits of its procurement practices over a period of 10 years from the date the settlement was approved by the CPUC. The audits cover GSWC's procurement practices for contracts with other contractors from 1994 forward. The first audit started in 2014 and covered almost a 20-year period from January 1, 1994 through September 30, 2013.

In March 2015, the accounting firm engaged by the CPUC to conduct the first independent audit issued its final report to the CPUC's Division of Water and Audits ("DWA"). The final report, which was issued on a confidential basis, included GSWC's responses to the accounting firm's findings, as well as the firm's responses to GSWC's comments. DWA informed GSWC that it does not intend to pursue further investigation, refunds, or penalties in respect of past procurement activities as a result of the final report. Furthermore, in June 2015 the CPUC's Office of Ratepayer Advocates ("ORA") notified the administrative law judge in the ongoing general rate case that, having reviewed the final audit report, its potential concerns with the audit report were satisfied and, as such, ORA withdrew its request to have further review of this matter in the pending general rate case. At this time, GSWC does not believe that a loss associated with any disallowances and/or penalties from this first audit is likely.

**Renewables Portfolio Standard:**

BVES is subject to the renewables portfolio standard ("RPS") law, which requires meeting certain targets of purchases of energy from renewable energy resources. In December 2012, GSWC entered into a ten-year agreement with a third party to purchase renewable energy credits ("RECs") whereby GSWC agreed to purchase approximately 582,000 RECs over a 10 -year period, which would be used towards meeting the CPUC's RPS procurement requirements. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has purchased sufficient RECs to be in compliance for all periods through 2015. Accordingly, no provision for loss or potential penalties has been recorded in the financial statements as of December 31, 2015. GSWC intends to file its 2015 compliance report with the CPUC by the August 2016 deadline. The cost of these RECs has been included as part of the electric supply cost balancing account as of December 31, 2015.

In October 2015, the governor of California signed a bill into law requiring, among other things, electric utilities to generate half of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. The new requirement is in addition to the existing requirement for electric utilities to generate one third of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. BVES is currently assessing various renewable energy opportunities to be in compliance with these requirements.

**Rural Acquisition**

In October 2015, GSWC completed the acquisition of Rural Water Company, which is near GSWC's Santa Maria customer service area in Coastal California. The acquisition was approved by the CPUC in June 2015 and is not material to Registrant's financial statements.

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**Note 3 — Utility Plant and Intangible Assets**

The following table shows Registrant's utility plant by major asset class:

(dollars in thousands)	GSWC December 31,		AWR December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b><u>Water</u></b>				
Land	\$ 15,299	\$ 15,423	\$ 15,299	\$ 15,423
Intangible assets	34,830	34,063	34,848	34,081
Source of water supply	86,914	80,614	86,914	80,614
Pumping	161,668	155,802	161,668	155,802
Water treatment	72,238	71,519	72,238	71,519
Transmission and distribution	941,651	894,789	941,651	894,789
General	115,424	110,864	126,438	121,552
	<u>1,428,024</u>	<u>1,363,074</u>	<u>1,439,056</u>	<u>1,373,780</u>
<b><u>Electric</u></b>				
Transmission and distribution	66,121	60,035	66,121	60,035
Generation	12,563	12,547	12,563	12,547
General (1)	9,797	9,054	9,797	9,054
	<u>88,481</u>	<u>81,636</u>	<u>88,481</u>	<u>81,636</u>
Less — accumulated depreciation	(522,749)	(494,000)	(529,698)	(500,239)
Construction work in progress	62,360	48,170	62,955	48,343
Net utility plant	<u>\$ 1,056,116</u>	<u>\$ 998,880</u>	<u>\$ 1,060,794</u>	<u>\$ 1,003,520</u>

(1) Includes intangible assets of \$1.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 for studies performed in association with the electricity segment of the Registrant's operations.

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, intangible assets consist of the following:

	Weighted Average Amortization	GSWC December 31,		AWR December 31,	
(dollars in thousands)	Period	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b><u>Intangible assets:</u></b>					
Conservation	30 years	\$ 9,496	\$ 9,496	\$ 9,496	\$ 9,496
Water and service rights (2)	30 years	8,124	8,124	8,695	8,695
Water planning studies	14 years	18,044	17,277	18,044	17,277
Total intangible assets		35,664	34,897	36,235	35,468
Less — accumulated amortization		(26,196)	(24,373)	(26,291)	(24,456)
Intangible assets, net of amortization		<u>\$ 9,468</u>	<u>\$ 10,524</u>	<u>\$ 9,944</u>	<u>\$ 11,012</u>
Intangible assets not subject to amortization (3)		\$ 409	\$ 409	\$ 427	\$ 427

(2) Includes intangible assets of \$571,000 for contracted services included in "Other Property and Investments" on the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

(3) The intangible assets not subject to amortization primarily consist of organization and consent fees.

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For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, amortization of intangible assets was \$1.8 million, \$1.9 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, for AWR and GSWC. Estimated future consolidated amortization expenses related to intangible assets for the succeeding five years are (in thousands):

	<b>Amortization Expense</b>
2016	\$ 1,772
2017	1,741
2018	1,732
2019	1,499
2020	1,374
Total	<u>\$ 8,118</u>

There is no material difference between the consolidated operations of AWR and the operations of GSWC in regards to the future amortization expense of intangible assets.

**Asset Retirement Obligations:**

The following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending aggregate carrying amount of asset retirement obligations, which are included in “Other Credits” on the balance sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014:

<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>	<b>GSWC</b>
Obligation at December 31, 2013	\$ 3,095
Additional liabilities incurred	6
Liabilities settled	(66)
Accretion	199
Obligation at December 31, 2014	\$ 3,234
Additional liabilities incurred	7
Liabilities settled	—
Accretion	209
Revision of previous estimates	707
Obligation at December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 4,157</u>

Registrant follows the accounting guidance for asset retirement obligations. Because retirement costs have historically been recovered through rates at the time of retirement, upon implementing this guidance, the cumulative effect of the adoption of the authoritative guidance was reflected as a regulatory asset.

**Note 4 — Derivative Instruments**

BVES purchases power under long-term contracts at a fixed cost depending on the amount of power and the period during which the power is purchased under such contracts. In December 2014, the CPUC approved an application that allowed BVES to immediately execute new long-term purchased power contracts with energy providers on December 9, 2014. BVES began taking power under these long-term contracts effective January 1, 2015 at a fixed cost over three and five year terms depending on the amount of power and period during which the power is purchased under the contracts.

The long-term contracts executed in December 2014 are subject to the accounting guidance for derivatives and require mark-to-market derivative accounting. Among other things, the CPUC also authorized GSWC to establish a regulatory asset and liability memorandum account to offset the mark-to-market entries required by the accounting guidance. Accordingly, all unrealized gains and losses generated from the purchased power contracts executed in December 2014 are deferred on a monthly basis into a non-interest bearing regulatory memorandum account that tracks the changes in fair value of the derivative throughout the term of the contract. As a result, these unrealized gains and losses do not impact GSWC’s earnings. As of December 31, 2015, there was a \$7.1 million unrealized loss in the memorandum account for the purchased power contracts as a result of the recent drop in energy prices.

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As previously discussed in Note 1, the accounting guidance for fair value measurements establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires fair value measurements to be classified and disclosed in one of three levels. Registrant's valuation model utilizes various inputs that include quoted market prices for energy over the duration of the contract. 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 that are not observable in or corroborated by the market. Registrant received one broker quote to determine the fair value of its derivative instrument. When such inputs have a significant impact on the measurement of fair value, the instrument is categorized in Level 3. Accordingly, the valuation of the derivative on Registrant's purchased power contract has been classified as Level 3 for all periods presented.

The following table presents changes in the fair value of GSWC's derivatives for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

(dollars in thousands)	2015	2014
Balance, at beginning of the period	\$ (3,339)	\$ —
Unrealized loss on purchased power contracts	(3,714)	(3,339)
Balance, at end of the period	\$ (7,053)	\$ (3,339)

**Note 5 — Military Privatization**

Each of the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries have entered into a service contract with the U.S. government to operate and maintain, as well as perform construction activities to renew and replace, the water and/or wastewater systems at a military base or bases. The amounts charged for these services are based upon the terms of the 50-year contract between the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries and the U.S. government. Under the terms of each of these agreements, the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries agree to operate and maintain the water and/or wastewater systems for: (i) a monthly net fixed-price for operation and maintenance, and (ii) an amount to cover renewals and replacement capital work. In addition, these contracts may also include firm, fixed-priced initial capital upgrade projects to upgrade the existing infrastructure. Contract modifications are also issued for other necessary capital upgrades to the existing infrastructure approved by the U.S. government.

Under the terms of each of these contracts, prices are to be redetermined every three years, following the first two years of the contract, or upon conversion to an Economic Price Adjustment contract, on an annual basis. Prices may also be equitably adjusted for changes in law and other circumstances. Each of the contracts may be subject to termination, in whole or in part, prior to the end of the 50-year term for convenience of the U.S. government or as a result of default or nonperformance by the Military Utility Privatization Subsidiaries.

ASUS has experienced delays in redetermining prices as required by the terms of these 50-year contracts. Interim rate increases have, at times, been implemented pending the outcome of these price redeterminations. Because of the delays, price redeterminations, when finally approved, can be retrospective and prospective. During the third quarter of 2015, the U.S. government approved various price redeterminations, as well as an asset transfer at two of the bases served. ASUS received contract modifications from the U.S. government for these price redeterminations and asset transfers, which included retroactive operation and maintenance management fees for prior periods. As such, ASUS recorded approximately \$3.0 million of retroactive revenues and pretax operating income during 2015 in connection with these contract modifications related to periods prior to 2015. Similarly, in September 2014, the U.S. government approved various price redeterminations, which also included retroactive operation and maintenance management fees for prior periods. ASUS recorded approximately \$1.7 million of retroactive revenues and pretax operating income during 2014 related to periods prior to 2014.

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Costs and estimated earnings contracts and amounts due from the U.S. government as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 are as follows:

<u>(dollars in thousands)</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenues (costs and estimated earnings) recognized on contracts	\$ 111,397	\$ 94,654
Less: Billings to date on contracts	(61,662)	(56,114)
	<u>\$ 49,735</u>	<u>\$ 38,540</u>
 <u>Included in the accompanying balance sheets under the following captions:</u>		
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on contracts	\$ 53,499	\$ 50,276
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on contracts	(3,764)	(11,736)
	<u>\$ 49,735</u>	<u>\$ 38,540</u>
 Receivables from the U.S. government:		
Billed receivables from the U.S. government	\$ 5,861	\$ 6,709
Unbilled receivables from the U.S. government (current)	1,309	3,689
Less: allowance for doubtful accounts	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 7,170</u>	<u>\$ 10,398</u>

**Note 6 — Earnings Per Share and Capital Stock**

In accordance with the accounting guidance for participating securities and earnings per share (“EPS”), Registrant uses the “two-class” method of computing EPS. The “two-class” method is an earnings allocation formula that determines EPS for each class of common stock and participating security. AWR has participating securities related to restricted stock units that earn dividend equivalents on an equal basis with AWR’s Common Shares that have been issued under AWR’s 2000 and 2008 employee plans and the 2003 and 2013 directors plans. In applying the “two-class” method, undistributed earnings are allocated to both common shares and participating securities.

The following is a reconciliation of Registrant’s net income and weighted average Common Shares outstanding for calculating basic net income per share:

<u>Basic</u> <u>(in thousands, except per share amounts)</u>	<u>For The Years Ended December 31,</u>		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Net income	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686
Less: (a) Distributed earnings to common shareholders	32,690	32,125	29,366
Distributed earnings to participating securities	207	177	171
Undistributed earnings	27,587	28,756	33,149
 (b) Undistributed earnings allocated to common shareholders	27,414	28,599	32,958
Undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities	173	157	191
 Total income available to common shareholders, basic (a)+(b)	<u>\$ 60,104</u>	<u>\$ 60,724</u>	<u>\$ 62,324</u>
 Weighted average Common Shares outstanding, basic	<u>37,389</u>	<u>38,658</u>	<u>38,639</u>
 Basic earnings per Common Share:	<u>\$ 1.61</u>	<u>\$ 1.57</u>	<u>\$ 1.61</u>

Diluted EPS is based upon the weighted average number of Common Shares, including both outstanding shares and shares potentially issuable in connection with stock options and restricted stock units granted under AWR’s 2000 and 2008 employee plans, and the 2003 and 2013 directors plans, and net income. At December 31, 2015, there were 150,606 stock options outstanding under these Plans. At December 31, 2015, there were also 243,288 restricted stock units outstanding including performance shares awarded to officers of the Registrant.



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The following is a reconciliation of Registrant's net income and weighted average Common Shares outstanding for calculating diluted net income per share reflecting the two-for-one stock split effective September 3, 2013:

<u>Diluted</u> (in thousands, except per share amounts)	For The Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Common shareholders earnings, basic	\$ 60,104	\$ 60,724	\$ 62,324
Undistributed earnings for dilutive stock options and restricted stock units	173	157	191
Total common shareholders earnings, diluted	\$ 60,277	\$ 60,881	\$ 62,515
Weighted average Common Shares outstanding, basic	37,389	38,658	38,639
Stock-based compensation (1)	225	222	230
Weighted average Common Shares outstanding, diluted	37,614	38,880	38,869
Diluted earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61

(1) In applying the treasury stock method of reflecting the dilutive effect of outstanding stock-based compensation in the calculation of diluted EPS, 150,606 stock options and 243,288 restricted stock units, including performance awards, at December 31, 2015 were deemed to be outstanding in accordance with accounting guidance on earnings per share.

During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, AWR issued Common Shares totaling 53,612, 74,145 and 114,821, respectively, under AWR's Common Share Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan ("DRP"), the 2000 and 2008 employee plans and the 2003 and 2013 directors plans. As of December 31, 2015, there are 1,055,948 and 387,300 Common Shares authorized for issuance directly by AWR but unissued under the DRP and the 401(k) Plan, respectively. Shares reserved for the 401(k) Plan are in relation to AWR's matching contributions and investment by participants. In addition, during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, AWR issued 66,458, 37,006 and 131,448 Common Shares for approximately \$1,198,000, \$589,000 and \$2,111,000, respectively, as a result of the exercise of stock options. During 2015, 2014 and 2013, no cash proceeds received by AWR as a result of the exercise of stock options were distributed to any subsidiaries of AWR.

In 2014 and 2015, AWR's Board of Directors approved two stock repurchase programs, authorizing AWR to repurchase up to 2.45 million shares of its Common Shares. Both programs were completed during 2015. Under these programs, Registrant repurchased 1,905,000 and 545,000 Common Shares on the open market during 2015 and 2014, respectively. The repurchase of Common Shares is restricted by California law under the same standards which apply to dividend distributions. See Note 7 (Dividend Limitations) of *Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements*.

GSWC's outstanding Common Shares are owned entirely by its parent, AWR. To the extent GSWC does not reimburse AWR for stock-based compensation awarded under various stock compensation plans, such amounts increase the value of GSWC's common shareholder's equity.

**Note 7 — Dividend Limitations**

GSWC is subject to contractual restrictions on its ability to pay dividends. GSWC's maximum ability to pay dividends is restricted by certain Note Agreements to the sum of \$21.0 million plus 100% of consolidated net income from various dates plus the aggregate net cash proceeds received from capital stock offerings or other instruments convertible into capital stock from various dates. Under the most restrictive of the Note Agreements, \$353.3 million was available to pay dividends to AWR as of December 31, 2015. GSWC is also prohibited from paying dividends if, after giving effect to the dividend, its total indebtedness to capitalization ratio (as defined) would be more than 0.6667-to-1. Dividends in the amount of \$62.0 million, \$52.0 million and \$29.4 million were paid to AWR by GSWC during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

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The ability of AWR, ASUS and GSWC to pay dividends is also restricted by California law. Under California law, AWR, GSWC and ASUS are each permitted to distribute dividends to its shareholders so long as the Board of Directors determines, in good faith, that either: (i) the value of the corporation's assets equals or exceeds the sum of its total liabilities immediately after the dividend, or (ii) its retained earnings equals or exceeds the amount of the distribution. Under the least restrictive of the California tests, approximately \$220.9 million was available to pay dividends to AWR's shareholders at December 31, 2015. Approximately \$184.9 million was available for GSWC to pay dividends to AWR at December 31, 2015. The ability of each of the subsidiaries of ASUS to pay dividends to ASUS may also be restricted under the law of the applicable state of formation of each subsidiary.

**Note 8 — Bank Debt**

AWR has access to a \$100.0 million syndicated credit facility which expires in May 2018. AWR may, under the terms of the facility, elect to increase the aggregate commitment by up to an additional \$50.0 million. The aggregate effective amount that may be outstanding under letters of credit is \$25.0 million. AWR has obtained letters of credit, primarily for GSWC, in the aggregate amount of \$10.4 million, with fees of 0.65% including: (i) a \$5.8 million letter of credit representing a percentage of the outstanding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") funds received by GSWC for reimbursement of capital costs related to the installation of meters in GSWC's Arden-Cordova water system; (ii) letters of credit in an aggregate amount of \$340,000 as security for GSWC's business automobile insurance policy; (iii) a letter of credit, in an amount of \$585,000 as security for the purchase of power; (iv) a \$15,000 irrevocable letter of credit pursuant to a franchise agreement with the City of Rancho Cordova, and (v) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$3.6 million, pursuant to a settlement agreement with Southern California Edison Company to cover GSWC's commitment to pay the settlement amount. Letters of credit outstanding reduce the amount that may be borrowed under the revolving credit facility. There were no compensating balances required.

Loans can be obtained at the option of AWR and bear interest at rates based on credit ratings and Euro rate margins. In May 2015, Standard & Poor's Rating Services ("S&P") affirmed the 'A+' credit rating on both American States Water Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Golden State Water Company. S&P also revised its rating outlook to stable from positive for both companies. S&P debt ratings range from AAA (highest rating possible) to D (obligation is in default). In December 2015, Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") affirmed its 'A2' rating with a stable outlook for GSWC.

At December 31, 2015, there was \$28.0 million outstanding under this facility. At times, AWR borrows under this facility and provides loans to its subsidiaries in support of their operations, on terms that are similar to that of the credit facility.

AWR's short-term borrowing activities (excluding letters of credit) for the last three years were as follows:

(in thousands, except percent)	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Balance Outstanding at December 31,	\$ 28,000	\$ —	\$ —
Interest Rate at December 31,	1.09%	0.82%	0.82%
Average Amount Outstanding	\$ 4,112	\$ 6,181	\$ —
Weighted Average Annual Interest Rate	0.92%	0.81%	1.02%
Maximum Amount Outstanding	\$ 37,000	\$ 24,000	\$ —

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 Moody's Investor Service or S&P debt rating of Baa3 or BBB-, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, AWR was in compliance with these requirements. As of December 31, 2015, AWR had an interest coverage ratio of 7.68 times interest expense, a debt ratio of 0.44 to 1.00 and a debt rating of A+ by S&P.

## **Note 9 — Long-Term Debt**

Registrant's long-term debt consists primarily of Notes and Debentures of GSWC. Registrant summarizes its long-term debt in the Statements of Capitalization. GSWC does not currently have any outstanding mortgages or other encumbrances on its properties. GSWC's leases and other similar financial arrangements are not material.

Private placement notes issued by GSWC in the amount of \$28 million contain restrictions on the payment of dividends, minimum interest coverage requirements, a maximum debt to capitalization ratio and a negative pledge. Pursuant to the terms of these agreements, GSWC must maintain a minimum interest coverage ratio of two times interest expense. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC had an interest coverage ratio of over four times interest expense.

On July 15, 2014, GSWC redeemed its \$5,000,000, 6.87% Medium-Term Notes Series A due 2023, and \$10,000,000, 7.00% Medium-Term Notes Series A, also due 2023. The notes were redeemed at a price of 100% of the outstanding principal amount of the notes, plus interest. In December 2014, GSWC replaced these notes with lower interest rate debt and issued \$15,000,000 in 3.45% Senior Notes due December 23, 2029. Pursuant to the terms of these notes, GSWC must maintain a total indebtedness to capitalization ratio (as defined) of less than 0.6667 to 1 and a total indebtedness to earnings before income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of less than 8 to 1. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC had a total indebtedness to capitalization ratio of 0.4511-to-1 and a total indebtedness to EBITDA of 2.4-to-1.

Certain long-term debt issues outstanding as of December 31, 2015 can be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of GSWC subject to redemption schedules embedded in the agreements particular to each redeemable issue. With the exception of the 9.56% Notes and Senior Notes issued to Co-Bank, as of December 31, 2015, the redemption premiums in effect are now zero. The 9.56% Notes are subject to a make-whole premium based on 55 basis points above the applicable Treasury Yield if redeemed prior to 2021. After 2021, the maximum redemption premium is 3% of par value. The Senior Notes with Co-Bank are subject to a make-whole premium based on the difference between Co-Bank's cost of funds on the date of purchase and Co-Bank's cost of funds on the date of redemption, plus 0.5%. The \$15,000,000, 3.45% Senior Notes due December 23, 2029, have similar redemption premiums.

In October 2009, GSWC entered into an agreement with the California Department of Health ("CDPH") whereby CDPH agreed to provide funds to GSWC of up to \$9.0 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Proceeds from the funds received were used to reimburse GSWC for capital costs incurred to install water meters to convert customers in GSWC's Arden-Cordova district from non-metered service to metered service. GSWC received a total of \$8.6 million in reimbursements from the CDPH, half of which was recorded as a contribution in aid of construction and the other half as long-term debt in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The loan portion bears interest at a rate of 2.5% and is payable over 20 years beginning in 2013. A surcharge to recover from customers the debt service cost on this loan was approved by the CPUC and implemented in 2013. Pursuant to the agreement, GSWC also issued letters of credit to CDPH equal to 80% of the amount loaned to GSWC. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has a total of \$5.8 million in letters of credit issued to CDPH.

Annual maturities of all long-term debt, including capitalized leases, are as follows for each fiscal year through December 31, 2020 and thereafter (in thousands):

	<b>Maturity as of December 31,</b>
2016	\$ 312
2017	330
2018	324
2019	40,320
2020	344
Thereafter	284,223
Total	<b>\$ 325,853</b>

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**Note 10 — Taxes on Income**

Registrant provides deferred income taxes for temporary differences under the accounting guidance for income taxes for certain transactions which are recognized for income tax purposes in a period different from that in which they are reported in the financial statements. The most significant items are the tax effects of differences in asset basis (including accelerated depreciation and capitalization methods), certain regulatory balancing accounts and advances for, and contributions in aid of, construction. The accounting guidance for income taxes also requires that rate-regulated enterprises record deferred income taxes for temporary differences given flow-through treatment at the direction of a regulatory commission. The resulting deferred tax assets and liabilities are recorded at the expected cash flow to be reflected in future rates. Given that the CPUC has consistently permitted the recovery of flowed-through tax effects, GSWC has established regulatory liabilities and assets offsetting such deferred tax assets and liabilities (Note 2). Deferred investment tax credits ("ITC") are amortized ratably to deferred tax expense over the lives of the property giving rise to the credits.

GSWC is included in AWR's consolidated federal income tax and combined California state franchise tax returns. California unitary apportionment provides a benefit or detriment to AWR's state taxes, depending on a combination of the profitability of AWR's non-California activities as well as the proportion of its California sales to total sales. Consistent with the method adopted for regulatory purposes, GSWC's tax expense is computed as if GSWC were autonomous and files separate returns. Given that all of GSWC's activities are conducted within California, GSWC's state tax expense does not reflect apportionment of its income.

As a regulated utility, GSWC treats certain temporary differences as flow-through adjustments in computing its income tax provision consistent with the income tax approach approved by the CPUC for ratemaking purposes. Flow-through adjustments increase or decrease tax expense in one period, with an offsetting decrease or increase occurring in another period. Giving effect to these temporary differences as flow-through adjustments typically results in a greater variance between the effective tax rate ("ETR") and the statutory federal income tax rate in any given period than would otherwise exist if GSWC were not required to account for its income taxes as a regulated enterprise. The GSWC ETRs deviate from the statutory rate primarily due to state taxes and differences between book and taxable income that are treated as flow-through adjustments in accordance with regulatory requirements (principally plant-, rate-case- and compensation-related items). The ETR at the AWR consolidated level also fluctuates as a result of ASUS's state income taxes, which vary among the jurisdictions in which it operates, and certain permanent differences.

**Changes in Tax Law**

In December 2015, the Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act of 2015 extended bonus depreciation for qualifying property through 2019. For 2015 through 2017, bonus depreciation was extended at a 50% rate. For 2018-2019, bonus depreciation will be phased down to 40% and 30%, respectively. Although the change in law reduces AWR's current taxes payable over these years, it does not reduce its total income tax expense or ETR.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the Company reflected a change in its tax method of accounting for certain repair and maintenance expenditures pursuant to regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Department in September 2013. In connection with filing its 2014 federal tax return during the third quarter of 2015, the Company filed an application for an automatic change in tax accounting method with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") for the 2014 tax year to implement the new method (effective January 1, 2014). The tax accounting method change included a cumulative adjustment for 2013 and prior years, and permits the expensing of certain utility asset replacement costs that were previously being capitalized and depreciated for book and tax purposes. As a result of the change, the Company will deduct a significant amount of asset costs, which consist primarily of water mains and connections.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, GSWC recorded a cumulative adjustment for 2013 and prior years as well as the 2014 estimated deduction, and recognized a total deferred income tax liability of \$30.8 million for federal and state repair-and-maintenance deductions as of December 31, 2014. Although this change reduces AWR's current taxes payable, it does not reduce total income tax expense or the ETR.

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The significant components of the deferred tax assets and liabilities as reflected in the balance sheets at December 31, 2015 and 2014 are:

(dollars in thousands)	AWR		GSWC	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Deferred tax assets:				
Regulatory-liability-related: ITC	\$ 952	\$ 1,001	\$ 952	\$ 1,001
Regulatory-liability-related: California Corp Franchise Tax	4,530	4,328	4,530	4,328
Other non-property-related	2,486	2,395	1,997	2,136
Contributions and advances	8,026	8,335	8,026	8,335
	<u>\$ 15,994</u>	<u>\$ 16,059</u>	<u>\$ 15,505</u>	<u>\$ 15,800</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:				
Fixed assets	\$ (178,004)	\$ (163,232)	\$ (179,660)	\$ (164,724)
Regulatory-asset-related: depreciation and other	(21,658)	(22,941)	(21,658)	(22,941)
California Corp Franchise Tax	(2,440)	(4,069)	(3,051)	(4,831)
Other property-related	(66)	(59)	(65)	(59)
Balancing and memorandum accounts	(1,824)	(4,071)	(1,824)	(4,071)
Deferred charges	(4,849)	(5,461)	(4,905)	(5,461)
	<u>(208,841)</u>	<u>(199,833)</u>	<u>(211,163)</u>	<u>(202,087)</u>
Accumulated deferred income taxes - net	<u>\$ (192,847)</u>	<u>\$ (183,774)</u>	<u>\$ (195,658)</u>	<u>\$ (186,287)</u>

The current and deferred components of income tax expense are as follows:

(dollars in thousands)	AWR		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Current			
Federal	\$ 21,866	\$ 5,595	\$ 13,741
State	5,442	137	5,930
Total current tax expense	<u>\$ 27,308</u>	<u>\$ 5,732</u>	<u>\$ 19,671</u>
Deferred			
Federal	\$ 8,948	\$ 24,815	\$ 14,769
State	1,475	7,501	1,343
Total deferred tax expense	<u>10,423</u>	<u>32,316</u>	<u>16,112</u>
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 37,731</u>	<u>\$ 38,048</u>	<u>\$ 35,783</u>

(dollars in thousands)	GSWC		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Current			
Federal	\$ 16,196	\$ 408	\$ 10,768
State	5,557	(2,754)	6,315
Total current tax expense	<u>\$ 21,753</u>	<u>\$ (2,346)</u>	<u>\$ 17,083</u>
Deferred			
Federal	\$ 8,536	\$ 24,373	\$ 14,691
State	2,183	9,979	1,360
Total deferred tax expense	<u>10,719</u>	<u>34,352</u>	<u>16,051</u>
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 32,472</u>	<u>\$ 32,006</u>	<u>\$ 33,134</u>



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The reconciliations of the effective tax rates to the federal statutory rate are as follows:

(dollars in thousands, except percent)	AWR		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Federal taxes on pretax income at statutory rate	\$ 34,375	\$ 34,687	\$ 34,464
Increase (decrease) in taxes resulting from:			
State income tax, net of federal benefit	4,843	4,781	5,111
Flow-through on fixed assets	626	651	646
Flow-through on pension costs	267	(507)	612
Flow-through on removal costs	(929)	(1,571)	(2,141)
Domestic production activities deduction	(1,560)	(643)	(2,944)
Investment tax credit	(88)	(91)	(91)
Other – net	197	741	126
Total income tax expense from operations	\$ 37,731	\$ 38,048	\$ 35,783
Pretax income from operations	\$ 98,215	\$ 99,106	\$ 98,469
Effective income tax rate	38.4%	38.4%	36.3%

(dollars in thousands, except percent)	GSWC		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Federal taxes on pretax income at statutory rate	\$ 28,022	\$ 27,952	\$ 28,622
Increase (decrease) in taxes resulting from:			
State income tax, net of federal benefit	5,151	4,693	5,372
Flow-through on fixed assets	626	651	646
Flow-through on pension costs	267	(507)	612
Flow-through on removal costs	(929)	(1,571)	(2,141)
Domestic production activities deduction	(1,268)	(55)	(1,316)
Investment tax credit	(88)	(91)	(91)
Other – net	691	934	1,430
Total income tax expense from operations	\$ 32,472	\$ 32,006	\$ 33,134
Pretax income from operations	\$ 80,063	\$ 79,863	\$ 81,776
Effective income tax rate	40.6%	40.1%	40.5%

AWR and GSWC had no unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

Registrant's policy is to classify interest on income tax over/underpayments in interest income/expense and penalties in "other operating expenses."

At December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, AWR included \$504,000, \$504,000 and \$757,000, respectively, of net interest receivables from taxing authorities in other current and noncurrent assets. AWR recognized no interest income or expense during the year ended December 31, 2015, and recognized \$19,000 and \$99,000 of interest income during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. At December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC included \$512,000, \$472,000 and \$704,000, respectively, of net interest receivables from taxing authorities in other current and noncurrent assets. GSWC recognized \$3,000 of interest expense, and \$14,000 and \$21,000 of interest income from taxing authorities during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

At December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, Registrant had no significant accruals for income-tax-related penalties and had no significant income-tax-related penalties recognized during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

Registrant files federal and various state income tax returns. AWR's federal 2010 through 2012 refund claims were examined during 2015, and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") completed its examination of them in February 2016. Its 2012-2014 tax years remain subject to examination by the IRS. AWR has filed protective refund claims with the applicable state taxing authority for the 2002 through 2008 tax years in connection with the matters on the federal claims for these years and other state tax matters. During 2012, the California Franchise Tax Board commenced examining these claims. The 2009-2014 tax years remain subject to examination by state taxing authorities.

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**Note 11 — Employee Benefit Plans**

**Pension and Post-Retirement Medical Plans:**

Registrant maintains a defined benefit pension plan (the “Pension Plan”) that provides eligible employees (those aged 21 and older, hired before January 1, 2011) monthly benefits upon retirement based on average salaries and length of service. The eligibility requirement to begin receiving these benefits is 5 years of vested service. The normal retirement benefit is equal to 2% of the five highest consecutive years’ average earnings multiplied by the number of years of credited service, up to a maximum of 40, reduced by a percentage of primary social security benefits. There is also an early retirement option. Annual contributions are made to the Pension Plan, which comply with the funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). At December 31, 2015, Registrant had 969 participants in the Pension Plan.

In January 2011, the Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Pension Plan, closing the plan to new employees hired after December 31, 2010. Employees hired or rehired after December 31, 2010 are eligible to participate in a defined contribution plan. Registrant’s existing 401(k) Investment Incentive Program was amended to include this defined contribution plan. Under this plan, Registrant provides a contribution of 5.25% of eligible pay each pay period into investment vehicles offered by the plan’s trustee. Participants will be fully vested in this plan once the employee attains three years of service. Employees hired before January 1, 2011 continue to participate in and accrue benefits under the terms of the defined benefit plan.

Registrant also provides post-retirement medical benefits for all active employees hired before February of 1995, through a medical insurance plan. Eligible employees, who retire prior to age 65, and/or their spouses, are able to retain the benefits under the plan for active employees until reaching age 65. Eligible employees upon reaching age 65, and those eligible employees retiring at or after age 65, and/or their spouses, receive coverage through a Medicare supplement insurance policy paid for by Registrant subject to an annual cap limit. Registrant’s post-retirement 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.

In accordance with the accounting guidance for the effects of certain types of regulation, Registrant has established a regulatory asset for its underfunded position in its pension and post-retirement medical plans that is expected to be recovered through rates in future periods. The changes in actuarial gains and losses, prior service costs and transition assets or obligations pertaining to the regulatory asset are recognized as an adjustment to the regulatory asset account as these amounts are recognized as components of net periodic pension costs each year.

During 2015, Registrant updated key assumptions used for the valuation of the pension, post-retirement and supplemental executive retirement plans. These updates included: (i) an increase in the discount rates; (ii) updates in demographic assumptions, such as retirement and termination rates, to reflect recent changes in participant behavior, and (iii) salary increases based on Registrant’s recent and future expected experience. These updates resulted in actuarial gains in the benefit obligations for the pension, post-retirement and supplemental executive retirement plans in 2015.

The following table sets forth the Pension Plan’s and post-retirement medical plan’s funded status and amounts recognized in Registrant’s balance sheets and the components of net pension cost and accrued liability at December 31, 2015 and 2014:

(dollars in thousands)	Pension Benefits		Post-Retirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Change in Projected Benefit Obligation:</b>				
Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 185,184	\$ 152,680	\$ 12,326	\$ 11,388
Service cost	6,276	5,643	340	348
Interest cost	7,686	7,520	435	495
Actuarial (gain) loss	(24,413)	24,339	(3,375)	437
Benefits/expenses paid	(5,799)	(4,998)	(333)	(342)
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	<u>\$ 168,934</u>	<u>\$ 185,184</u>	<u>\$ 9,393</u>	<u>\$ 12,326</u>
<b>Changes in Plan Assets:</b>				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 140,561	\$ 127,534	\$ 10,723	\$ 9,873
Actual return on plan assets	673	9,816	115	951
Employer contributions	6,739	8,209	109	241
Benefits/expenses paid	(5,799)	(4,998)	(333)	(342)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>\$ 142,174</u>	<u>\$ 140,561</u>	<u>\$ 10,614</u>	<u>\$ 10,723</u>
<b>Funded Status:</b>				
Net amount recognized as accrued pension cost	<u>\$ (26,760)</u>	<u>\$ (44,623)</u>	<u>\$ 1,221</u>	<u>\$ (1,603)</u>

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(in thousands)	Pension Benefits		Post-Retirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Amounts recognized on the balance sheets:</b>				
Non-current assets	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,221	\$ —
Current liabilities	—	—	—	—
Non-current liabilities	(26,760)	(44,623)	—	(1,603)
Net amount recognized	<u>\$ (26,760)</u>	<u>\$ (44,623)</u>	<u>\$ 1,221</u>	<u>\$ (1,603)</u>
<b>Amounts recognized in regulatory assets consist of:</b>				
Initial net obligation	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Prior service cost (credit)	49	167	(34)	(234)
Net (gain) loss	21,921	39,003	(5,572)	(2,891)
<b>Regulatory assets (liabilities)</b>	<u>21,970</u>	<u>39,170</u>	<u>(5,606)</u>	<u>(3,125)</u>
Unfunded accrued pension cost	4,790	5,453	4,385	4,728
Net liability (asset) recognized	<u>\$ 26,760</u>	<u>\$ 44,623</u>	<u>\$ (1,221)</u>	<u>\$ 1,603</u>

**Changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in regulatory assets:**

Regulatory asset at beginning of year	\$ 39,170	\$ 15,866	\$ (3,125)	\$ (3,175)
Net loss (gain)	(15,292)	23,422	(2,997)	(61)
Amortization of initial net obligation	—	—	—	(419)
Amortization of prior service (cost) credit	(118)	(118)	200	200
Amortization of net gain (loss)	(1,790)	—	316	330
Total change in regulatory asset	<u>(17,200)</u>	<u>23,304</u>	<u>(2,481)</u>	<u>50</u>
Regulatory asset (liability) at end of year	<u>\$ 21,970</u>	<u>\$ 39,170</u>	<u>\$ (5,606)</u>	<u>\$ (3,125)</u>
Net periodic pension costs	\$ 6,075	\$ 4,383	\$ (234)	\$ 278
Change in regulatory asset	<u>(17,200)</u>	<u>23,304</u>	<u>(2,481)</u>	<u>50</u>
Total recognized in net periodic pension cost and regulatory asset (liability)	<u>\$ (11,125)</u>	<u>\$ 27,687</u>	<u>\$ (2,715)</u>	<u>\$ 328</u>

**Estimated amounts that will be amortized from regulatory asset over the next fiscal year:**

Initial net obligation	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Prior service (cost) credit	\$ (49)	\$ (118)	\$ 34	\$ 200
Net gain (loss)	\$ (510)	\$ (1,878)	\$ 599	\$ 213

**Additional year-end information for plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets:**

Projected benefit obligation	\$ 168,934	\$ 185,184	\$ 9,393	\$ 12,326
Accumulated benefit obligation	\$ 155,469	\$ 160,510	N/A	N/A
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 142,174	\$ 140,561	\$ 10,614	\$ 10,723

**Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at December 31:**

Discount rate	4.65%	4.25%	4.25%	3.80%
Rate of compensation increase	*	4.00%	N/A	N/A

\* Age-graded ranging from 3.0% to 8.0%.

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Consistent with decisions from the CPUC and in accordance with regulatory accounting principles, Registrant capitalizes a portion of its pension and other post-retirement costs in the overhead pool included in Utility Plant. The components of net periodic pension and post-retirement benefits cost, before allocation to the overhead pool, for 2015, 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

(dollars in thousands, except percent)	Pension Benefits			Post-Retirement Medical Benefits		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
<b>Components of Net Periodic Benefits Cost:</b>						
Service cost	\$ 6,276	\$ 5,643	\$ 6,967	\$ 340	\$ 348	\$ 407
Interest cost	7,686	7,520	6,907	435	495	439
Expected return on plan assets	(9,795)	(8,898)	(7,574)	(493)	(453)	(382)
Amortization of transition	—	—	—	—	418	419
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	118	118	118	(200)	(200)	(200)
Amortization of actuarial (gain) loss	1,790	—	2,878	(316)	(330)	(7)
Net periodic pension cost under accounting standards	\$ 6,075	\$ 4,383	\$ 9,296	\$ (234)	\$ 278	\$ 676
Regulatory adjustment - over/(under) collection	523	1,622	(1,920)	—	—	—
Total expense recognized, before allocation to overhead pool	\$ 6,598	\$ 6,005	\$ 7,376	\$ (234)	\$ 278	\$ 676
<b>Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic cost:</b>						
Discount rate	4.25%	5.10%	4.30%	3.80%	4.65%	3.75%
Expected long-term return on plan assets	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	*	*	*
Rate of compensation increase	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*7.0% for union plan, 4.2% for non-union, net of income taxes in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

Regulatory Adjustment:

As previously discussed in Note 2, the CPUC authorized GSWC to track differences between the forecasted annual pension expenses adopted in rates for its water regions and the general office and the actual annual expense to be recorded by GSWC in accordance with the accounting guidance for pension costs. During the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, GSWC's actual expense was lower than the amounts included in water and electric customer rates by \$523,000 and \$1.6 million, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2013, GSWC's actual expense was greater than the amounts included in rates by \$1.9 million. These over and under-collections have been recorded in the two-way pension balancing accounts included in regulatory assets. As of December 31, 2015, the pension balancing account had a \$2.2 million net under-collection included in regulatory assets.

Plan Funded Status:

Registrant's pension and post-retirement plans were underfunded at December 31, 2015 and 2014. Registrant's market related value of plan assets is equal to the fair value of plan assets. Past volatile market conditions have affected the value of GSWC's trust established to fund its future long-term pension benefits. These benefit plan assets and related obligations are measured annually using a December 31 measurement date. Changes in the plan's funded status will affect the assets and liabilities recorded on the balance sheet in accordance with accounting guidance on employers' accounting for defined benefit pension and other post-retirement plans. Due to Registrant's regulatory recovery treatment, the recognition of the funded status is offset by a regulatory asset pursuant to guidance on accounting for the effects of certain types of regulation.

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Plan Assets:

The assets of the pension and post-retirement medical plans are managed by a third party trustee. The investment policy allocation of the assets in the trust was approved by Registrant's Administrative Committee (the "Committee") for the pension and post-retirement medical funds, which has oversight responsibility for all retirement plans. The primary objectives underlying the investment of the pension and post-retirement plan assets are: (i) attempt to maintain a fully funded status with a cushion for unexpected developments, possible future increases in expense levels, and/or a reduction in the expected return on investments; (ii) seek to earn long-term returns that compare favorably to appropriate market indexes, peer group universes and the policy asset allocation index; (iii) seek to provide sufficient liquidity to pay current benefits and expenses; (iv) attempt to limit risk exposure through prudent diversification; and (v) seek to limit costs of administering and managing the plans.

The Committee recognizes that risk and volatility are present to some degree with all types of investments. High levels of risk may be avoided through diversification by asset class, style of each investment manager and sector and industry limits. Investment managers are retained to manage a pool of assets and allocate funds in order to achieve an appropriate, diversified and balanced asset mix. The Committee's strategy balances the requirement to maximize returns using potentially higher return generating assets, such as equity securities, with the need to control the risk of its benefit obligations with less volatile assets, such as fixed income securities.

The Committee approves the target asset allocations. Registrant's pension and post-retirement plan weighted-average asset allocations at December 31, 2015 and 2014, by asset category are as follows:

<u>Asset Category</u>	<u>Pension Benefits</u>		<u>Post-Retirement Medical Benefits</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b><u>Actual Asset Allocations:</u></b>				
Equity securities	55%	61%	60%	60%
Debt securities	40%	39%	38%	38%
Real Estate Funds	5%	—%	—%	—%
Cash equivalents	—%	—%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Equity securities did not include AWR's stock as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

<u>Target Asset Allocations for 2016:</u>	<u>Pension Benefits</u>	<u>Post-retirement Medical Benefits</u>
Equity securities	60%	60%
Debt securities	40%	40%
Total	100%	100%

The Committee appointed a management firm to manage the pension plan assets effective February 2015. During 2015, the pension plan assets were allocated to collective trust funds managed by the management firm. The fair value of these collective trust funds are measured using net asset value per share. In accordance with ASU 2015-07 *Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalents)*, the fair value of the collective trust funds are not categorized in the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2015. The following table sets forth the fair value, measured by net asset value, of the pension investment assets as of December 31, 2015:

<u>(dollars in thousands)</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Cash equivalents	\$ 469	—	N/A	N/A
Fixed income fund	56,218	—	Daily	Daily
<u>Equity securities:</u>				
U.S. small/mid cap funds	21,219	—	Daily	Daily
U.S. large cap funds	42,395	—	Daily	Daily
International funds	14,455	—	Daily	Daily
Total equity funds	78,069	—		
Real estate funds	7,418	—	Daily	Daily
Total	\$ 142,174	—		



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The collective trust funds may be invested or redeemed daily, and generally do not have any significant restrictions to redeem the investments.

As previously discussed in Note 4, accounting guidance for fair value measurements establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires fair value measurements to be classified and disclosed in one of three levels. As required by the accounting guidance, assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. All equity investments in the pension plan (prior to 2015) and post-retirement plans are Level 1 investments in mutual funds. The fixed income category includes corporate bonds and notes. The majority of fixed income investments range in maturities from less than one to twenty years. The fair values of these investments are based on quoted market prices in active markets.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the post-retirement plans' investment assets measured at fair value as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, as well as the pension plan investment assets as of December 31, 2014:

		Fair Value as of December 31, 2015			
(dollars in thousands)		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Fair Value of Post-Retirement Plan Assets:</b>					
Cash equivalents	\$	31	—	—	\$ 31
Fixed income		4,182	—	—	4,182
U.S. equity securities (large cap stocks)		6,401	—	—	6,401
Total investments measured at fair value	\$	10,614	—	—	\$ 10,614
		Fair Value as of December 31, 2014			
(dollars in thousands)		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Fair Value of Pension Plan Assets:</b>					
Cash equivalents	\$	497	—	—	\$ 497
Fixed income securities		54,865	—	—	54,865
<u>Equity securities:</u>					
U.S. small/mid cap stocks		22,325	—	—	22,325
U.S. large cap stocks		42,886	—	—	42,886
International funds		11,318	—	—	11,318
Real estate funds		8,670	—	—	8,670
Total equity securities		85,199	—	—	85,199
Total investments measured at fair value	\$	140,561	—	—	\$ 140,561
<b>Fair Value of Post-Retirement Plan Assets:</b>					
Cash equivalents	\$	185	—	—	\$ 185
Fixed income		4,105	—	—	4,105
U.S. equity securities (large cap stocks)		6,433	—	—	6,433
Total investments measured at fair value	\$	10,723	—	—	\$ 10,723

Plan Contributions:

During 2015, Registrant contributed \$6.7 million and \$109,000 to its pension and post-retirement medical plans, respectively. Registrant currently expects to contribute at least \$5.5 million to its pension plan in 2016. Registrant's policy is to fund the plans annually at a level which is deductible for income tax purposes and is consistent with amounts recovered in customer rates.

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Benefit Payments:

Registrant's estimated future benefit payments at December 31, 2015 for the next five years and thereafter are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Pension Benefits</b>	<b>Post-Retirement Medical Benefits</b>
2016	\$ 5,857	\$ 535
2017	6,381	568
2018	6,865	626
2019	7,393	676
2020	7,980	722
Thereafter	48,469	4,318
Total	<u>\$ 82,945</u>	<u>\$ 7,445</u>

Assumptions:

Certain actuarial assumptions, such as the discount rate, long-term rate of return on plan assets, life expectancy, and the healthcare cost trend rate have a significant effect on the amounts reported for net periodic benefit cost as well as the related benefit obligation amounts. During 2015, Registrant updated key assumptions used for the valuation of the pension, post-retirement and supplemental executive retirement plans. These updates included: (i) an increase in the discount rates; (ii) updates in demographic assumptions, such as retirement and termination rates, to reflect recent changes in participant behavior, and (iii) salary increases based on Registrant's recent and future expected experience. These updates resulted in actuarial gains in the benefit obligations for the pension, post-retirement and supplemental executive retirement plans in 2015.

*Discount Rate* — The assumed discount rate for pension and post-retirement medical plans reflects the market rates for high-quality corporate bonds currently available. Registrant's discount rates were determined by considering the average of pension yield curves constructed of a large population of high quality corporate bonds. The resulting discount rate reflects the matching of plan liability cash flows to the yield curves.

*Expected Long-Term Rate of Return on Assets* — The long-term rate of return on plan assets represents an estimate of long-term returns on an investment portfolio consisting of a mixture of equities, fixed income and other investments. To develop the expected long-term rate of return on assets assumption for the pension plan, Registrant considered the historical returns and the future expectations for returns for each asset class, as well as the target asset allocation of the pension portfolio. Registrant's policy is to fund the medical benefit trusts based on actuarially determined amounts as allowed in rates approved by the CPUC. Registrant has invested the funds in the post-retirement trusts that will achieve a desired return and minimize amounts necessary to recover through rates. The mix is expected to provide for a return on assets similar to the Pension Plan and to achieve Registrant's targeted allocation. This resulted in the selection of the 7.0% long-term rate of return on assets assumption for the union plan and 4.2% (net of income taxes) for the non-union plan portion of the post retirement plan.

*Mortality* — Mortality assumptions are a critical component of benefit obligation amounts and a key factor in determining the expected length of time for annuity payments. In 2014, the Society of Actuaries released new mortality tables for pension plans. Beginning with 2014, the benefit obligation amounts assume a longer life expectancy of participants as a result of the actuarial update to mortality tables. The update to the mortality tables increases future annual net periodic costs.

*Healthcare Cost Trend Rate* — The assumed health care cost trend rate for 2016 starts at 6.3% grading down to 4.6% in 2038 for those under age 65, and at 6.7% grading down to 4.5% in 2037 for those 65 and over. Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A one-percentage-point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects on the post-retirement medical plan:

<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>	<b>1-Percentage-Point Increase</b>	<b>1-Percentage-Point Decrease</b>
Effect on total of service and interest cost components	\$ 78	\$ (66)
Effect on post-retirement benefit obligation	\$ 1,021	\$ (879)

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**Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan:**

Registrant has a supplemental executive retirement plan (“SERP”) that provides additional retirement benefits to certain key employees and officers of Registrant by making up benefits, which are limited by Sections 415 and 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and certain additional benefits. The Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Rabbi Trust created for the SERP. Assets in a Rabbi Trust can be subject to the claims of creditors; therefore, they are not considered as an asset for purposes of computing the SERP’s funded status. As of December 31, 2015, the balance in the Rabbi Trust totaled \$9.9 million and is included in Registrant’s other property and investments.

All equity investments in the Rabbi Trust are Level 1 investments in mutual funds. The fixed income category includes corporate bonds and notes. The fair values of these investments are based on quoted market prices in active markets. The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Rabbi Trust investment assets measured at fair value as of December 31, 2015 and 2014:

(dollars in thousands)	Fair Value as of December 31, 2015			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Fair Value of Assets held in Rabbi Trust:</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 39	—	—	\$ 39
Fixed income securities	3,903	—	—	3,903
Equity securities	5,924	—	—	5,924
Total investments measured at fair value	<u>\$ 9,866</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$ 9,866</u>

(dollars in thousands)	Fair Value as of December 31, 2014			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Fair Value of Assets held in Rabbi Trust:</b>				
Cash equivalents	\$ 29	—	—	\$ 29
Fixed income securities	3,454	—	—	3,454
Equity securities	5,282	—	—	5,282
Total investments measured at fair value	<u>\$ 8,765</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$ 8,765</u>

The following provides a reconciliation of benefit obligations, funded status of the SERP, as well as a summary of significant estimates at December 31, 2015 and 2014:

(dollars in thousands)	2015	2014
<b>Change in Benefit Obligation:</b>		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 15,926	\$ 12,296
Service cost	814	768
Interest cost	653	615
Actuarial (gain) loss	(683)	2,497
Benefits paid	(393)	(250)
Benefit obligation at end of year	<u>\$ 16,317</u>	<u>\$ 15,926</u>
<b>Changes in Plan Assets:</b>		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	—	—
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	—	—
<b>Funded Status:</b>		
Net amount recognized as accrued cost	<u>\$ (16,317)</u>	<u>\$ (15,926)</u>

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(in thousands)	2015	2014
<b>Amounts recognized on the balance sheets:</b>		
Current liabilities	\$ (411)	\$ (379)
Non-current liabilities	(15,906)	(15,547)
Net amount recognized	<u>\$ (16,317)</u>	<u>\$ (15,926)</u>
<b>Amounts recognized in regulatory assets consist of:</b>		
Prior service cost	\$ 36	\$ 153
Net loss	3,416	4,530
<b>Regulatory assets</b>	<u>3,452</u>	<u>4,683</u>
Unfunded accrued cost	12,865	11,243
Net liability recognized	<u>\$ 16,317</u>	<u>\$ 15,926</u>
<b>Changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in regulatory assets consist of:</b>		
Regulatory asset at beginning of year	\$ 4,683	\$ 2,486
Net (gain) loss	(683)	2,497
Amortization of prior service credit	(117)	(161)
Amortization of net loss	(431)	(139)
Total change in regulatory asset	<u>(1,231)</u>	<u>2,197</u>
Regulatory asset at end of year	<u>\$ 3,452</u>	<u>\$ 4,683</u>
Net periodic pension cost	\$ 2,015	\$ 1,683
Change in regulatory asset	(1,231)	2,197
Total recognized in net periodic pension and net income	<u>\$ 784</u>	<u>\$ 3,880</u>
<b>Estimated amounts that will be amortized from regulatory asset over the next fiscal year:</b>		
Initial net asset (obligation)	\$ —	\$ —
Prior service cost	(25)	(117)
Net loss	(292)	(431)
<b>Additional year-end information for plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets:</b>		
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 16,317	\$ 15,926
Accumulated benefit obligation	14,533	13,992
Fair value of plan assets	—	—
<b>Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations:</b>		
Discount rate	4.61%	4.15%
Rate of compensation increase	4.00%	4.00%

The components of SERP expense, before allocation to the overhead pool, for 2015, 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

(dollars in thousands, except percent)	2015	2014	2013
<b>Components of Net Periodic Benefits Cost:</b>			
Service cost	\$ 814	\$ 768	\$ 803
Interest cost	653	615	514
Amortization of prior service cost	117	161	161
Amortization of net loss	431	139	339
Net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ 2,015</u>	<u>\$ 1,683</u>	<u>\$ 1,817</u>
<b>Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic cost:</b>			
Discount rate	4.15%	5.05%	4.20%
Rate of compensation increase	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%

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**Benefit Payments:**

Registrant's estimated future benefit payments for the SERP at December 31, 2015 for the next ten years are as follows (in thousands):

2016	\$	411
2017		484
2018		635
2019		693
2020		1,093
Thereafter		5,567
Total	\$	<u>8,883</u>

**401(k) Investment Incentive Program:**

Registrant has a 401(k) Investment Incentive Program under which employees may invest a percentage of their pay, up to a maximum investment prescribed by law, in an investment program managed by an outside investment manager. Registrant's cash contributions to the 401(k) are based upon a percentage of individual employee contributions and totaled \$2.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, and \$1.9 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. In 2011, this program was amended to incorporate the defined contribution plan previously discussed. Contributions to the defined contribution plan for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$755,000, \$568,000 and \$394,000, respectively.

**Affordable Care Act:**

In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Affordable Care Act") was passed and was to become effective in 2014. In July 2013, compliance with the employer mandate and certain reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act were delayed until 2015. Registrant's health care plan meets the current requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Registrant continues to assess the impact of the Affordable Care Act on its health care benefit costs.

**Note 12 — Stock-Based Compensation Plans**

**Summary Description of Stock Incentive Plans**

AWR currently has four stock incentive plans: the 2000 and 2008 employee plans for its employees, and the 2003 and 2013 directors plans for directors, each more fully described below.

*2000 and 2008 Employee Plans* — AWR adopted the 2000 and 2008 employee plans to provide stock-based incentive awards in the form of stock options, restricted stock units and restricted stock to employees as a means of promoting the success of Registrant by attracting, retaining and more fully aligning the interests of employees with those of shareholders generally. The 2008 Employee Plan also provides for the grant of performance awards. No additional grants may be made under the 2000 employee plan.

For stock options, Registrant's Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors ("Compensation Committee") determines, among other things, the date of grant, the form, term, option exercise price, vesting and exercise terms of each option. Stock options granted by AWR have been in the form of nonqualified stock options, expire ten years from the date of grant, vest over a period of three years and are subject to earlier termination as provided in the form of option agreement approved by the Compensation Committee. The option price per share is determined by the Compensation Committee at the time of grant, but may not be less than the fair market value of Common Shares on the date of grant.

For restricted stock unit awards, the Compensation Committee determines the specific terms, conditions and provisions relating to each restricted stock unit. Each employee who has been granted a time-vested restricted stock unit is entitled to dividend equivalent rights in the form of additional restricted stock units until vesting of the time-vested restricted stock units. In general, time-vested restricted stock units vest over a period of three years. Each restricted stock unit is non-voting and entitles the holder of the restricted stock unit to receive one Common Share.



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The Compensation Committee also has the authority to determine the size, number, amount or value of performance awards, the duration of the performance period or performance periods applicable to the award and the performance criteria applicable to each performance award for each performance period. The grant and/or vesting of the performance awards are contingent, in whole or in part, upon the attainment of specified performance criteria or the occurrence of any event or events involving a change in control event, death or total disability as the Compensation Committee may determine. In its discretion, the Compensation Committee may grant dividend equivalent rights on performance awards upon the terms and conditions set forth in the award agreement. Each outstanding performance award granted by the Compensation Committee has been in the form of restricted stock units that generally vest over a period of three years as provided in the performance award agreement. Each employee who has been granted a performance award is entitled to dividend equivalent rights in the form of additional restricted stock units until payment of the performance award.

*2003 and 2013 Directors Plans* — The Board of Directors and shareholders of AWR have approved the 2003 and 2013 directors plans in order to provide the non-employee directors with supplemental stock-based compensation to encourage them to increase their stock ownership in AWR. No more grants may be made under the 2003 directors plan.

Commencing in 2009, non-employee directors have received restricted stock units equal to two times the annual retainer. One-third of the restricted stock units granted in 2009-2012 are payable to each non-employee director at the earlier of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant and the date of termination of service as a director. Each non-employee director is entitled to receive restricted stock units granted after 2012 ninety days after the grant date. Restricted stock units credited to each non-employee director's restricted stock unit account are at all times fully vested and non-forfeitable.

The stock options granted under the 2003 directors plan are nonqualified stock options which must be exercised within ten years after the date of grant. The exercise price of the stock options is equal to the fair market value of Common Shares on the date of grant. Stock options granted under the 2003 directors plan are fully vested and exercisable upon the date of grant. Restricted stock units with respect to dividend equivalent rights on stock options credited to the non-employee director are payable in Common Shares on the earlier of the date on which the stock option is exercised and three years from the date of grant of the stock option. No stock options have been granted to directors since AWR's 2006 annual meeting and no stock options may be granted to directors under the 2013 directors plan.

All stock options, restricted stock units and performance awards have been granted with dividend equivalent rights payable in the form of additional restricted stock units.

**Recognition of Compensation Expense**

Registrant recognizes compensation expense related to the fair value of stock-based compensation awards. Share-based compensation cost is measured by the Registrant at the grant date, based on the calculated fair value of the award, and is recognized as an expense over the employee's requisite service period (generally the vesting period of the equity grant). Immediate vesting does occur if the employee is at least 55 years old and the sum of the employee's age and years of employment is equal to or greater than 75. Registrant assumes that forfeitures will be minimal, and recognizes forfeitures as they occur, which results in a reduction in compensation expense.

The following table presents share-based compensation expenses for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013. These expenses resulting from stock options and restricted stock units, including performance awards, are included in administrative and general expenses in AWR and GSWC's statements of income:

(in thousands)	AWR			GSWC		
	For The Years Ended			For The Years Ended		
	December 31,			December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
Stock-based compensation related to:						
Stock options	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 9	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 8
Restricted stock units	2,754	2,222	2,000	2,443	1,748	1,639
Total stock-based compensation expense	\$ 2,754	\$ 2,222	\$ 2,009	\$ 2,443	\$ 1,748	\$ 1,647

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**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Equity-based compensation cost, capitalized as part of utility plant for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$369,000, \$255,000 and \$334,000, respectively, for both AWR and GSWC. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, AWR realized approximately \$877,000, \$533,000 and \$1,026,000, respectively, of tax benefits from stock-based awards. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, GSWC realized approximately \$872,000, \$514,000 and \$943,000, respectively, of tax benefits from stock-based awards.

Registrant amortizes stock-based compensation over the requisite (vesting) period for the entire award. Options issued pursuant to the 2000 employee plan vest and are exercisable in installments of 33% the first two years and 34% in the third year, starting one year from the date of the grant and expire 10 years from the date of the grant. No stock options have been granted under the 2008 plan. Time-vesting restricted stock units vest and become nonforfeitable in installments of 33% the first two years and 34% in the third year, starting one year from the date of the grant. Outstanding performance awards vest and become nonforfeitable in installments of 33% the first two years and 34% in the third year, and are distributed at the end of the performance period if the performance criteria set forth in the award agreement are satisfied.

Stock Options — There were no stock options granted during the years 2015, 2014 or 2013. A summary of stock option activity as of December 31, 2015 and changes during the year ended December 31, 2015, are presented below:

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Options outstanding at January 1, 2015	222,580	\$ 17.47		
Granted	—	—		
Exercised	(66,458)	18.02		
Forfeited or expired	(5,516)	12.96		
Options outstanding at December 31, 2015	150,606	\$ 17.39	2.74	\$ 3,699,468
Options exercisable at December 31, 2015	150,606	\$ 17.39	2.74	\$ 3,699,468

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above represents the total pretax intrinsic value (i.e., the difference between the closing price of the Common Shares on the last trading day of the 2015 calendar year and the exercise price, times the number of shares) that would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their option on December 31, 2015. This amount changes if the fair market value of the Common Shares changes. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was approximately \$1,457,000, \$596,000 and \$1,402,000, respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, Registrant received approximately \$1,198,000, \$589,000 and \$2,111,000, respectively, in cash proceeds from the exercise of its stock options.

Restricted Stock Units (Time-Vested) — A restricted stock unit (“RSU”) represents the right to receive a share of AWR’s Common Shares and are valued based on the fair market value of AWR’s Common Shares on the date of grant. The fair value of RSUs were determined based on the closing trading price of Common Shares on the grant date. A summary of the status of Registrant’s outstanding RSUs, excluding performance awards, to employees and directors as of December 31, 2015, and changes during the year ended December 31, 2015, is presented below:

	Number of Restricted Share Units	Weighted Average Grant-Date Value
Restricted share units at January 1, 2015	145,475	\$ 21.61
Granted	41,100	40.31
Vested	(73,523)	24.87
Forfeited	(1,717)	31.13
Restricted share units at December 31, 2015	111,335	\$ 26.21

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As of December 31, 2015, there was approximately \$753,000 of total unrecognized compensation cost related to restricted stock units granted under AWR's employee and director's stock plans. That cost is expected to be recognized over a remaining period ranging from 0.08 to 2.82 years.

*Restricted Stock Units (Performance Awards)* – During the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, the Compensation Committee granted performance awards in the form of restricted stock units to officers of the Registrant. A performance award represents the right to receive a share of AWR's Common Shares if specified performance goals are met over the performance period specified in the grant (generally three years), subject to certain exceptions through the performance period. Each grantee of any outstanding performance award may earn between 0% and 200% of the target amount depending on Registrant's performance against performance goals, which are determined by the Compensation Committee on the date of grant. A summary of the status of Registrant's outstanding performance awards to officers as of December 31, 2015, and changes during the year ended December 31, 2015, is presented below:

	Number of Performance awards	Weighted Average Grant-Date Value
Performance awards at January 1, 2015	75,827	\$ 27.78
Granted	29,597	41.24
Performance criteria adjustment	30,798	28.44
Vested	(4,269)	36.87
Performance awards at December 31, 2015	131,953	\$ 30.66

A portion of the fair value of performance awards was estimated at the grant date based on the probability of satisfying the market-based conditions. The portion of the fair value of the performance awards associated with performance-based conditions was based on the fair market value of AWR's stock at the grant date. The fair value of each outstanding performance award grant is amortized into compensation expense in installments of 33% the first two years and 34% in the third year of their respective vesting periods, which is generally over 3 years unless earlier vested pursuant to the terms of the agreement. The accrual of compensation costs is based on the estimate of the final expected value of the award, and is adjusted as required for the portion based on the performance-based condition. As of December 31, 2015, \$874,000 of unrecognized compensation costs related to performance awards is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period ranging from 1 to 2 years.

*Restricted Stock* - AWR has no restricted stock outstanding as of December 31, 2015.

**Note 13 - Commitments**

**GSWC's Water Supply:**

GSWC obtains its water supply from its operating wells and purchases from others, principally member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD"). MWD is a public agency and quasi-municipal corporation created in 1928 by a vote of the electorates of several Southern California cities. MWD's primary purpose was and is to provide a supplemental supply of water for domestic and municipal uses and purposes at wholesale rates to its member public agencies. GSWC has connections to MWD's water distribution facilities and those of other member water agencies. MWD's principal sources of water are the State Water Project and the Colorado River.

GSWC has contracts to purchase water or water rights for an aggregate amount of \$5.5 million as of December 31, 2015. Included in the \$5.5 million is a commitment of \$3.0 million to lease water rights from a third party under an agreement which expires in 2028. The remaining \$2.5 million are commitments for purchased water with other third parties which expire through 2038.

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GSWC's estimated future minimum payments under these purchased water supply commitments at December 31, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

2016	\$	393
2017		393
2018		394
2019		393
2020		394
Thereafter		3,570
Total	\$	<u>5,537</u>

**Bear Valley Electric:**

Generally, GSWC's electric division purchases power at a fixed cost, under long-term purchased power contracts, depending on the amount of power and the period during which the power is purchased under such contracts. During 2014, GSWC's power purchases were based on month-to-month arrangements, as the previous long-term purchase power contract expired in 2013. However, GSWC began taking power pursuant to new purchased power contracts approved by the CPUC effective January 1, 2015 at a fixed cost over three and five year terms depending on the amount of power and period during which the power is purchased under the contracts. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC's commitment under these contracts totaled approximately \$24.8 million.

The ability of GSWC to deliver purchased power to customers in its BVES service area is limited by the ability of the transmission facilities owned by Southern California Edison Company to transmit this power.

**Operating Leases:**

Registrant leases equipment and facilities primarily for its Regional and District offices and ASUS operations under non-cancelable operating leases with varying terms, provisions and expiration dates. Rent expense for leases that contain scheduled rent increases are recorded on a straight-line basis. During 2015, 2014 and 2013, Registrant's consolidated rent expense was approximately \$2,740,000, \$2,982,000 and \$2,982,000, respectively. Registrant's future minimum payments under long-term non-cancelable operating leases at December 31, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

2016	\$	2,526
2017		2,151
2018		1,717
2019		1,345
2020		1,094
Thereafter		830
Total	\$	<u>9,663</u>

There is no material difference between the consolidated operations of AWR and the operations of GSWC in regards to the future minimum payments under long-term non-cancelable operating leases.

**Construction Program:**

GSWC maintains an ongoing water distribution main replacement program throughout its customer service areas based on the age and type of distribution system materials, priority of leaks detected, remaining productive life of the distribution system and an underlying replacement schedule. In addition, GSWC upgrades its electric and water supply facilities in accordance with industry standards, local requirements and CPUC requirements. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has unconditional purchase obligations for capital projects of approximately \$44.5 million.

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**Note 14 - Contingencies**

**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 necessary and in the public interest. In addition, these laws provide that the owner of utility property (i) may contest whether the condemnation is actually necessary and in the public interest, and (ii) is entitled to receive the fair market value of its property if the property is ultimately taken.

**Claremont System:**

On November 4, 2014, voters in the City of Claremont ("Claremont" or "the City") approved a measure authorizing the issuance of \$135.0 million in water revenue bonds by the City to finance the acquisition of GSWC's Claremont water system. On December 9, 2014, the City filed an eminent domain lawsuit against GSWC. GSWC does not believe the seizure is necessary and continues to vigorously defend against the potential condemnation. The eminent domain Right to Take trial is scheduled to begin on June 13, 2016. At this time, management cannot predict the outcome of the eminent domain proceeding. The Claremont water system has a net book value of approximately \$49.3 million. GSWC serves approximately 11,000 customers in Claremont.

**Ojai System:**

In March 2013, the Casitas Municipal Water District ("CMWD") passed resolutions under the Mello-Roos Communities Facilities District Act of 1982 ("Mello-Roos Act") authorizing the establishment of a Community Facilities District, and the issuance of bonds to finance the potential acquisition of GSWC's Ojai system through eminent domain. At this time, management cannot predict the outcome of the eminent domain proceeding. GSWC serves approximately 3,000 customers in Ojai.

**Environmental Clean-Up and Remediation:**

GSWC has been involved in environmental remediation and cleanup at a plant site ("Chadron Plant") that contained an underground storage tank which was used to store gasoline for its vehicles. This tank was removed from the ground in July 1990 along with the dispenser and ancillary piping. Since then, GSWC has been involved in various remediation activities at this site. Analysis indicates that offsite monitoring wells may also be necessary to document effectiveness of remediation.

As of December 31, 2015, the total spent to clean-up and remediate GSWC's plant facility was approximately \$4.9 million, of which \$1.5 million has been paid by the State of California Underground Storage Tank Fund. Amounts paid by GSWC have been included in rate base and approved by the CPUC for recovery. As of December 31, 2015, GSWC has a regulatory asset and an accrued liability for the estimated additional cost of \$1.4 million to complete the cleanup at the site. The estimate includes costs for two years of continued activities of groundwater cleanup and monitoring, future soil treatment and site-closure-related activities. The ultimate cost may vary as there are many unknowns in remediation of underground gasoline spills and this is an estimate based on currently available information. Management also believes it is probable that the estimated additional costs will be approved in rate base by the CPUC.

**Other Litigation:**

Registrant is also subject to other ordinary routine litigation incidental to its business. 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. Registrant is unable to predict an estimate of the loss, if any, resulting from any pending suits or administrative proceedings.



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**Note 15 - Business Segments**

AWR has 3 reportable segments, water, electric and contracted services, whereas GSWC has 2 segments, water and electric. AWR has no material assets other than its investments in its subsidiaries on a stand-alone basis.

All activities of GSWC, a rate-regulated utility, are geographically located within California. Activities of ASUS and its subsidiaries are conducted in California, Georgia, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Each of ASUS's wholly owned subsidiaries is regulated by the state in which the subsidiary primarily conducts water and/or wastewater operations. Fees charged for operations and maintenance and renewal and replacement services are based upon the terms of the contracts with the U.S. government which have been filed, as appropriate, with the commissions in the states in which ASUS's subsidiaries are incorporated.

The tables below set forth information relating to GSWC's operating segments, ASUS and its subsidiaries and other matters. Total assets by segment are not presented below, as certain of Registrant's assets are not tracked by segment. The utility plants are net of respective accumulated provisions for depreciation. Capital additions reflect capital expenditures paid in cash and exclude U.S. government-funded and third-party prime funded capital expenditures for ASUS and property installed by developers and conveyed to GSWC.

(dollars in thousands)	As Of And For The Year Ended December 31, 2015				
	GSWC		ASUS	AWR	Consolidated
	Water	Electric	Contracts	Parent	AWR
Operating revenues	\$ 328,511	\$ 36,039	\$ 94,091	\$ —	\$ 458,641
Operating income (loss)	94,213	6,196	18,091	(11)	118,489
Interest expense, net	19,468	1,090	26	46	20,630
Utility Plant	1,005,114	51,002	4,678	—	1,060,794
Depreciation and amortization expense (1)	39,190	1,703	1,140	—	42,033
Income tax expense/(benefit)	30,302	2,170	6,069	(810)	37,731
Capital additions	77,440	8,704	1,179	—	87,323

(dollars in thousands)	As Of And For The Year Ended December 31, 2014				
	GSWC		ASUS	AWR	Consolidated
	Water	Electric	Contracts	Parent	AWR
Operating revenues	\$ 326,672	\$ 34,387	\$ 104,732	\$ —	\$ 465,791
Operating income (loss)	94,014	5,728	19,351	(48)	119,045
Interest expense, net	19,370	1,260	142	(82)	20,690
Utility Plant	953,678	45,202	4,640	—	1,003,520
Depreciation and amortization expense (1)	38,388	1,466	1,219	—	41,073
Income tax expense/(benefit)	30,410	1,596	7,038	(996)	38,048
Capital additions	66,304	4,584	1,665	—	72,553

(dollars in thousands)	As Of And For The Year Ended December 31, 2013				
	GSWC		ASUS	AWR	Consolidated
	Water	Electric	Contracts	Parent	AWR
Operating revenues	\$ 320,131	\$ 38,409	\$ 113,537	\$ —	\$ 472,077
Operating income (loss)	95,932	6,411	16,737	(8)	119,072
Interest expense, net	20,236	1,436	264	(228)	21,708
Utility Plant	936,386	40,908	4,183	—	981,477
Depreciation and amortization expense (1)	36,636	2,316	1,138	—	40,090
Income tax expense	30,679	2,455	4,911	(2,262)	35,783
Capital additions	94,581	2,124	674	—	97,379

(1) Depreciation computed on GSWC's transportation equipment is recorded in other operating expenses and totaled \$641,000, \$678,000 and \$877,000 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

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The following table reconciles total utility plant (a key figure for rate-making) to total consolidated assets (in thousands):

	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Total utility plant	\$ 1,060,794	\$ 1,003,520	\$ 981,477
Other assets	287,806	374,778	328,706
Total consolidated assets	<u>\$ 1,348,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,378,298</u>	<u>\$ 1,310,183</u>

**Note 16 — Allowance for Doubtful Accounts**

The table below presents Registrant's provision for doubtful accounts charged to expense and accounts written off, net of recoveries. Provisions included in 2015, 2014 and 2013 for AWR and GSWC are as follows:

		AWR		
		December 31,		
		2015	2014	2013
<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>				
Balance at beginning of year		\$ 892	\$ 1,187	\$ 1,228
Provision charged to expense		869	991	1,145
Accounts written off, net of recoveries		(817)	(1,286)	(1,186)
Balance at end of year		<u>\$ 944</u>	<u>\$ 892</u>	<u>\$ 1,187</u>
Allowance for doubtful accounts related to accounts receivable-customer		\$ 790	\$ 803	\$ 755
Allowance for doubtful accounts related to other accounts receivable		154	89	432
Total allowance for doubtful accounts		<u>\$ 944</u>	<u>\$ 892</u>	<u>\$ 1,187</u>
		GSWC		
		December 31,		
		2015	2014	2013
<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>				
Balance at beginning of year		\$ 892	\$ 1,114	\$ 1,177
Provision charged to expense		844	1,055	1,056
Accounts written off, net of recoveries		(817)	(1,277)	(1,119)
Balance at end of year		<u>\$ 919</u>	<u>\$ 892</u>	<u>\$ 1,114</u>
Allowance for doubtful accounts related to accounts receivable-customer		\$ 790	\$ 803	\$ 755
Allowance for doubtful accounts related to other accounts receivable		129	89	359
Total allowance for doubtful accounts		<u>\$ 919</u>	<u>\$ 892</u>	<u>\$ 1,114</u>

**Note 17 — Supplemental Cash Flow Information**

The following table sets forth non-cash financing and investing activities and other cash flow information (in thousands).

		AWR			GSWC		
		December 31,			December 31,		
		2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
<b>Taxes and Interest Paid:</b>							
Income taxes paid	\$	14,817	\$ 15,984	\$ 10,880	\$ 1,541	\$ 16,500	\$ 7,083
Interest paid, net of capitalized interest		21,822	22,236	22,144	21,797	22,184	22,144
<b>Non-Cash Transactions:</b>							
Accrued payables for investment in utility plant	\$	20,655	\$ 13,147	\$ 19,515	\$ 20,655	\$ 13,141	\$ 19,515
Property installed by developers and conveyed		3,284	800	2,819	3,284	800	2,819

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of  
American States Water Company

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American States Water Company and its subsidiaries (“the Company”) at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule listed in Item 15(a)(2) presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedule, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting under Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedule, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Los Angeles, California  
February 24, 2016

## **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and  
Shareholder of Golden State Water Company

In our opinion, the financial statements listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Golden State Water Company (the “Company”) at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Los Angeles, California  
February 24, 2016

## Report from Management on the Responsibility for Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements contained in the annual report were prepared by the management of American States Water Company, which is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. The consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include, where necessary, amounts based upon management's best estimates and judgments. All other financial information in the annual report is consistent with the consolidated financial statements and is also the responsibility of management.

The Audit Committee, composed of three outside directors, exercises oversight of management's discharge of its responsibilities regarding the systems of internal control and financial reporting. The committee periodically meets with management, the internal auditor and the independent accountants to review the work and findings of each. The committee also reviews the qualifications of, and recommends to the board of directors, a firm of independent registered public accountants.

Registrant's independent registered public accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, is engaged to audit the consolidated financial statements included in this report in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and to express an opinion on whether those consolidated financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, Registrant's results of operations, financial position and cash flows. In addition, the effectiveness of AWR's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. The result of their work is expressed in their Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

/s/ ROBERT J. SPROWLS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Sprowls  
President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ EVA G. TANG  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eva G. Tang  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Senior Vice President - Finance,  
Treasurer and Corporate Secretary

February 24, 2016



### Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The quarterly financial information presented below is unaudited. The business of Registrant is of a seasonal nature and it is management's opinion that comparisons of earnings for the quarterly periods do not reflect overall trends and changes in Registrant's operations.

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	AWR				
	For The Year Ended December 31, 2015				
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Year
Operating revenues	\$ 100,933	\$ 114,618	\$ 132,975	\$ 110,115	\$ 458,641
Operating income	24,890	30,530	41,185	21,884	118,489
Net income	12,149	15,648	21,079	11,608	60,484
Basic earnings per share	0.32	0.41	0.57	0.31	1.61
Diluted earnings per share	0.32	0.41	0.56	0.31	1.60

(in thousands)	GSWC				
	For The Year Ended December 31, 2015				
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Year
Operating revenues	\$ 82,473	\$ 95,470	\$ 105,219	\$ 81,388	\$ 364,550
Operating income	22,473	27,235	34,081	16,620	100,409
Net income	10,385	12,949	16,243	8,014	47,591

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	AWR				
	For The Year Ended December 31, 2014				
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Year
Operating revenues	\$ 101,945	\$ 115,641	\$ 138,327	\$ 109,878	\$ 465,791
Operating income	22,768	31,000	39,895	25,382	119,045
Net income	11,021	15,354	21,171	13,512	61,058
Basic earnings per share*	0.28	0.39	0.54	0.35	1.57
Diluted earnings per share*	0.28	0.39	0.54	0.35	1.57

(in thousands)	GSWC				
	For The Year Ended December 31, 2014				
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Year
Operating revenues	\$ 81,213	\$ 94,560	\$ 105,314	\$ 79,972	\$ 361,059
Operating income	20,430	28,575	32,346	18,391	99,742
Net income	9,347	13,456	16,079	8,975	47,857

\* The sum of the quarterly 2014 basic and diluted earnings per share amounts do not agree to the yearly totals due to rounding.

## **Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

### **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

#### **(a) Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined under Rule 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures of AWR and GSWC were effective as of the end of the period covered by this annual report.

#### **(b) Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on our evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, our management concluded that the internal control over financial reporting of AWR and GSWC was effective as of December 31, 2015.

#### **(c) Attestation Report of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting of AWR as of December 31, 2015 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

#### **(d) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) or 15d(f) under the Exchange Act) of AWR and GSWC that occurred during the fourth quarter of 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### **Item 9B. Other Information**

None.

### **PART III**

#### **Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

Information responsive to Part III, Item 10 is included in the Proxy Statement, to be filed by AWR with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A, under the captions therein entitled: (i) “Proposal 1: Election of Directors”; (ii) “Executive Officers”; (iii) “Governance of the Company”; (iv) “Stock Ownership”; (v) “Nominating and Governance Committee”; (vi) “Audit and Finance Committee;” and (vii) “Obtaining Additional Information From Us” and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to General Instruction G(3).

#### **Item 11. Executive Compensation**

Information responsive to Part III, Item 11 is included in the Proxy Statement, to be filed by AWR with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A, under the captions therein entitled: (i) “Proposal 1: Election of Directors”; (ii) “Executive Officers;” and (iii) “Compensation Committee” and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to General Instruction G(3).

#### **Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

Information responsive to Part III, Item 12 is included in the Proxy Statement, to be filed by AWR with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A, under the caption entitled “Stock Ownership”, and “Proposal 2 Approval of the 2016 Stock Incentive Plan- What securities have been authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans of the company?” and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to General Instruction G(3).

#### **Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

Information responsive to Part III, Item 13 is included in the Proxy Statement, to be filed by AWR with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A, under the caption therein entitled “Governance of the Company” and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to General Instruction G(3).

#### **Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

Information responsive to Part III, Item 14 is included in the Proxy Statement, to be filed by AWR with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A, under the caption therein entitled “Proposal 4: Ratification of Auditors” and is incorporated herein by reference pursuant to General Instruction G(3).

## PART IV

### **Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

#### **(a) The following documents are filed as a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:**

1. Reference is made to the Financial Statements incorporated herein by reference to Part II, Item 8 hereof.
2. Schedule I — Condensed Financial Information of AWR. Schedules II, III, IV, and V are omitted as they are not applicable.
3. Reference is made to Item 15(b) of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

#### **(b) Exhibits:**

- 3.1 By-Laws of American States Water Company incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Form 10-Q, filed August 6, 2012 (File No. 1-4431)
- 3.2 By-laws of Golden State Water Company incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed May 13, 2011
- 3.3 Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of American States Water Company incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed June 19, 2013
- 3.4 Restated Articles of Incorporation of Golden State Water Company, as amended, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2005 (File No. 1-14431)
- 4.1 Indenture, dated September 1, 1993 between Golden State Water Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as successor trustee, as supplemented, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.01 of Golden State Water Company Form S-3 filed December 12, 2008
- 4.2 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of October 11, 2005 between Golden State Water Company and Co-Bank, ACB incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed October 13, 2005 (File No. 1-14431)
- 4.3 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of March 10, 2009 between Golden State Water Company and Co-Bank, ACB, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Registrant's Form 10-K filed on March 13, 2009 (File No. 1-14431)
- 4.4 Indenture dated as of December 1, 1998 between American States Water Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture dated as of July 31, 2009 incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of American States Water Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2009 (File No. 1-14431)
- 10.1 Second Sublease dated October 5, 1984 between Golden State Water Company and Three Valleys Municipal Water District incorporated herein by reference to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-2, Registration No. 33-5151
- 10.2 Note Agreement dated as of May 15, 1991 between Golden State Water Company and Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company incorporated herein by reference to Registrant's Form 10-Q with respect to the quarter ended June 30, 1991 (File No. 1-14431)
- 10.3 Schedule of omitted Note Agreements, dated May 15, 1991, between Golden State Water Company and Transamerica Annuity Life Insurance Company, and Golden State Water Company and First Colony Life Insurance Company incorporated herein by reference to Registrant's Form 10-Q with respect to the quarter ended June 30, 1991 (File No. 1-14431)
- 10.4 Loan Agreement between California Pollution Control Financing Authority and Golden State Water Company, dated as of December 1, 1996 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of Registrant's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 (File No. 1-14431)
- 10.5 Agreement for Financing Capital Improvement dated as of June 2, 1992 between Golden State Water Company and Three Valleys Municipal Water District incorporated herein by reference to Registrant's Form 10-K with respect to the year ended December 31, 1992 (File No. 1-14431)

- 10.6 Water Supply Agreement dated as of June 1, 1994 between Golden State Water Company and Central Coast Water Authority incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 of Registrant's Form 10-K with respect to the year ended December 31, 1994 (File No. 1-14431)
- 10.7 2003 Non-Employee Directors Stock Purchase Plan, as amended, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on January 30, 2009 (2)
- 10.8 Dividend Reinvestment and Common Share Purchase Plan incorporated herein by reference to American States Water Company Registrant's Form S-3D filed November 12, 2008
- 10.9 Form of Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement between American States Water Company or a subsidiary and certain executives incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 11, 2014 (2)
- 10.10 Golden State Water Company Pension Restoration Plan, as amended, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2009 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.11 American States Water Company 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed May 23, 2008 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.12 Amended and Restated Credit Agreement between American States Water Company dated June 3, 2005 with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed March 27, 2014
- 10.13 Form of Indemnification Agreement for executive officers incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to Registrant's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.14 Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan Agreement for officers and key employees for the 2000 Stock Incentive Plan incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on January 7, 2005 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.15 Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan Agreement for officers and key employees for the 2000 Stock Incentive Plan incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of Registrant's Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2006 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.16 Form of Director's Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2006 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.17 Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for officers and key employees under the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan for restricted stock unit awards prior to January 1, 2011 but before January 1, 2015 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed on November 5, 2008 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.18 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed March 21, 2014 (2)
- 10.19 Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement for officers and key employees for the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed November 21, 2014 (2)
- 10.20 Policy Regarding the Recoupment of Certain Performance-Based Compensation Payments incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on April 2, 2014 (2)
- 10.21 Performance Incentive Plan incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2009 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.22 Officer Relocation Policy incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2009 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.23 Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement for officers and key employees under the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan for stock options granted after December 31, 2010 but prior to January 1, 2015 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of Registrant's Form 8-K filed on February 4, 2011 (2)
- 10.24 Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for officers and key employees under the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan for restricted stock unit awards after December 31, 2010 but prior to January 1, 2015 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on February 4, 2011 (File No. 1-14431) (2)
- 10.25 Form of Indemnification Agreement for directors incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to Registrant's Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2012 (1)(2)



10.26	2013 Short-Term Incentive Program incorporated by reference herein to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on March 28, 2013 (2)
10.27	Form of 2013 Short-Term Incentive Award Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed March 28, 2013 (2)
10.28	Form of 2013 Performance Award Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on March 15, 2013 (2)
10.29	Form of 2014 Performance Award Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed January 1, 2014 (2)
10.3	2013 Non-Employee Directors Plan incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed May 22, 2014 (2)
10.31	2014 Short-Term Incentive Program incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed on April 2, 2014 (2)
10.32	Form of 2014 Short-Term Incentive Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed April 2, 2014 (2)
10.33	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for grants after December 31, 2014 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed November 21, 2014 (2)
10.34	Form of 2015 Performance Award Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed January 30, 2015 (2)
10.35	Form of 2016 Performance Award Agreement incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Form 8-K filed January 29, 2016 (2)
21	Subsidiaries of Registrant (1)
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for AWR (1)
23.1.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for GSWC (1)
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for AWR (1)
31.1.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for GSWC (1)
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for AWR (1)
31.2.1	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for GSWC (1)
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (3)
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (3)
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document (3)
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema (3)
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase (3)
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase (3)
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase (3)
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase (3)

**(c) See Item 15(a)(2)**

- 
- (1) Filed concurrently herewith  
(2) Management contract or compensatory arrangement  
(3) Furnished concurrently herewith

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Registrants have duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

### **AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY (“AWR”):**

By: /s/ EVA G. TANG

Eva G. Tang  
Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial  
Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary

### **GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY (“GSWC”):**

By: /s/ EVA G. TANG

Eva G. Tang  
Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial  
Officer and Secretary

Date: February 24, 2016

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of Registrants and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>/s/ LLOYD E. ROSS</u> Lloyd E. Ross Chairman of the Board and Director of AWR and GSWC	Date: <u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ ROBERT J. SPROWLS</u> Robert J. Sprowls Principal Executive Officer, President and Chief Executive Officer of AWR and GSWC and Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ EVA G. TANG</u> Eva G. Tang Principal Financial and Accounting Officer, Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary of AWR; and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer, Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JAMES L. ANDERSON</u> James L. Anderson Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/SARAH. J. ANDERSON</u> Sarah. J. Anderson Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ DIANA M. BONTÁ</u> Diana M. Bontá Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JOHN R. FIELDER</u> John R. Fielder Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ ANNE M. HOLLOWAY</u> Anne M. Holloway Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JAMES F. MCNULTY</u> James F. McNulty Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JANICE F. WILKINS</u> Janice F. Wilkins Director of AWR and GSWC	<u>February 24, 2016</u>

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**SCHEDULE I - CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PARENT**

**CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands)	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 836	\$ 31,629
Inter-company note receivables	12,000	1,445
Deferred tax assets	—	503
Income taxes receivable and other receivables	11	44
Total current assets	12,847	33,621
Investments in subsidiaries	479,397	478,677
Deferred taxes and other assets	5,604	4,948
Total assets	\$ 497,848	\$ 517,246
<b>Liabilities and Capitalization</b>		
Notes payable to bank	\$ 28,000	\$ —
Income taxes payable	2,579	9,902
Intercompany payables	474	—
Deferred taxes and other liabilities	28	154
Total current liabilities	31,081	10,056
Deferred taxes	734	100
Income taxes payable and other liabilities	88	289
Total other liabilities	822	389
Common shareholders' equity	465,945	506,801
Total capitalization	465,945	506,801
Total liabilities and capitalization	\$ 497,848	\$ 517,246

*The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.*

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**SCHEDULE I - CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PARENT**

**CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
<b>n thousands, except per share amounts)</b>			
Operating revenues and other income	\$ 98	\$ 81	\$ 227
Operating expenses and other expenses	11	48	8
Income (loss) before equity in earnings of subsidiaries and income taxes	87	33	219
Equity in earnings of subsidiaries	59,587	60,029	60,205
Income before income taxes	59,674	60,062	60,424
Income tax expense (benefit)	(810)	(996)	(2,262)
Net income	\$ 60,484	\$ 61,058	\$ 62,686
Weighted Average Number of Common Shares Outstanding	37,389	38,658	38,639
Basic Earnings Per Common Share	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61
Weighted Average Number of Diluted Common Shares Outstanding	37,614	38,880	38,869
Fully Diluted Earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61

*The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.*



**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**SCHEDULE I - CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PARENT**

**CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

<b>(in thousands)</b>	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities	<u>\$ 57,682</u>	<u>\$ 61,092</u>	<u>\$ 32,645</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:			
Loans (made to)/repaid from, wholly-owned subsidiaries	<u>(12,000)</u>	<u>19,668</u>	<u>(6,100)</u>
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	<u>(12,000)</u>	<u>19,668</u>	<u>(6,100)</u>
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:			
Repurchase of Common Shares	(72,893)	(17,180)	—
Proceeds from note payable to GSWC	20,700	8,300	18,236
Repayment of note payable to GSWC	(20,700)	(8,800)	(17,736)
Proceeds from stock option exercises	1,198	589	2,111
Net change in notes payable to banks	28,000	—	—
Dividends paid	(32,690)	(32,111)	(29,360)
Other	<u>(90)</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>—</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(76,475)</u>	<u>(49,238)</u>	<u>(26,749)</u>
Change in cash and equivalents	(30,793)	31,522	(204)
Cash and equivalents at beginning of period	<u>31,629</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>311</u>
Cash and equivalents at the end of period	<u>\$ 836</u>	<u>\$ 31,629</u>	<u>\$ 107</u>

*The accompanying condensed notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.*

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PARENT**

**Note 1 — Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying condensed financial statements of AWR (parent) should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of American States Water Company and subsidiaries ("Registrant") included in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K. AWR's (parent) significant accounting policies are consistent with those of Registrant and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Golden State Water Company ("GSWC") and American States Utility Services, Inc. ("ASUS"), except that all subsidiaries are accounted for as equity method investments.

**Related Party Transactions:**

As further discussed in *Note 2 — Notes Payable to Banks*, AWR (parent) has access to a \$100.0 million syndicated credit facility. AWR (parent) borrows under this facility and provides funds to its subsidiaries, in support of their operations. Any amounts owed to AWR (parent) for borrowings under this facility are reflected as inter-company receivables on the condensed balance sheets. The interest rate charged to the subsidiaries is sufficient to cover AWR (parent)'s interest cost under the credit facility.

In October 2015, AWR issued interest bearing promissory notes (the "Notes") to GSWC and ASUS for \$40 million and \$10 million, respectively, which expire on May 23, 2018. Under the terms of the Notes, AWR may borrow from GSWC and ASUS amounts up to \$40 million and \$10 million, respectively, for working capital purposes. AWR agrees to pay any unpaid principal amounts outstanding under these notes, plus accrued interest. As of December 31, 2015, there were no amounts outstanding under these Notes.

AWR (parent) guarantees performance of ASUS's military privatization contracts and agrees to provide necessary resources, including financing, which are necessary to assure the complete and satisfactory performance of such contracts.

**Note 2 — Note Payable to Banks**

AWR (parent) has access to a \$100.0 million syndicated credit facility which expires in May 2018. AWR may, under the terms of the agreement, elect to increase the aggregate commitment by up to an additional \$50.0 million. The aggregate effective amount that may be outstanding under letters of credit is \$25.0 million. AWR has obtained letters of credit, primarily for GSWC, in the aggregate amount of \$10.4 million, with fees of 0.65% including: (i) a \$5.8 million letter of credit representing a percentage of the outstanding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") funds received by GSWC for reimbursement of capital costs related to the installation of meters in GSWC's Arden-Cordova water system; (ii) letters of credit in an aggregate amount of \$340,000 as security for GSWC's business automobile insurance policy; (iii) a letter of credit in an amount of \$585,000 as security for the purchase of power; (iv) a \$15,000 irrevocable letter of credit pursuant to a franchise agreement with the City of Rancho Cordova; and (v) an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$3.6 million, pursuant to a settlement agreement with Southern California Edison Company to cover GSWC's commitment to pay the settlement amount. Letters of credit outstanding reduce the amount that may be borrowed under the revolving credit facility. There were no compensating balances required.

Loans can be obtained at the option of AWR and bear interest at rates based on credit ratings and Euro rate margins. In May 2015, Standard & Poor's Rating Services ("S&P") affirmed the 'A+' credit rating on both American States Water Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, Golden State Water Company. S&P also revised its rating outlook to stable from positive for both companies as a result of the announcement of the second stock repurchase program. S&P debt ratings range from AAA (highest rating possible) to D (obligation is in default). In December 2015, Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") affirmed its 'A2' rating with a stable outlook for GSWC.

At December 31, 2015, there was \$28.0 million outstanding under this facility. At times, AWR (parent) borrows under this facility and provides loans to its subsidiaries in support of its operations, under terms that are similar to that of the credit facility.

**AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF PARENT**

AWR's (parent) short-term borrowing activities (excluding letters of credit) for the last three years were as follows:

(in thousands, except percent)	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Balance Outstanding at December 31,	\$ 28,000	\$ —	\$ —
Interest Rate at December 31,	1.09%	0.82%	0.82%
Average Amount Outstanding	\$ 4,112	\$ 6,181	\$ —
Weighted Average Annual Interest Rate	0.92%	0.81%	1.02%
Maximum Amount Outstanding	\$ 37,000	\$ 24,000	\$ —

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 from Moody's or S&P of Baa3 or BBB-, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, AWR was in compliance with these covenants with an interest coverage ratio of 7.68 times interest expense, a debt ratio of 0.44 to 1.00 and a debt rating of A+.

**Note 3 — Income Taxes**

AWR (parent) receives a tax benefit for expenses incurred at the parent-company level. AWR (parent) also recognizes the effect of AWR's consolidated California unitary apportionment, which is beneficial or detrimental depending on a combination of the profitability of AWR's consolidated non-California activities as well as the proportion of its consolidated California sales to total sales.

During the year ended December 31, 2013, AWR (parent) recorded a cumulative tax benefit of \$1.5 million related to an employee benefit plan for deductions taken on recently filed tax returns and amounts taken, and to be taken, on amended income tax returns.

**Note 4 — Dividend from Subsidiaries**

Dividends in the amount of \$62.0 million, \$52.0 million and \$29.4 million were paid to AWR (parent) by its wholly-owned subsidiaries during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**Board of Directors****American States Water Company  
and Golden State Water Company****Lloyd E. Ross**

(Chairman of the Board of Directors)  
Retired, Principal  
L. Ross Consulting  
Director since 1995  
Non-voting ex-officio member of  
all committees

**James L. Anderson (A,B)**

(Chairperson of the Compensation  
Committee)  
Senior Vice President  
Americo Life Inc.  
Director since 1997

**Sarah J. Anderson (C)**

(Chairperson of the Audit & Finance  
Committee)  
Retired, Partner  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Director since 2012

**Diana M. Bontá (A,B)**

President & CEO  
The Bontá Group  
Director since 2007

**John R. Fielder (C,D)**

Retired, President  
Southern California Edison Company  
Director since 2013

**Anne M. Holloway (A,B)**

(Chairperson of the Nominating  
& Governance Committee)  
Retired, Partner  
Navigant Consulting, Inc.  
Director since 1998

**James F. McNulty (A,D)**

(Chairperson of the ASUS Committee)  
Retired, Chairman & CEO  
Parsons Corporation  
Director since 2010

**Janice F. Wilkins (C,D)**

Retired, Vice President of Finance  
and Director of Internal Audit  
Intel Corporation  
Director since 2011

**Robert J. Sprowls (D)**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Director since 2009

- (A) Member – Compensation Committee  
(B) Member – Nominating & Governance  
(C) Member – Audit & Finance Committee  
(D) Member – ASUS Committee

**Officers****American States Water Company****Robert J. Sprowls (11)**

President and Chief Executive Officer

**Eva G. Tang (19)**

Senior Vice President – Finance, Chief  
Financial Officer, Corporate Secretary  
and Treasurer

**Gladys M. Farrow (13)**

Assistant Secretary

**Officers****Golden State Water Company****Robert J. Sprowls (11)**

President and Chief Executive Officer

**Denise L. Kruger (23)**

Senior Vice President – Regulated Utilities

**Eva G. Tang (19)**

Senior Vice President – Finance, Chief  
Financial Officer and Secretary

**Gladys M. Farrow (13)**

Vice President – Finance, Treasurer and  
Assistant Secretary

**William C. Gedney (18)**

Vice President – Environmental Quality

**Paul J. Rowley (8)**

Vice President – Water Operations<sup>1</sup>

**Patrick R. Scanlon (37)**

Vice President – Water Operations<sup>2</sup>

**Bryan K. Switzer (15)**

Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

**Board of Directors****American States Utility Services,  
Inc. and Subsidiaries****James F. McNulty**

(Chairman of the Board of Directors)  
Director since 2012

**Lloyd E. Ross**

Director since 1998

**Robert J. Sprowls**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Director since 2009

**Officers****American States Utility Services,  
Inc. and Subsidiaries****Robert J. Sprowls (11)**

President and Chief Executive Officer

**James C. Cotton III (7)**

Senior Vice President and Procurement  
Officer

**Eva G. Tang (19)**

Senior Vice President – Finance, Chief  
Financial Officer and Secretary

**James B. Gallagher (28)**

Vice President – Management Services

**Granville R. Hodges, Jr. (37)**

Vice President – Operations

**Gladys M. Farrow (13)**

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

(#) Years of Service with Corporation

<sup>1</sup> For Northern and Mountain/Desert Districts;  
Director of Procurement Services

<sup>2</sup> For Coastal, Central, Southwest, Foothill,  
and Orange County Districts

**Shareholder Assistance**

For shareholder questions related to your  
AWR shares, you should contact:

Computershare Investor Services  
Attn: Shareholder Relations Dept.  
250 Royal Street  
Canton, MA 02021  
Telephone (888) 816-6998

**Annual Meeting**

10:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight time  
Tuesday, May 17, 2016

The Langham Hotel  
1401 South Oak Knoll Ave.,  
Pasadena, California 91106

**Independent Registered Public  
Accounting Firm**

PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP  
601 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, California 90017

**Stock Exchange**

Common shares of American States Water  
Company are traded on the New York Stock  
Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol AWR.

**For Investor Information From  
The Company**

Call (877) 463-6297 (INFOAWR)  
investorinfo@aswater.com

