

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

Form 10-K

March 14, 2007

**Table of Contents**

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

**Form 10-K**

**☐ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006**

**OR**

**○ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from        to        .**

**Commission file No. 1-13883**

**CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**

*(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)*

**77-0448994**

*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

**1720 North First Street, San Jose, California**

*(Address of Principal Executive Offices)*

**95112**

*(Zip Code)*

**(408) 367-8200**

*(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)*

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

Title of Each Class:  
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share  
Preferred Share Purchase Rights

Name of Each Exchange on which Registered:  
New York Stock Exchange  
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. 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. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the 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 the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past

90 days. 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, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was \$646.7 million on June 30, 2006, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. The valuation is based on the closing price of the registrant's common stock as traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Common stock outstanding at March 6, 2007, 20,656,699 shares.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the definitive proxy statement for the California Water Service Group 2007 Annual Meeting are incorporated by reference into Part III hereof.

---

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>PART I</u></b>	
<u>Item 1.</u>	1
<u>Business</u>	1
<u>Forward-Looking Statement</u>	1
<u>Overview</u>	2
<u>Regulated Business</u>	2
<u>Non-Regulated Business</u>	3
<u>Operating Segment</u>	4
<u>Growth</u>	4
<u>Geographical Service Areas and Number of Customers at Year-end Rates and Regulation</u>	5
<u>Rates and Regulations</u>	6
<u>Seasonal Fluctuations</u>	7
<u>Water Supply</u>	8
<u>Utility Plant Construction</u>	10
<u>Sale of Surplus Properties</u>	10
<u>California Energy Situation</u>	11
<u>Security at Company Facilities</u>	11
<u>Quality of Water Supplies</u>	11
<u>Competition and Condemnation</u>	11
<u>Environmental Matters</u>	12
<u>Employees</u>	12
<u>Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>	13
<u>Item 1A</u>	13
<u>Risk Factors</u>	13
<u>Item 1B</u>	24
<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	24
<u>Item 2.</u>	24
<u>Properties</u>	24
<u>Item 3.</u>	25
<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	25
<u>Item 4.</u>	25
<u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>	25
<b><u>PART II</u></b>	
<u>Item 5.</u>	26
<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	26
<u>Item 6.</u>	27
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	27
<u>Item 7.</u>	29
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	29
<u>Overview</u>	29
<u>Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates</u>	29
<u>Results of Operations</u>	31
<u>Rates and Regulation</u>	35
<u>Water Supply</u>	39
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	39
<u>Item 7A.</u>	44
<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	44
<u>Item 8.</u>	46
<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	46
<u>Item 9.</u>	73
<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	73
<u>Item 9A.</u>	73
<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	73

Item 9B.

Other Information

74

i

---

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>	
<b><u>PART III</u></b>		
<u>Item 10.</u>	<u>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>	75
<u>Item 11.</u>	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	75
<u>Item 12.</u>	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</u>	75
<u>Item 13.</u>	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	75
<u>Item 14.</u>	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	75
<b><u>PART IV</u></b>		
<u>Item 15.</u>	<u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	75
<u>Signatures</u>		76
<u>Exhibit Index</u>		78
<u>EXHIBIT 4.24</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 10.44</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 21.1</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 23.1</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 31.1</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 31.2</u>		
<u>EXHIBIT 32</u>		

**Table of Contents**

**PART I**

**Item 1. *Business.***

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This annual report, including all documents incorporated by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (Act). Forward-looking statements in this annual report are based on currently available information, expectations, estimates, assumptions and projections, and our management's beliefs, assumptions, judgments and expectations about us, the water utility industry and general economic conditions. These statements are not statements of historical fact. When used in our documents, statements that are not historical in nature, including words like expects, intends, plans, believes, may, estimates, assumes, anticipates, projects, predicts, forecasts, should, seeks, or variations of these words or similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They are based on numerous assumptions that we believe are reasonable, but they are open to a wide range of uncertainties and business risks. Consequently, actual results may vary materially from what is contained in a forward-looking statement.

Factors which may cause actual results to be different than those expected or anticipated include, but are not limited to:

- governmental and regulatory commissions' decisions, including decisions on proper disposition of property;
- changes in regulatory commissions' policies and procedures;
- the timeliness of regulatory commissions' actions concerning rate relief;
- new legislation;
- changes in accounting valuations and estimates;
- the ability to satisfy requirements related to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and other regulations on internal controls;
- electric power interruptions;
- increases in suppliers' prices and the availability of supplies including water and power;
- fluctuations in interest rates;
- changes in environmental compliance and water quality requirements;
- acquisitions and the ability to successfully integrate acquired companies;
- the ability to successfully implement business plans;
- changes in customer water use patterns;

the impact of weather on water sales and operating results;

changes in the capital markets and access to sufficient capital on satisfactory terms;

civil disturbances or terrorist threats or acts, or apprehension about the possible future occurrences of acts of this type;

the involvement of the United States in war or other hostilities;

our ability to attract and retain qualified employees;

labor relations matters as we negotiate with the unions;

restrictive covenants in or changes to the credit ratings on current or future debt that could increase financing costs or affect the ability to borrow, make payments on debt, or pay dividends; and

the risks set forth in Risk Factors included elsewhere in this annual report.



## **Table of Contents**

In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this annual report or as of the date of any document incorporated by reference in this report, as applicable. When considering forward-looking statements, investors should keep in mind the cautionary statements in this annual report and the documents incorporated by reference. We are not under any obligation, and we expressly disclaim any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

## **Overview**

California Water Service Group is a holding company incorporated in Delaware with five operating subsidiaries: California Water Service Company (Cal Water), CWS Utility Services (Utility Services), New Mexico Water Service Company (New Mexico Water), Washington Water Service Company (Washington Water), and Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc. (Hawaii Water). Cal Water, New Mexico Water, Washington Water, and Hawaii Water are regulated public utilities. The regulated utility entities also provide some non-regulated services. Utility Services provides non-regulated services to private companies and municipalities. Cal Water was the original operating company and began operations in 1926. The other entities were incorporated within the last 10 years.

Our business is conducted through our operating subsidiaries. The bulk of the business consists of the production, purchase, storage, treatment, testing, distribution and sale of water for domestic, industrial, public and irrigation uses, and for fire protection. We also provide non-regulated water-related services under agreements with municipalities and other private companies. The non-regulated services include full water system operation, billing and meter reading services. Non-regulated operations also include the lease of communication antenna sites, lab services, and our Extended Service Protection program. Earnings may be significantly affected by the sale of surplus real properties if and when they occur.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, there were no significant changes in the kind of products produced or services rendered or those provided by our operating subsidiaries, or in the markets or methods of distribution.

Our mailing address and contact information is:

California Water Service Group  
1720 North First Street  
San Jose, California 95112-4598  
telephone number: 408-367-8200  
[www.calwatergroup.com](http://www.calwatergroup.com)

Annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports are available free of charge through our website. The reports are available on our website on the same day they appear on the SEC's website.

## **Regulated Business**

California water operations are conducted by the Cal Water and Utility Services entities, which provide service to approximately 460,900 customers in 83 California communities through 26 separate districts. Of these 26 districts, 24 districts are regulated water systems, which are subject to regulation by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The other 2 districts, the City of Hawthorne and the City of Commerce, are governed through their respective city councils and are considered non-regulated because they are outside of the CPUC's jurisdiction. California water operations account for approximately 95% of our total customers and approximately 96% of our total

consolidated operating revenue.

Washington Water provides domestic water service to approximately 15,400 customers in the Tacoma and Olympia areas. Washington Water's utility operations are regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Washington Water accounts for approximately 3% of our total customers and approximately 2% of our total consolidated operating revenue.

New Mexico Water provides service to approximately 7,100 water and wastewater customers in the Belen, Los Lunas and Elephant Butte areas in New Mexico. New Mexico's regulated operations are subject to the jurisdiction

**Table of Contents**

of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. New Mexico Water accounts for approximately 1% of our total customers and approximately 1% of our total consolidated operating revenue.

Hawaii Water provides water service to approximately 500 customers on the island of Maui, including several large resorts and condominium complexes. Hawaii's regulated operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Hawaii Water accounts for less than 1% of our total customers and approximately 1% of our total operating revenue.

The state regulatory bodies governing our regulated operations are referred to as the Commissions in this report. Rates and operations for regulated customers are subject to the jurisdiction of the respective state's regulatory commission. The Commissions require that water and wastewater rates for each regulated district be independently determined. The Commissions are expected to authorize rates sufficient to recover normal operating expenses and allow the utility to earn a fair and reasonable return on invested capital.

We distribute water in accordance with accepted water utility methods. Where applicable, we hold franchises and permits in the cities and communities where we operate. The franchises and permits allow us to operate and maintain facilities in public streets and right-of-ways as necessary.

**Non-Regulated Businesses**

We operate the City of Hawthorne and the City of Commerce water systems under lease agreements. In accordance with the lease agreements, we receive all revenues from operating the systems and are responsible for paying the operating costs. Rates for the City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce water systems are established in accordance with operating agreements and are subject to ratification by the respective city councils. The City of Hawthorne lease is a 15-year lease and expires in 2011. The City of Commerce lease is a 15-year lease and expires in 2018. The terms of other operating agreements range from one-year to three-year periods with provisions for renewals.

In February 1996, we entered into an agreement to operate the City of Hawthorne water system. The system, which is located near the Hermosa-Redondo district, serves about half of Hawthorne's population. The agreement required us to make an up-front \$6.5 million lease payment to the city that is being amortized over the lease term. Additionally, annual lease payments of \$0.1 million are made to the city and indexed to changes in water rates. Under the lease we are responsible for all aspects of system operation and capital improvements, although title to the system and system improvements reside with the city. At the end of the lease, the city is required to reimburse us for the unamortized value of capital improvements made during the term of the lease. In exchange, we receive all revenue from the water system, which was \$5.4 million, \$5.8 million and \$5.9 million in 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively.

In July 2003, an agreement was negotiated with the City of Commerce to lease and operate its water system. The lease requires us to pay \$0.8 million per year in monthly installments and pay \$200 per acre-foot for water usage exceeding 2,000 acre-feet per year plus a percentage of certain operational savings that may be realized. Under the lease agreement, we are responsible for all aspects of the system's operations. The city is responsible for capital expenditures, and title to the system and system improvements resides with the city. We bear the risks of operation and collection of amounts billed to customers. The agreement includes a procedure to request rate changes for costs changes outside of our control and other cost changes. In exchange, we receive all revenue from the system, which totaled \$1.7 million, \$1.7 million, and \$1.8 million in 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively.

The City of Hawthorne and the City of Commerce are governed through their respective city councils and are considered non-regulated because they are outside of the CPUC's jurisdiction. We report revenue and expenses for the City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce leases in operating revenue and operating expenses because we are entitled to retain all customer billings and are generally responsible for all operating expenses.

Fees for other non-regulated activities are based on contracts negotiated between the parties. Under other contract arrangements, we operate municipally owned water systems, privately owned water systems, and recycled water distribution systems, but are not responsible for all operating costs. Non-regulated revenue received from water system operations is generally determined on a fee-per-customer basis. With the exception of the agreements for operation of the City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce water systems, revenue and expenses from non-

**Table of Contents**

regulated operations are accounted for in other income and expense on a pretax basis in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

In addition to the non-regulated services we provide for the City of Hawthorne and the City of Commerce, we also provide non-regulated water-related services to other municipalities and private companies. Non-regulated activities consist primarily of:

operating water systems, which are owned by other entities;

providing meter reading and billing services;

leasing communication antenna sites on our properties;

operating recycled water systems;

providing lab services for water quality testing;

Extended Service Protection (ESP) program covering repairs to customers' water lines between water meter and home; and

Selling surplus property.

The revenue from these activities is not included in operations revenue, and therefore is reported below operating profit on the income statement. Due to the variety of services provided and activities being outside of our core business, the number of customers is not tracked for these non-regulated activities, except customers for the City of Hawthorne and the City of Commerce.

Our non-regulated operations include full service operation and maintenance of water systems for cities and private owners, operation of recycled water systems, meter reading services, utility billing services, laboratory services, sales of surplus properties, leases of antenna sites, and our Extended Service Protection program.

We operate municipally owned water systems under contract for the various cities. Washington Water operates numerous private water systems under contract arrangements.

We provide meter reading and customer billing services for several municipalities in California. We also provide sewer and refuse billing services to several municipalities.

We lease antenna sites to telecommunication companies, which place equipment at various Company-owned sites. Individual lease payments range from \$700 to \$2,600 per month. The antennas are used in cellular phone and personal communication applications. We continue to negotiate new leases for similar uses.

We provide laboratory services to San Jose Water Company, a 5% stockholder of Cal Water, and Great Oaks Water Company and for the systems under operation and maintenance agreements.

In 2006, we implemented an Extended Service Protection program (ESP). The ESP program covers certain repairs to residential customers' water line between the meter and the home. Typically the utility is responsible for servicing and maintaining the water line up to and including the meter. The home owner is responsible for the water line from the meter to the house. Under the ESP program, residential customers can elect to purchase our ESP non-regulated product which provides protection in the event there are certain types of leaks in the customer's water line.

**Operating Segment**

We operate primarily in one business segment, the supply and distribution of water and providing water-related utility services.

**Growth**

We intend to continue exploring opportunities to expand our regulated and non-regulated businesses in the western United States. The opportunities could include system acquisitions, lease arrangements similar to the City of Hawthorne contract, full service system operation and maintenance agreements, meter reading, billing contracts

**Table of Contents**

and other utility-related services. Management believes that a holding company structure facilitates providing non-regulated utility services, which are not subject to any Commission's jurisdiction.

**Geographical Service Areas and Number of Customers at Year-end**

Our principal markets are users of water within our service areas. Most of the geographical service areas that we service are regulated. In addition, the City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce are included due to similarities in structure and risk of operations. The approximate number of customers served in each district is as follows:

Regulated Customers, City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce Customers at December 31, (rounded to the nearest hundred)

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA</b>		
Mid-Peninsula (serving San Mateo and San Carlos)	36,100	36,100
South San Francisco (including Colma and Broadmoor)	16,800	16,800
Bear Gulch (serving portions of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley)	18,000	18,000
Los Altos (including portions of Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Sunnyvale)	18,600	18,500
Livermore	18,200	18,100
	107,700	107,500
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>		
Chico (including Hamilton City)	26,900	26,400
Oroville	3,600	3,600
Marysville	3,800	3,800
Dixon	2,900	2,900
Willows	2,300	2,300
Redwood Valley (Lucerne, Duncans Mills, Guerneville, Dillon Beach, Noel Heights & portions of Santa Rosa)	2,000	2,000
	41,500	41,000
<b>SALINAS VALLEY</b>		
Salinas	27,800	27,800
King City	2,400	2,400
	30,200	30,200
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>		
Bakersfield	64,900	63,600
Stockton	42,100	42,300
Visalia	37,800	35,800
Selma	6,100	6,000
Kern River Valley	4,300	4,300
Antelope Valley (Fremont Valley, Lake Hughes, Lancaster & Leona Valley)	1,400	1,400

156,600

153,400



**Table of Contents**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>LOS ANGELES AREA</b>		
East Los Angeles (including portions of the City of Commerce)	27,800	27,800
Hermosa-Redondo (serving Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach and a portion of Torrance)	26,200	26,100
Dominguez (Carson and portions of Compton, Harbor City, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Torrance)	33,700	33,600
Palos Verdes (including Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and Rolling Hills)	24,000	24,000
Westlake (a portion of Thousand Oaks)	7,000	7,000
Hawthorne (leased municipal system)	6,200	6,100
	124,900	124,600
<b>CALIFORNIA TOTAL</b>	<b>460,900</b>	<b>456,700</b>
<b>HAWAII</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,500</b>
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>15,300</b>
<b>COMPANY TOTAL</b>	<b>483,900</b>	<b>479,000</b>

**Rates and Regulation**

Our water utility rates and service for the regulated business are subject to the jurisdiction of the state regulatory commissions. The Commissions' decisions and the timing of those decisions can have a significant impact on our operations and earnings.

Since our 24 California-regulated operating districts are not physically integrated, rates are set independently for each district as required by the CPUC. General office (headquarters) expenses and capital expenditures are considered separately and allocated ratably to the operating districts.

**General and Step Rate Increases**

General rate case (GRC) applications in California address district and general office operating costs and capital requirements for a forward-looking three-year period. GRC decisions typically authorize an immediate rate increase and annual step rate increases for the three-year cycle. Step rate increases are generally effective at the start of each calendar year, and are designed to maintain the return on equity (ROE) authorized in the initial decision in succeeding years. Cal Water is required to file a GRC for each operating district every three years. Preliminary applications are scheduled for submission in May and each year thereafter.

According to the CPUC's processing schedule, a final decision should be expected about 12 months after the filings are accepted by the CPUC. Since 2004, Cal Water has received GRC decisions on a timely basis. We expect future filings to receive decisions on the CPUC's published processing time line. If decisions are delayed in the future, legislation enacted in 2003 gives us protection by establishing an effective date when the decision should have been made. This allows interim rates to be charged and retroactive adjustments once the CPUC renders a decision.

Because districts are on different three-year GRC rate case cycles, the number of customers affected by GRC filings varies from year to year.

In January 2005, the CPUC approved the California Water Action Plan (the Plan). The Plan identifies and lays out 28 best practices associated with water infrastructure management and rate making that California would like to adopt over time. Among other things, the Plan calls for streamlining the GRC process, development and adoption of a Rate Adjustment Mechanism, and creating incentives for large water systems to acquire smaller systems. As part of the streamlining process, we are planning to submit GRC filings for all 24 districts and our General Office in May

**Table of Contents**

2007. While it is still unknown as to whether the Commission will process the applications, it is anticipated that the process will reduce the regulatory lag in recovery of reasonable expenses. We generally supports the action of the CPUC in its effort to improve water policy in the State of California

Water rates for Washington Water and New Mexico Water regulated operations are set based on historic 12-month data. Applications are filed on an as needed basis and can be submitted annually. Water rates for Hawaii Water are set based on a combination of historical base and forward-looking methodology and are allowed to be filed annually. In these states, regulatory procedures do not provide for step rate increases or offset increases (see Offsettable Expenses and Balancing Accounts below), except for Hawaii, which allows immediate rate adjustments to changes in purchased power rates.

**Offsettable Expenses and Balancing Accounts**

We record costs for purchased water, purchased power and pump taxes as incurred. Expenses for these categories above or below levels included in prior GRC decisions are tracked in off-line expense balancing or memorandum accounts. The cost differences are referred to as offsettable expenses. When the CPUC authorizes a rate change to recover the costs tracked in expense balancing or memorandum accounts, the rate change is referred to as an offset rate change. We do not record revenue or refunds related to the balancing accounts until authorized by the CPUC, and then only as the authorized rates are included in customers' monthly billings. Currently, recovery of balancing and memorandum accounts is subject to a downward adjustment only based on a review of each district's earnings for the past calendar year. If the recorded return on rate base exceeds the rate authorized by the Commission, recovery of the balancing account balance is adjusted downward by the amount of earnings above the authorized return.

See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Rates and Regulation for more information on rates and regulation.

**Seasonal Fluctuations**

Our water business is seasonal in nature and weather conditions can have a material effect on customer usage and thus, impact operating revenues and net income. Customer demand for water generally is lower during the cooler and rainy, winter months. Demand increases in the spring when warmer weather returns and the rains end, and customers use more water for outdoor purposes, such as landscape irrigation. Warm temperatures during the generally dry summer months result in increased demand. Water usage declines during the fall as temperatures decrease and the rainy season begins.

During years in which precipitation is especially heavy or extends beyond the spring into the early summer, customer demand can decrease from historic normal levels, generally due to reduced outdoor water usage. Likewise, an early start to the rainy season during the fall can cause a decline in customer usage and have a negative impact on revenue. When summer temperatures are cooler than normal, water usage is generally lower and can result in lower revenue and lower earnings. A warmer than normal summer can result in higher customer usage and an increase in revenue and earnings.

Drought can have an impact on the business. When rainfall is below average for consecutive years, drought conditions can develop and certain customers may be required to reduce consumption to preserve available supply. As an example, from 1987 to 1993, California experienced a six-year period when rainfall was below historic average. During that period, some districts issued water-rationing requirements to their customers. In certain districts, penalties were assessed on customers who exceeded monthly allotments, which was approved by the CPUC after local governments enacted ordinances for drought. During past drought periods, the CPUC has allowed modifications to Cal Water's customer billings that provided a means to recover a portion of revenue that was deemed lost due to

conservation measures, although there are no assurances the CPUC would do so in future droughts.

Because the demand for water varies by season, our revenues may vary greatly from quarter to quarter, even though our fixed costs and expenses will not. Therefore, the results of operations for one period may not indicate results to be expected in another period.

**Table of Contents****Water Supply**

In California, we obtain our water supply from wells, surface runoff or diversion, and by purchase from public agencies and other wholesale suppliers. Our water supply has been adequate to meet customer demand; however, during periods of drought, some districts have experienced mandatory water rationing. California's rainy season usually begins in November and continues through March with the most rain typically falling in December, January and February. During winter months, reservoirs and underground aquifers are replenished by rainfall. Snow accumulated in the mountains provides an additional water source when spring and summer temperatures melt the snowpack, producing runoff into streams and reservoirs, and also replenishing underground aquifers.

Washington and Hawaii receive rain in all seasons with the majority falling during winter months. Washington Water and Hawaii Water draw all their water supply by pumping from wells. Historically, about half of Cal Water's water supply is purchased from wholesale suppliers with the balance pumped from wells. During 2006, approximately 47 percent of the Cal Water supply was obtained from wells, 48 percent was purchased from wholesale suppliers and 5 percent was obtained from surface supplies. Well water is generally less expensive and Cal Water strives to maximize the use of its well sources in districts where there is an option between well or purchased supply sources.

New Mexico Water's rainfall normally occurs in all seasons, but is heaviest in the summer monsoon season. New Mexico Water pumps all of its water supply from wells based on its water rights.

We have five California water treatment plants in the Bakersfield, Bear Gulch, Kernville, Oroville and Redwood Valley districts. Water for operation of the Bakersfield plant, with a capacity of 20 million gallons per day, is drawn from the Kern River under a long-term contract with the City of Bakersfield. The other four plants have a capacity of 13 million gallons per day.

During 2006, we produced 132 billion gallons of water for its our customers, up 2% from the 129 billion gallons produced in 2005. The 2006 average daily water production was 363 million gallons, while the maximum single day production was 767 million gallons. By comparison, in 2005, the average daily water production was 356 million gallons and the maximum single day production was 471 million gallons.

The following table shows the quantity of water purchased and the percentage of purchased water to total water production in each California operating district that purchased water in 2006. All other districts receive 100% of their water supply from wells.

<b>District</b>	<b>(MG) Water Production Purchased</b>	<b>Percentage Purchased</b>	<b>Source of Purchased Supply</b>
<b>SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA</b>			
Mid-Peninsula	5,779	100%	San Francisco Water Department
South San Francisco	3,009	100%	San Francisco Water Department
Bear Gulch	3,889	86%	San Francisco Water Department
Los Altos	3,286	70%	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Livermore	2,929	75%	Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Oroville	1,021	83%	Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and County of Butte
Redwood Valley	146	75%	County of Lake

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Antelope/Kern	283	33%	Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and City of Bakersfield Kern County Water Agency
Bakersfield	3,994	15%	and City of Bakersfield
Stockton	6,285	61%	Stockton East Water District

**Table of Contents**

<b>District</b>	<b>(MG) Water Production Purchased</b>	<b>Percentage Purchased</b>	<b>Source of Purchased Supply</b>
<b>LOS ANGELES AREA</b>			
East Los Angeles	4,724	71%	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Dominguez	11,355	86%	West Basin Municipal Water District
City of Commerce	114	15%	Central Basin Municipal Water District
Hawthorne	1,558	100%	West Basin Municipal Water District
Hermosa-Redondo	4,169	89%	West Basin Municipal Water District
Palos Verdes	6,655	100%	West Basin Municipal Water District
Westlake	3,124	100%	Calleguas Municipal Water District

MG = million gallons

The Bear Gulch district obtains a portion of its water supply from surface runoff from the local watershed. In the Oroville and Redwood Valley districts, the water purchased is from a surface supply. The surface sources are processed through the water treatment plants before being delivered to the distribution system. In the Bakersfield and Kern River Valley districts, we purchase surface supply then processes the water through our treatment plants. In addition, the Bakersfield district purchases treated water as a component of its water supply.

The Chico, Marysville, Dixon, and Willows districts in the Sacramento Valley, the Salinas and King City districts in the Salinas Valley, and the Selma and Visalia districts in the San Joaquin Valley obtain their entire supply from wells.

In the Salinas district, which solely depends upon ground water, several wells were taken out of service in the last three years, primarily due to poor water quality. We have installed treatment systems on some of these wells to meet customer demand. Management believes that water supply issues in the Salinas district will be adequately resolved in the future by seeking additional sources or additional treatment.

Purchases for the Los Altos, Livermore, Oroville, Redwood Valley, Stockton, and Bakersfield districts are pursuant to long-term contracts expiring on various dates after 2011.

The water supplies purchased for the Dominguez, East Los Angeles, Hermosa-Redondo, Palos Verdes, and Westlake districts, the City of Hawthorne system, and the City of Commerce system are provided by public agencies pursuant to a statutory obligation of continued non-preferential service to purveyors within the agencies' boundaries.

Purchases for the South San Francisco, Mid-Peninsula, and Bear Gulch districts are in accordance with long-term contracts with the San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) expiring on June 30, 2009.

Management anticipates that we will be able to renew each of the water supply contracts as they expire. The price of wholesale water purchases is subject to pricing changes imposed by the various wholesalers. Price changes are generally beyond our control, and management expects that we will be allowed to recover the wholesale water suppliers' rate increases in customers' future rates. Recovery of any such increases is subject to approval by the CPUC and cannot be guaranteed.

**Table of Contents**

Shown below are wholesaler price rates and increases that became effective in 2006, and estimated wholesaler price rates and percent changes for 2007.

<b>District</b>	<b>Effective Month</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>2006 Percent Change</b>	<b>Effective Month</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>2007 Percent Change</b>
Antelope	January	\$ 220/af	8.6%	January	\$ 239/af	8.6%
Bakersfield*	July	136/af	7.4%	July	146/af	7.4%
Bear Gulch	July	1.22/ccf	0.0%	July	1.35/ccf	10.7%
City of Commerce	July	498/af	2.0%	July	525/af	5.4%
Dominguez	January	536/af	1.7%	January	572/af	6.7%
East Los Angeles	July	498/af	2.0%	July	525/af	5.4%
Hawthorne	January	536/af	1.7%	January	572/af	6.7%
Hermosa-Redondo	January	536/af	1.7%	January	572/af	6.7%
Livermore	January	1.357/ccf	5.2%	January	1.458/ccf	7.4%
Los Altos	July	535/af	2.9%	July	560/af	4.7%
Oroville	January	69,200/yr	8.4%	January	75,000/yr	8.4%
Palos Verdes	January	536/af	1.7%	January	572/af	6.7%
Mid-Peninsula	July	1.22/ccf	0.0%	July	1.35/ccf	10.7%
Redwood Valley	May	46.17/af	4.0%	May	48/af	4.0%
So. San Francisco	July	1.22/ccf	0.0%	July	1.35/ccf	10.7%
Stockton	April	376,292/mo	(2.7)%	April	471,498.38/mo	25.3%
Westlake	January	572/af	3.8%	January	597/af	4.4%

af = acre foot; ccf = hundred cubic feet; yr = fixed annual cost; mo = fixed monthly cost

\* untreated water

See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Water Supply concerning more information on adequacy of supplies.

We work with all local suppliers and agencies responsible for water supply to insure adequate, long-term supply for each system.

**Utility Plant Construction**

We have continually extended, enlarged, and replaced our facilities as required to meet increasing demands and to maintain the water systems. We obtain construction financing using funds from operations, short-term bank borrowings, long-term financing, advances for construction and contributions in aid of construction that are funded by developers. Advances for construction are cash deposits from developers for construction of water facilities or water facilities deeded from developers. These advances are generally refundable without interest over a period of 40 years by equal annual payments. Contributions in aid of construction consist of nonrefundable cash deposits or facilities transferred from developers, primarily for fire protection and relocation projects. We cannot control the amount received from developers. This amount fluctuates from year-to-year as the level of construction activity carried on by developers varies. This activity is impacted by the demand for housing, commercial development, and general



business conditions, including interest rates.

See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Liquidity and Capital Resources for additional information.

**Sale of Surplus Real Properties**

When properties are no longer used and useful for public utility purposes, we are no longer allowed to earn a return on our investment in the property in the regulated business. The surplus property is transferred out of the regulated operations and some properties have been sold or offered for sale. As these sales are subject to local real

## **Table of Contents**

estate market conditions and can take several months or years to close, income from the sale of surplus properties may or may not be consistent from year-to-year.

## **California Energy Situation**

The California energy crisis was well publicized. There is still uncertainty about the state's ability to avoid future rolling electric blackouts, although we did not experience any major electric blackouts during 2006 or 2005. We continue to use power efficiently to minimize the power expenses passed on to our customers, and maintain backup power systems to continue water service to our customers if the power companies' supplies are interrupted. Many of our well sites are equipped with emergency electric generators designed to produce electricity to keep the wells operating during power outages. Storage tanks also provide customers with water during blackout periods.

## **Security at Company Facilities**

Due to terrorist and other risks, we have heightened security at our facilities and have taken added precautions to protect our employees and the water delivered to customers. In 2002, federal legislation was enacted that resulted in new regulations concerning security of water facilities, including submitting vulnerability assessment studies to the federal government. We have complied with EPA regulations concerning vulnerability assessments and has made filings to the EPA as required. In addition, communication plans have been developed as a component of our procedures. While we do not make public comments on our security programs, we have been in contact with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate and improve water delivery systems' security.

## **Quality of Water Supplies**

Our operating practices are designed to produce potable water in accordance with accepted water utility practices. Water entering the distribution systems from surface sources is treated in compliance with federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts (SDWA) standards. Most well supplies are chlorinated or chloraminated for disinfection.

Water samples from each water system are analyzed on a regular, scheduled basis in compliance with regulatory requirements. We operate a state-certified water quality laboratory at the San Jose General Office that provides testing for most of our California operations. Certain tests in California are contracted with independent certified labs qualified under the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Local independent state certified labs provide water sample testing for the Washington, New Mexico and Hawaii operations.

In recent years, federal and state water quality regulations have continued to increase water testing requirements. The SDWA continues to be amended to reflect new public health concerns. We monitor water quality standard changes and upgrades our treatment capabilities to maintain compliance with the various regulations.

## **Competition and Condemnation**

Our principal operations are regulated by the Commission of each state. Under state laws, no privately owned public utility may compete within any service territory that we already serve without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Commission. Issuance of such a certificate would only be made upon finding that our service is deficient. To management's knowledge, no application to provide service to an area served by us has been made.

State law provides that whenever a public agency constructs facilities to extend a utility system into the service area of a privately owned public utility, such an act constitutes the taking of property and requires reimbursement to the utility for its loss. State statutes allow municipalities, water districts and other public agencies to own and operate water

systems. These agencies are empowered to condemn properties already operated by privately owned public utilities. The agencies are also authorized to issue bonds, including revenue bonds, for the purpose of acquiring or constructing water systems. However, if a public agency were to acquire utility property by eminent domain action, the utility would be entitled to just compensation for its loss. To management's knowledge, no municipality, water district, or other public agency is contemplating or has any action pending to acquire or condemn any of our systems.

**Table of Contents**

In recent years, consolidation within the water industry has accelerated. A number of publicly traded water companies have been acquired or merged into larger domestic companies. Several acquisitions of publicly traded companies have also been completed by much larger foreign companies. We intend to continue the pursuit of opportunities to expand our business in the western United States.

**Environmental Matters**

Our operations are subject to environmental regulation by various governmental authorities. Environmental affairs programs have been designed to provide compliance with water discharge regulations, underground and aboveground fuel storage tank regulations, hazardous materials management plans, hazardous waste regulations, air quality permitting requirements, wastewater discharge limitations and employee safety issues related to hazardous materials. Also, we actively investigate alternative technologies for meeting environmental regulations and continue the traditional practices of meeting environment regulations.

For a description of the material effects that compliance with environmental regulations may have on the Company, see Item 1A. Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Regulatory Environment We expect environmental regulation to increase, resulting in higher operating costs in the future.

**Employees**

At year-end 2006, we had 869 employees, including 45 at Washington Water, 14 at New Mexico Water and 6 at Hawaii Water. In California, most non-supervisory employees are represented by the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, except certain engineering and laboratory employees who are represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO.

At December 31, 2006, there were 577 union employees. In October 2005 and January 2006, we negotiated two-year agreements with both of our unions. Improvements in tuition reimbursement, increase in 401k employee contributions, and wage increases were part of the agreement. Wage increases under the agreements were 3.5% for 2006. Wages for 2007 were negotiated in October 2006 with a general increase of 4%, plus an additional \$1,300 per employee. The agreement also called for employees to pay an increased premium for medical insurance coverage. Management believes that it maintains good relationships with the unions.

Employees at Washington Water, New Mexico Water, and Hawaii Water are not represented by unions.

**Table of Contents****Executive Officers of the Registrant**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Positions and Offices with California Water Service Group</b>	<b>Age</b>
Robert W. Foy(1)	Chairman of the Board since January 1, 1996. A director since 1977. Formerly President and Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Storage Company, a diversified transportation and warehousing company with operations in Stockton, Modesto, Sacramento, San Jose, Vallejo, Merced and Auburn, California, where he has been employed for 42 years	70
Peter C. Nelson(2)	President and Chief Executive Officer since February 1, 1996. Formerly Vice President, Division Operations (1994-1995) and Region Vice President (1989-1994), Pacific Gas & Electric Company, a gas and electric public utility	59
Martin A. Kropelnicki(3)	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since March 13, 2006. Previously Chief Financial Officer of Power Light Corporation (2005-2006), Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Corporate Services of Hall Kinion and Associates (1997-2004), Deloitte & Touche Consulting (1996-1997), various positions with Pacific Gas & Electric (1989-1996)	40
Lynne P. McGhee, Esq.(4)	Acting Corporate Secretary since November 15, 2006; Associate Corporate Counsel since May 2003; previously served as a Commissioner legal advisor and staff counsel at the California Public Utilities Commission	42
Calvin L. Breed(5)	Controller, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer since Nov. 1994; previously Treasurer of TCI International, Inc. (1984-1994); a certified public accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. (1980-1983)	51

- (1) Holds the same position with California Water Service Company, New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company, Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc., and CWS Utility Services
- (2) Holds the same position with California Water Service Company and CWS Utility Services; Chief Executive Officer of New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company and Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc.
- (3) Holds the same position with California Water Service Company, New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company, Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc., and CWS Utility Services.
- (4) Acting Corporate Secretary of California Water Service Company, New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company, Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc., and CWS Utility Services
- (5) Holds the same position with California Water Service Company

**Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that management is not aware of or focused on or that management currently deems immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

**Risks Related to Our Regulatory Environment**

*Our business is heavily regulated by state and federal regulatory agencies and our financial viability depends upon our ability to recover costs from our customers through rates that must be approved by state public utility commissions.*

California Water Service Company, New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company and Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc., are regulated public utilities which provide water service

**Table of Contents**

to our customers. The rates that we charge our water customers are subject to the jurisdiction of the regulatory commissions in the states in which we operate. These commissions set water rates for each operating district independently because the systems are not interconnected. The commissions authorize us to charge rates which they consider to be sufficient to recover normal operating expenses, to provide funds for adding new or replacing water infrastructure, and to allow us to earn what the commissions consider to be a fair and reasonable return on invested capital.

Our revenues and consequently our ability to meet our financial objectives are dependent upon the rates we are authorized to charge our customers by the commissions and our ability to recover our costs in these rates. Our management uses forecasts, models and estimates in order to set rates that will provide a fair and reasonable return on our invested capital. While our rates must be approved by the commissions, no assurance can be given that our forecasts, models and estimates will be correct or that the commissions will agree with our forecasts, models and estimates. If our rates are set too low, our revenues may be insufficient to cover our operating expenses, capital expenditure requirements and desired dividend levels.

We periodically file rate increase applications with the commissions. The ensuing administrative and hearing process may be lengthy and costly. The decisions of the commissions are beyond our control and we can provide no assurances that our rate increase requests will be granted by the commissions. Even if approved, there is no guarantee that approval will be given in a timely manner or at a sufficient level to cover our expenses and provide a reasonable return on our investment. If the rate increase decisions are delayed, our earnings may be adversely affected.

***Our evaluation of the probability of recovery of regulatory assets is subject to adjustment by regulatory agencies and any such adjustment could adversely affect our results of operations.***

Regulatory decisions may also impact prospective revenues and earnings, affect the timing of the recognition of revenues and expenses and may overturn past decisions used in determining our revenues and expenses. Our management continually evaluates the anticipated recovery of regulatory assets, liabilities, and revenues subject to refund and provides for allowances and/or reserves as deemed necessary. Under Financial Accounting Standard SFAS No. 71 (Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulation), we can defer certain costs if we believe we will be allowed to recover those costs by future rate increases. If a commission determined that a portion of our assets were not recoverable in customer rates, we may suffer an asset impairment which would require a write down in such asset's valuation.

If our assessment as to the probability of recovery through the ratemaking process is incorrect, the associated regulatory asset or liability would be adjusted 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 cost could have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

***Regulatory agencies may disagree with our valuation and characterization of certain of our assets.***

If we determine that assets are no longer used or useful for utility operations, we may remove them from our rate base and subsequently sell those assets. If the commission disagrees with our characterization, we could be subjected to penalties. Furthermore, there is a risk that the commission could determine that appreciation in property value should be awarded to the ratepayers rather than our stockholders.

***Changes in laws, rules and policies of regulatory agencies can significantly affect our business.***

Regulatory agencies may change their rules and policies for various reasons, including as a result of changes in the local political environment. In some states, regulators are elected by popular vote or are appointed by elected officials,

and the results of elections may change the rules and policies of an agency. As a result of the political process, long-established rules and policies of an agency can change dramatically. For example, in 2001 regulation regarding recovery of increases in electrical rates changed in California. For over 20 years prior to 2001, the California Public Utilities Commission allowed recovery of electric rate increases under its operating rules. However, in 2003, the commission reinstated its policy to allow utilities to adjust their rates for rate changes by the



**Table of Contents**

power companies. The original decision by the commission to change its policy, as well as its subsequent decision to reinstate that policy, affected our business.

We rely on policies and regulations promulgated by the various state commissions in order to recover capital expenditures, maintain favorable treatment on gains from the sale of real property, offset certain production and operating costs, recover the cost of debt, maintain an optimal equity structure without over-leveraging, and have financial and operational flexibility to engage in non-regulated operations. If any of the commissions with jurisdiction over us implement policies and regulations that do not allow us to accomplish some or all of the items listed above, our future operating results may be adversely affected.

In addition, legislatures may repeal, relax or tighten existing laws, or enact new laws that impact the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over our business or affect our business directly. If changes in existing laws or the implementation of new laws limit our ability accomplish some or all of our business objectives, our future operating results may be adversely affected.

***We expect environmental regulation to increase, resulting in higher operating costs in the future.***

Our water and wastewater services are governed by various federal and state environmental protection and health and safety laws and regulations. These provisions establish criteria for drinking water and for discharges of water, wastewater and airborne substances. The Environmental Protection Agency promulgates numerous nationally applicable standards, including maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for drinking water. We believe we are currently in compliance with all of the MCLs promulgated to date but we can give no assurance that we will continue to comply with all water quality requirements. If we violate any federal or state regulations or laws governing health and safety, we could be subject to substantial fines or otherwise sanctioned.

Environmental laws are complex and change frequently. They have tended to become more stringent over time. As new or stricter standards are introduced, they could increase our operating costs. For example, we have assigned a high priority to completing work necessary to comply with new Environmental Protection Agency requirements concerning security of water facilities, which actions have increased our costs. Although we would likely seek permission to recover these costs through rate increases, we can give no assurance that the commissions would approve rate increases to enable us to recover these additional compliance costs.

We are required to test our water quality for certain chemicals and potential contaminants on a regular basis. If the test results indicate that we exceed allowable limits, we may be required either to commence treatment to remove the contaminant or to develop an alternate water source. Either of these results may be costly, and there can be no assurance that the commissions would approve rate increases to enable us to recover these additional compliance costs.

***We are party to a toxic contamination lawsuit which could result in our paying damages not covered by insurance.***

In 1995, the State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) named us as a potential responsible party for cleanup of a toxic contamination plume in the Chico groundwater. The toxic spill occurred when cleaning solvents, which were discharged into the city's sewer system by local dry cleaners, leaked into the underground water supply. The DTSC contends that our responsibility stems from our operation of wells in the surrounding vicinity that caused the contamination plume to spread. While we are cooperating with the clean up, we deny any responsibility for the contamination or the resulting cleanup.

In December 2002, we were named along with other defendants in two lawsuits filed by DTSC for the cleanup of the plume. The suits assert that the defendants are jointly and severally liable for the estimated cleanup of \$8.7 million.

The parties have undertaken settlement negotiations. If the parties finalize a written settlement agreement, it must then be approved by the court. In connection with these suits, our insurance carrier has filed a separate lawsuit against us for reimbursement of past defense costs which approximate \$1 million. We believe that the insurance carrier has a duty to defend and is not entitled to any defense cost reimbursement. Furthermore, we believe that insurance coverage exists for this claim. Consequently, we have filed a number of pre-trial motions to dismiss the lawsuit. However, if our claim is ultimately found to be excludable under insurance policies, we may

**Table of Contents**

have to pay damages. Although we consider it remote that we will not be able to recover amounts paid for damages through rate increases, we can give no assurance that we will be able to make such a recovery.

The number of environmental and product-related lawsuits against other water utilities have increased in frequency in recent years. If we are subject to additional environmental or product-related lawsuit, we might incur significant legal costs and it is uncertain whether we would be able to recover the legal costs from ratepayers or other third parties. In addition, if current California law regarding California Public Utilities Commission's preemptive jurisdiction over regulated public utilities for claims about compliance with California Department of Health Services and United States Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards changes, our legal exposure may be significantly increased.

**Risks Related to Our Business Operations**

*Wastewater operations entail significant risks.*

While wastewater collection and treatment is not presently a major component of our revenues, wastewater collection and treatment involve many risks associated with damage to the surrounding environment. If collection or treatment systems fail or do not operate properly, untreated or partially treated wastewater could discharge onto property or into nearby streams and rivers, causing property damage or injury to aquatic life, or even human life. Liabilities resulting from such damage could materially and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

*Demand for our water is subject to various factors and is affected by seasonal fluctuations.*

Demand for our water during the warmer, dry months is generally greater than during cooler or rainy months due primarily to additional requirements for water in connection with irrigation systems, swimming pools, cooling systems and other outside water use. Throughout the year, and particularly during typically warmer months, demand will vary with temperature and rainfall levels. If temperatures during the typically warmer months are cooler than normal, or if there is more rainfall than normal, the demand for our water may decrease and adversely affect our revenues.

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 these drought conditions. However, during the drought of the late 1980's and early 1990's the California Public Utilities Commission beginning in 1992 allowed us to surcharge our customers to collect lost revenues caused by customers' conservation during the drought. Regardless of whether we may surcharge our customers during a conservation period, they may use less water even after a drought has passed because of conservation patterns developed during the drought. Furthermore, our customers may wish to use recycled water as a substitute for potable water. If rights are granted to others to serve our customers recycled water, there will likely be a decrease in demand for our water. Any decreases in demand for our water will likely adversely affect our revenues and earnings.

Because the demand for water varies by season, our revenues may vary greatly from quarter to quarter, even though our fixed costs and expenses will not. Therefore, the results of operations for one period may not indicate results to be expected in another period.

*The adequacy of our water supplies depends upon a variety of factors beyond our control. Interruption in the water supply may adversely affect our earnings.*

We depend on an adequate water supply to meet the present and future needs of our customers. Whether we have an adequate supply varies depending upon a variety of factors, many of which are partially or completely beyond our control, including:

the amount of rainfall;

the amount of water stored in reservoirs;

underground water supply from which well water is pumped;

**Table of Contents**

changes in the amount of water used by our customers;

water quality;

legal limitations on water use such as rationing restrictions during a drought; and

population growth.

We purchase our water supply from various governmental agencies and others. Water supply availability may be affected by weather conditions, funding and other political and environmental considerations. In addition, our ability to use surface water is subject to regulations regarding water quality and volume limitations. If new regulations are imposed or existing regulations are changed or given new interpretations, the availability of surface water may be materially reduced. A reduction in surface water could result in the need to procure more costly water from other sources, thereby increasing our water production costs and adversely affecting our operating results.

We have entered into long-term agreements, which commit us to payments whether or not we purchase any water. Therefore, if demand is insufficient to use our required purchases we would have to pay for water we did not receive.

From time to time, we enter into water supply contracts with third parties and our business is dependent upon such agreements in order to meet regional demand. For example, we have entered into a water supply contract with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission which we rely upon. We can give no assurance that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, or any of the other parties from whom we purchase water, will renew our contracts upon expiration, or that we will not be subject to significant price increases under any such renewed contracts.

The parties from whom we purchase water maintain significant infrastructure and systems to deliver water to us. Maintenance of these facilities is beyond our control. If these facilities are not adequately maintained or if these parties otherwise default on their obligations to supply water to us, we may not have adequate water supplies to meet our customers' needs.

If we are unable to access adequate water supplies we may be unable to satisfy all customer demand which could result in rationing and would have an adverse effect on our earnings and financial condition. We can make no guarantee that we will always have access to an adequate supply of water that will meet all required quality standards. Water shortages may affect us in a variety of ways. For example, shortages could:

adversely affect our supply mix by causing us to rely on more expensive purchased water;

adversely affect operating costs;

increase the risk of contamination to our systems due to our inability to maintain sufficient pressure; and

increase capital expenditures for building 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 reservoirs and other facilities to conserve or reclaim water.

We may or may not be able to recover increased operating and construction costs on a timely basis, or at all, for our regulated systems through the ratemaking process. Although we can give no assurance, we may also be able to recover certain of these costs from third parties that may be responsible, or potentially responsible, for groundwater contamination.

*Changes in water supply costs directly affect our earnings.*

The cost to obtain water for delivery to our customers varies depending on the sources of supply, wholesale suppliers prices and the quantity of water produced to supply customer water usage. Our source of supply varies by operating district. Certain districts obtain all of their supply from wells, some districts purchase all of the supply from wholesale suppliers and other districts obtain the supply from a combination of well and purchased sources. A portion of the supply is from surface sources and processed through company-owned water treatment plants. On average, slightly more than half of the water we deliver to our customers is pumped from wells or received from a surface supply with the remainder purchased from wholesale suppliers. Water purchased from suppliers usually costs us more than surface supplied or well pumped water. During 2006, the cost of purchased water for delivery to

**Table of Contents**

customers represented 31.7% of our total operating costs and in 2005 it represented 31.4% of our total operating costs.

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. In California, our ability to recover increases in the cost of purchased water is subject to decisions by the regulatory commission. If we are not allowed to recover the higher costs, our cash flows and our capital resources and liquidity can be negatively affected. Also, our profit margins may be adversely affected, unless the commissions allow us to seek reimbursement of those costs from our customers.

Depending on the degree of heat and lack of rain, we may have to purchase higher-cost water to meet customer demand. In such circumstances, we may be unable to increase our rates in line with the cost of our purchased water. Therefore, while our revenues may increase, we may experience lower profit margins during periods of peak demand.

***We depend upon an adequate supply of electricity and certain chemicals for the delivery of our water. An interruption in the supply of these inputs or increases in their prices could adversely affect our results of operations.***

We rely on purchased electrical power in order to operate the wells and pumps which are needed to supply water to our customers. We have back-up power generators to operate a number of our wells and pumps in emergencies, but an extended interruption in power supply could impact our ability to continue to supply water. In the past, California has been subjected to rolling power blackouts due to insufficient power supplies. We can give no assurance that we will not be subject to power blackouts in the future. In addition, we require sufficient supplies of certain chemicals in order to treat the water which we supply. There are multiple suppliers of these chemicals, but if we were to suffer an interruption of supply we might not be able to adequately treat our water.

Purchased power expense represents electricity purchased to operate the wells and pumps. Purchased power is a significant operating expense. During 2006, purchased power expense represented 7.7% of our total operating costs and in 2005 it represented 7.4% of our total operating costs. These costs, which are beyond our control, can and do increase unpredictably. These costs can also increase in substantial amounts, as occurred in California during 2001 when rates we paid for electricity increased 48%. Cash flows between general rate case filings and our earnings maybe adversely affected until the commission authorizes a rate change. We are allowed to track the expense differences caused by the rate change and request future recovery, which is subject to an earnings test.

***Our ability to generate new operating contracts is affected by local politics.***

Our revenue growth depends upon our ability to generate new as well as to renew operating contracts with cities, other agencies and municipal utility districts. Because we are selling our services in a political environment, we are subject to changing trends and municipal preferences. Recent terrorist acts have affected some political viewpoints relative to outsourcing of water or wastewater utility services. Municipalities own and municipal employees operate the majority of water and wastewater systems. A significant portion of our marketing and sales efforts is spent demonstrating the benefits of contract operations to elected officials and municipal authorities. The existing political environment means that decisions are based on many factors, not just economic factors.

***Our business requires significant capital expenditures that are dependent on our ability to secure appropriate funding. If we are unable to obtain sufficient capital or if the rates at which we borrow increase, there would be a negative impact on our results of operations.***

The water utility business is capital-intensive. We invest significant funds to add or replace property, plant and equipment. In addition, water shortages may adversely affect us by causing us to rely on more purchased water. This

could cause increases in capital expenditures needed to build pipelines to secure alternative water sources. In addition, we require capital to grow our business through acquisitions. We fund our capital requirements from cash received from operations and funds received from developers. We seek to meet our long-term capital needs by raising equity through common or preferred stock issues or issuing debt obligations. We also borrow funds from banks under short-term bank lending arrangements. We cannot give any assurance that these sources will continue



**Table of Contents**

to be adequate or that the cost of funds will remain at levels permitting us to earn a reasonable rate of return. In the event we are unable to obtain sufficient capital, our expansion efforts could be curtailed, which may affect our growth and may affect our future results of operations.

Our ability to access the capital markets is effected by the ratings of certain of our debt securities. Moody's Investor Services, Inc. and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services issue ratings on California Water Service Company's ability to repay certain debt obligations. The credit rating agencies could downgrade our credit rating based on reviews of our financial performance and projections or upon the occurrence of other events that could impact our business outlook. Moody's current rating of California Water Service Company's senior secured debt is A2 with a stable rating. Standard & Poor's rating is A+ with a stable outlook. Lower ratings by the agencies could restrict our ability to access equity and debt capital. We can give no assurance that the rating agencies will maintain ratings which allow us to borrow under advantageous conditions and at reasonable interest rates. A future downgrade by the agencies could also increase our cost of capital by causing potential investors to require a higher interest rate due to a perceived risk related to our ability to repay outstanding debt obligations.

While the majority of our debt is long term at fixed rates, we do have interest rate exposure in our short-term borrowings which have variable interest rates. We are also subject to interest rate risks on new financings. However, if interest rates were to increase on a long-term basis, our management believes that customer rates would increase accordingly, subject to approval by the appropriate commission. We can give no assurance that the commission will approve such an increase in customer rates.

We are obligated to comply with specified debt covenants under certain of our loan and debt agreements. Failure to maintain compliance with these covenants could limit future borrowing, and we could face increased borrowing costs, litigation, acceleration of maturity schedules, and cross default issues. Such actions by our creditors could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

***We are a holding company that depends on cash flow from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations and to pay dividends on our preferred stock and common stock.***

As a holding company, we conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries and our only significant assets are investments in those subsidiaries. More than 95% of our revenues are derived from the operations of California Water Service Company. As a result, we are dependent on cash flow from our subsidiaries, and California Water Service Company in particular, to meet our obligations and to pay dividends on our common stock.

We can make dividend payments only from our surplus (the excess, if any, of our net assets over total paid-in capital) or if there is no surplus, the net profits for the current fiscal year or the fiscal year before which the dividend is declared. In addition, we can pay cash dividends only if after paying those dividends we would be able to pay our liabilities as they become due. Owners of our capital stock cannot force us to pay dividends and dividends will only be paid if and when declared by our board of directors. Our board of directors can elect at any time, and for an indefinite duration, not to declare dividends on our capital stock.

Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and generally have no obligation to pay any amounts due on California Water Service Group's debt or to provide California Water Service Group with funds for dividends. Moreover, our subsidiaries are obligated to give first priority to their own capital requirements and to maintain a capital structure consistent with that determined to be reasonable by the relevant commissions in their most recent decisions on capital structure in order that ratepayers not be adversely affected by the holding company structure. Furthermore, our right to receive cash or other assets upon the liquidation or reorganization of a subsidiary is generally subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary. If we are unable to obtain funds from our subsidiaries in a timely manner we may be unable to meet our obligations or pay dividends.



**Table of Contents**

***An important element of our growth strategy is the acquisition of water and wastewater systems, including pursuant to operating agreements. Risks associated with potential acquisitions, divestitures or restructurings may adversely affect us.***

We may seek to acquire or invest in other companies, technologies, services or products that complement our business. The execution of our growth strategy may expose us to different risks than those associated with our utility operations. We can give no assurance that we will succeed in finding attractive acquisition candidates or investments, or that we would be able to reach mutually agreeable terms with such parties. In addition, as consolidation becomes more prevalent in the water and wastewater industries, the prices for suitable acquisition candidates may increase to unacceptable levels and limit our ability to grow through acquisitions. If we are unable to find acquisition candidates or investments, our ability to grow may be limited.

Acquisition and investment transactions may result in the issuance of our equity securities that could be dilutive if the acquisition or business opportunity does not develop in accordance with our business plan. They may also result in significant write-offs and an increase in our debt. The occurrence of any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Any of these transactions could involve numerous additional risks. For example, we may incur one or more of the following:

- problems integrating the acquired operations, personnel, technologies or products with our existing businesses and products;
- diversion of management time and attention from our core business to the acquired business;
- failure to retain key technical, management, sales and other personnel of the acquired business;
- difficulty in retaining relationships with suppliers and customers of the acquired business; and
- difficulty in getting required regulatory approvals.

In addition, the businesses and other assets we acquire may not achieve the sales and profitability expected. The occurrence of one or more of these events may have a material adverse effect on our business. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in overcoming these or any other significant risks encountered.

***We may not be able to increase or sustain our recent growth rate, and we may not be able to manage our future growth effectively.***

We may be unable to continue to expand our business or manage future growth. To successfully manage our growth and handle the responsibilities of being a public company, we believe we must effectively:

- hire, train, integrate and manage additional qualified engineers for research and development activities, sales and marketing personnel, and financial and information technology personnel;
- retain key management and augment our management team;
- implement and improve additional and existing administrative, financial and operations systems, procedures and controls;

expand and upgrade our technological capabilities; and

manage multiple relationships with our customers, regulators, suppliers and other third parties.

If we are unable to manage our growth effectively, we may not be able to take advantage of market opportunities, satisfy customer requirements, execute our business plan or respond to competitive pressures.

**Table of Contents**

***We have a number of large-volume commercial and industrial customers and a significant decrease in consumption by one or more of these customers could have an adverse effect on our operating results and cash flows.***

Our revenues will decrease, and such decrease may be material, if a significant business or industrial customer terminates or materially reduces its use of our water. Approximately \$76.7 million, or 23% of our 2006 water utility revenues was derived from business and industrial customers. If any of our large business or industrial customers reduces or ceases its consumption of our water, we may seek commission approval to increase the rates of our remaining customers to offset decreased revenues. There can be no assurance, however, that the commission would approve such a rate relief request, and even if it did approve such a request, it would not apply retroactively to the date of the reduction in consumption. The delay between such date and the effective date of the rate relief may be significant and could adversely affect our operating results and cash flows.

***Our operating cost and costs of providing services may rise faster than our revenues.***

Our ability to increase rates over time is dependent upon approval of such rate increases by state commissions, which may be inclined, for political or other reasons, to limit rate increases. However, our costs are subject to market conditions and other factors, which may increase significantly. The second largest component of our operating costs after water production is made up of salaries and wages. These costs are affected by the local supply and demand for qualified labor. Other large components of our costs are general insurance, workers compensation insurance, employee benefits and health insurance costs. These costs may increase disproportionately to rate increases authorized by state commissions and may have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations.

***Our non-regulated business operates in a competitive market.***

While a majority of our business is regulated, our non-regulated business participates in a competitive market. We compete with several larger companies whose size, financial resources, customer base and technical expertise may restrict our ability to compete successfully for certain operations and maintenance contracts. Due to the nature of our contract operations business, and to the very competitive nature of the market, we must accurately estimate the cost and profitability of each project while, at the same time, maintaining prices at a level low enough to compete with other companies. Our inability to achieve this balance could adversely impact our results of operations.

***Demand for our stock may fluctuate due to circumstances beyond our control.***

We believe that stockholders invest in public utility stocks, in part, because they seek reliable dividend payments. If there is an over-supply of stock of public utilities in the market relative to demand by such investors, the trading price of our securities could decrease. Additionally, if interest rates rise above the dividend yield offered by our equity securities, demand for our stock, and consequently its market price, may also decrease.

***Work stoppages and other labor relations matters could adversely affect our operating results.***

At December 31, 2006, 577 of our 869 total employees were union employees. In October 2005 and January 2006, we negotiated two-year agreements with both unions. Improvements in tuition reimbursement, increase in 401k employees contributions, and wage increases were part of the agreement. Wage increases under the agreements were 3.5% for 2006. Wages for 2007 were negotiated in October 2006 with a general increase of 4%, plus an annual increase of \$1,300. The agreement also called for employees to pay an increased premium for medical insurance coverage.

We believe our labor relations are good, but in light of rising costs for healthcare and pensions, contract negotiations in the future may be difficult. We are subject to a risk of work stoppages and other labor relations matters as we negotiate with the unions to address these issues, which could affect our results of operations and financial condition. We can give no assurance that issues with our labor forces will be resolved favorably to us in the future or that we will not experience work stoppages.

**Table of Contents**

***We depend significantly on the services of the members of our management team, and the departure of any of those persons could cause our operating results to suffer.***

Our success depends significantly on the continued individual and collective contributions of our management team. The loss of the services of any member of our management team could have a material adverse effect on our business as our management team has knowledge of our industry and customers and would be difficult to replace.

***Our operations are geographically concentrated in California and this lack of diversification may negatively impact our operations.***

Although we own facilities in a number of states, over 95% of operations are located in California. As a result, we are largely subject to weather, political, water supply, labor, utility cost, regulatory and economic risks affecting California.

We are also affected by the real property market in California. In order to grow our business, we may need to acquire additional real estate or rights to use real property owned by third parties, the cost of which tends to be higher in California relative to other states. The value of our assets in California may decline if there is a decline in the California real estate market which results in a significant decrease in real property values.

***The effects of natural disasters, terrorist activity, pandemics, or poor water quality or contamination to our water supply may result in disruption in our services and litigation which could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition.***

We operate in areas that are prone to earthquakes, fires, mudslides and other natural disasters. A significant seismic event in California, where our operations are concentrated, or other natural disaster in California could adversely impact our ability to deliver water and adversely affect our costs of operations. A major disaster could damage or destroy substantial capital assets. The California Public Utilities Commission has historically allowed utilities to establish a catastrophic event memorandum account as another possible mechanism to recover costs.

Our water supplies are subject to contamination, including contamination from the development of naturally-occurring compounds, chemicals in groundwater systems, pollution resulting from man-made sources, such as MTBE, sea water incursion and possible terrorist attacks. If our water supply is contaminated, we may have to interrupt the use of that water supply until we are able to substitute the flow of water from an uncontaminated water source. In addition, we may incur significant costs in order to treat the contaminated source through expansion of our current treatment facilities, or development of new treatment methods. If we are unable to substitute water supply from an uncontaminated water source, or to adequately treat the contaminated water source in a cost-effective manner, there may be an adverse effect on our revenues, operating results and financial condition. The costs we incur to decontaminate a water source or an underground water system could be significant and could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition and may not be recoverable in rates. We could also be held liable for consequences arising out of human exposure to hazardous substances in our water supplies or other environmental damage. For example, private plaintiffs have the right to bring personal injury or other toxic tort claims arising from the presence of hazardous substances in our drinking water supplies. Our insurance policies may not be sufficient to cover the costs of these claims.

We operate a dam. If the dam were to fail for any reason, we would lose a water supply and flooding likely would occur. Whether or not we were responsible for the dam's failure, we could be sued. We can give no assurance that we would be able to successfully defend such a suit.

In light of the threats to the nation's health and security ensuing in the wake of the September 11, 2001, we have taken steps to increase security measures at our facilities and heighten employee awareness of threats to our water supply. We have also tightened our security measures regarding the delivery and handling of certain chemicals used in our business. We have and will continue to bear increased costs for security precautions to protect our facilities, operations and supplies. These costs may be significant. Despite these tightened security measures, we may not be in a position to control the outcome of terrorist events should they occur.



**Table of Contents**

We depend upon our skilled and trained work force to ensure water delivery. Were a pandemic to occur, we can give no assurance that we would be able to maintain sufficient manpower to ensure uninterrupted service in all of the districts that we serve.

***We retain certain risks not covered by our insurance policies.***

We evaluate our risks and insurance coverage annually. Our evaluation considers the costs, risks and benefits of retaining versus insuring various risks as well as the availability of certain types of insurance coverage. In addition, portions of our business are difficult or impracticable to insure. Furthermore, we are also affected by increases in prices for insurance coverage; in particular, we have been, and will continue to be, affected by rising health insurance costs. Retained risks are associated with deductible limits, partial self-insurance programs and insurance policy coverage ceilings. If we suffer an uninsured loss, we may be unable to pass all, or any portion, of the loss on to customers because our rates are regulated by regulatory commissions. Consequently, uninsured losses may negatively affect our financial condition, liquidity and results of operations. There can be no assurance that we will not face uninsured losses pertaining to the risks we have retained.

***We rely on our information technology and a number of complex business systems that could malfunction and result in negative impacts on our profitability and cash flow.***

Our business is dependent on several complex business systems, certain of which are owned by third parties. The business systems must function reliably in order for us to operate effectively. Among other things, system malfunctions and security breaches could prevent us from operating or monitoring our facilities, billing accurately and timely analyzing financial results. Our profitability and cash flow could be affected negatively in the event these systems do not operate effectively or are circumvented.

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

We make certain estimates and judgments in preparing our financial statements regarding, among others:

the useful life of intangible rights;

the number of years to depreciate certain assets;

amounts to set aside for uncollectible accounts receivable, inventory obsolesces and uninsured losses;

our legal exposure and the appropriate accrual for claims, including medical claims and workers' compensation claims;

future costs for pensions and other post-retirement benefits; and

possible tax allowances.

The quality and accuracy of those estimates and judgments will have an impact on our operating results and financial condition.

In addition, we must estimate unbilled revenues and costs as of the end of each accounting period. If our estimates are not accurate, we will be required to make an adjustment in a future period. Accounting rules permit us to use expense

balancing accounts and memorandum accounts that include input cost changes to us that are different from amounts incorporated into the rates approved by the commissions. These accounts result in expenses and revenues being recognized in periods other than in which they occurred.

***Our controls and procedures may fail or be circumvented.***

Management regularly reviews and updates our internal control over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures, and corporate governance policies and procedures. Any system of controls and procedures, however well designed and operated, is based in part on certain assumptions and can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurances that the objectives of the system are met. Any failure or circumvention of our controls and procedures or failure to comply with regulations related to controls and procedures could result in lack of

**Table of Contents**

compliance with contractual agreements, misstatements in our financial statements in amounts that could be material or could cause investors to lose confidence in our reported financial information, which could have a negative effect on the trading price of our stock and may negatively affect our ability raise future capital.

Further, if we or our independent registered public accounting firm discover a material weakness, the disclosure of that fact, even if quickly remedied, could reduce the market's confidence in our financial statements and harm our stock price. In addition, non-compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 could subject us to a variety of administrative sanctions, including the suspension or delisting of our common stock from the New York Stock Exchange and the inability of registered broker-dealers to make a market in our common stock, which would further reduce our stock price.

***Municipalities, water districts and other public agencies may condemn our property by eminent domain action.***

State statutes allow municipalities, water districts and other public agencies to own and operate water systems. These agencies are empowered to condemn properties already operated by privately owned public utilities. However, whenever a public agency constructs facilities to extend a utility system into the service area of a privately owned public utility, such an act constitutes the taking of property and requires reimbursement to the utility for its loss. If a public agency were to acquire our utility property by eminent domain action, we would be entitled to just compensation for our loss, but we would no longer have access to the condemned property nor would we be entitled to any portion of revenue generated from the use of such asset going forward.

**Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments.***

None

**Item 2. *Properties.***

Our physical properties consist of offices and water facilities to accomplish the production, storage, treatment, and distribution of water. These properties are located in or near the geographic service areas listed above in Item 1 Business Geographical Service Areas and Number of Customers at Year-end. Our headquarters, which houses accounting, engineering, information systems, human resources, purchasing, regulatory, water quality, and executive staff, is located in San Jose, California.

The real properties owned are held in fee simple title. Properties owned by Cal Water are subject to the indenture securing first mortgage bonds of which \$26 million remained outstanding at December 31, 2006. Washington Water has long-term bank loans that are secured primarily by utility plant. New Mexico Water has a long-term loan which is secured by utility plant.

Cal Water owns 628 wells and operates 5 leased wells. There were 387 owned storage tanks with a capacity of 252 million gallons, 43 managed storage tanks with a capacity of 35 million gallons, and 3 reservoirs with a capacity of 220 million gallons. There are 5,453 miles of supply and distribution mains in the various systems.

Washington Water owns 314 wells and manages 85 wells. There are 115 owned storage tanks and 28 managed storage tanks with a storage capacity of 6 million gallons. There are 309 miles of supply and distribution lines.

New Mexico Water owns 11 wells. There are 8 storage tanks with a storage capacity of 4 million gallons. There are 134 miles of supply and distribution lines. New Mexico operates two waste water treatment facilities with a combined capacity to process 500,000 gallons per day. There are 29 miles of sewer collection mains.

Hawaii Water owns 6 wells. There are 3 storage tanks with a storage capacity of 5 million gallons. There are 35 miles of supply and distribution lines.

In the leased City of Hawthorne and City of Commerce systems or in systems that are operated under contract for municipalities or private companies, title to the various properties is held exclusively by the municipality or private company.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 3. *Legal Proceedings.***

On October 26, 2006, we were served with a complaint in Superior Court County of Los Angeles Case No. BC360406 for personal injury, along with other defendants, due to exposure to asbestos. The plaintiff claims to have worked for three of our contractors on pipeline projects for the period 1958-1999 and Palos Verdes Water Company, a water utility acquired by us in 1970. The plaintiff alleges that we and other defendants are responsible for his asbestos related injuries. A trial date has been set for May 14, 2007. The plaintiff is seeking damages in the amount of \$27.5 million. Our insurance carrier has accepted the defense of the claim, reserving certain rights along with one of the contractor's insurance company. We do not believe that we have any liability regarding this claim and have not recorded any liability associated with the claim.

From time to time, we are involved in various disputes and litigation matters that arise in the ordinary course of business. Periodically, we review the status of each significant matter and assess its potential financial exposure. If the potential loss from any claim or legal proceeding is considered probable and the amount or the range of loss can be estimated, we accrue a liability for the estimated loss in accordance with SFAS No 5, Accounting for Contingencies. Legal proceedings are subject to uncertainties, and the outcomes are difficult to predict. Because of such uncertainties, accruals are based only on the best information available at the time. As additional information becomes available, we reassess the potential liability related to pending claims and litigation matters and may revise estimates.

While the outcome of these disputes and litigation matters cannot be predicted with any certainty, management does not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will materially affect our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

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

No matters were submitted to a vote of security holders in the fourth quarter of 2006.

**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. *Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities***

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock exchange under the symbol CWT. At December 31, 2006, there were 20,656,699 common shares and 139,000 preferred shares outstanding and 3,161 common stockholders of record.

During 2006, we paid a cash dividend of \$1.15 per common share, or \$0.2875 per quarter. During 2005, we paid a cash dividend of \$1.14 per common share, or \$0.2850 per quarter. In January 2007, our Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.2900 per common share payable on February 16, 2007, to stockholders of record on February 5, 2007. This represents our 40th consecutive year of increasing the annual dividend and marks the 249th quarterly dividend.

During 2006 and 2005, the common stock market price range and dividends per share were as follows for each quarter:

<b>2006</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Common stock market price range:				
High	45.05	45.36	38.60	41.86
Low	38.51	33.72	33.83	36.43
Dividends paid	.2875	.2875	.2875	.2875
<b>2005</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Common stock market price range:				
High	36.76	38.12	41.90	41.09
Low	32.12	32.85	36.93	32.64
Dividends paid	.2850	.2850	.2850	.2850

**Table of Contents****Five Year Performance Graph**

The following performance graph compares the changes in the cumulative shareholder return on California Water Services Group's common stock with the cumulative total return on the Water Utility Index and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index during the last five years ended December 31, 2006. The comparison assumes \$100 was invested on December 31, 2001 in California Water Service Group's common stock and in each of the foregoing indices and assumes reinvestment of dividends.

The following descriptive data is supplied in accordance with rule 304(d) of Regulations S-T.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>California Water Service Group</b>	100	96	116	166	174	189
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	100	78	100	111	117	135
<b>AG Edwards Water Utility Index</b>	100	99	120	130	152	168

*The A. G. Edwards Water Utility Index is comprised of the eleven publicly traded water companies and is supplied by A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.*

The following table represents securities authorized to be issued under our equity compensation plans:

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights(a)</b>	<b>Weighted-average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a))</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	128,469	29.03	952,564
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	128,469	29.03	952,564

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data.**

The following selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and the Notes thereto and the information contained in Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. For a discussion of accounting changes that materially affect this financial data, see Note 2 to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Historical results are not necessarily indicative of future results.



**Table of Contents****FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>(Dollars in thousands, except common share and customer data)</b>				
<b>Summary of Operations</b>					
Operating revenue					
Residential	\$ 232,811	\$ 222,634	\$ 221,323	\$ 194,903	\$ 184,894
Business	60,366	56,962	55,803	49,666	46,404
Industrial	16,286	14,241	13,592	11,255	11,043
Public authorities	15,728	14,965	15,118	12,789	12,706
Other	9,526	11,926	9,731	8,515	8,104
Total operating revenue	334,717	320,728	315,567	277,128	263,151
Operating expenses	294,411	278,903	273,488	244,167	230,301
Interest expense, other income and expenses, net	14,726	14,602	16,053	13,544	13,777
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 25,580</b>	<b>\$ 27,223</b>	<b>\$ 26,026</b>	<b>\$ 19,417</b>	<b>\$ 19,073</b>
<b>Common Share Data</b>					
Earnings per share diluted	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.25
Dividend declared	1.150	1.140	1.130	1.125	1.120
Dividend payout ratio	86%	78%	77%	93%	90%
Book value per share	\$ 18.31	\$ 15.98	\$ 15.66	\$ 14.44	\$ 13.12
Market price at year-end	40.40	38.23	37.65	27.40	23.65
Common shares outstanding at year-end (in thousands)	20,657	18,390	18,367	16,932	15,182
Return on average common stockholders equity	8.2%	9.3%	9.8%	9.1%	9.7%
Long-term debt interest coverage	3.17	3.61	3.38	2.78	2.73
<b>Balance Sheet Data</b>					
Net utility plant	\$ 941,475	\$ 862,731	\$ 800,305	\$ 759,498	\$ 696,988
Utility plant expenditures (company & developer-funded)	112,279	94,517	68,573	74,253	88,361
Total assets	1,165,019	996,945	942,853	873,035	798,478
Long-term debt including current portion	293,592	275,275	275,921	273,130	251,365
<b>Capitalization ratios:</b>					
Common stockholders equity	56.0%	51.4%	50.8%	47.0%	44.0%
Preferred stock	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Long-term debt	43.5%	48.0%	48.6%	52.3%	55.3%
<b>Other Data</b>					
Estimated water production (million gallons)					
Wells and surface supply Purchased	70,094	67,841	72,279	68,416	69,414
	62,320	61,612	66,760	63,264	62,811

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Total estimated water production	132,414	129,453	139,039	131,680	132,225
Metered customers	407,762	402,191	395,286	387,579	380,087
Flat-rate customers	76,131	76,810	77,869	78,843	78,901
Customers at year-end, including Hawthorne	483,893	479,001	473,155	466,422	458,988
New customers added	4,892	5,846	6,733	7,434	8,561
Revenue per customer	\$ 692	\$ 670	\$ 667	\$ 594	\$ 579
Utility plant per customer	2,778	2,578	2,418	2,313	2,182
Employees at year-end	869	840	837	813	802

**Table of Contents**

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

**Overview**

For 2006, net income was \$25.6 million compared to \$27.2 million in 2005, or a decrease of 5.9%. The decrease in net income was primarily caused by lower property sales of \$1.1 million (net of tax) and lower operating income offset by lower net interest expense and record wet weather experienced in the first half of 2006; expense increases in several categories not yet recovered in rates, including employee health and welfare, water production, and conservation programs. Diluted earnings per share for 2006 were \$1.34 compared to \$1.47 in 2005, or a decrease of 8.2%. The decrease in earnings per share was primarily due to the above mentioned facts and the dilutive affect of our stock offering completed during the fourth quarter of 2006.

We plan to continue to seek rate relief to recover our operating cost increases and receive reasonable returns on invested capital. We expect to fund our capital needs through a combination of debt, common stock offerings, and cash flow from operations.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

We maintain our accounting records in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and as directed by the Commissions to which our operations are subject. The process of preparing financial statements requires the use of estimates on the part of management. The estimates used by management are based on historic experience and an understanding of current facts and circumstances. A summary of our significant accounting policies is listed in Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. The following sections describe the level of subjectivity, judgment, and variability of estimates that could have a material impact on the financial condition, operating performance, and cash flows of the business.

**Regulated Utility Accounting**

Because we operate extensively as a regulated business, we are subject to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 71, Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulation. Application of SFAS No. 71 requires accounting for certain transactions in accordance with regulations defined by the respective Commission of that state. Under SFAS 71, a utility may defer certain costs of providing services if the rates established by its regulators are designed to recover the utility's specific costs and the economic environment gives reasonable assurance that those rates can be charged and collected throughout the periods necessary to recover the costs. In the event that a portion of our operations were no longer subject to the provisions of SFAS No. 71, we would be required to write off related regulatory assets and liabilities that are not specifically recoverable and determine if other assets might be impaired. If a Commission determined that a portion of our assets were not recoverable in customer rates, we would be required to determine if we had suffered an asset impairment that would require a write-down in the assets' valuation. There was no such asset impairment as of December 31, 2006. Additional information relating to regulatory assets and liabilities are listed in Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Unbilled Revenue**

Unbilled revenue is estimated for metered customers for water used between the last reading of the customer's meter and the end of the accounting period. This estimate is based on the usage from the last bill to the customer, which normally covers a 30-day period, and is prorated from the last meter read date to the end of the accounting period. The

amount of variability is low at December 31, as this is one of the lowest usage months of the year and usage for the previous 30-day period is relatively consistent during this time of the year. However, actual usage may vary from this estimate.

Flat-rate customers are billed in advance at the beginning of the service period. Since these are constant amounts, appropriate adjustments can be calculated to determine the revenue related to the applicable period.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Estimated Expenses**

Some expenses are recorded using estimates, as actual payments are not known or processed by the accounting deadline. Estimates are made for unbilled purchased water, unbilled purchased power, unbilled pump taxes, payroll, and other types of similar expenses. While management believes its estimates are reasonable, actual results could vary. Differences between actual results and estimates are recorded in the period when the information is known.

### **Expense Balancing and Memorandum Accounts**

Expense balancing accounts and memorandum accounts (offsetable expenses) represent recoverable costs incurred but not billed to customers. The amounts included in these accounts relate to rate changes charged to us for purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes that are different from amounts incorporated into the rates approved by the CPUC. We do not record expense balancing or memorandum accounts in our financial statements as revenue, nor as a receivable, until the CPUC and other regulators have authorized recovery of the higher costs and customers have been billed. Therefore, a timing difference may occur between when costs and associated revenues are recognized. The balancing and memorandum accounts are only used to track the specific costs outside of the financial statements. The cost changes, which are beyond our control, are referred to as offsetable expenses because under certain circumstances, they are recoverable from customers in future offset rate increases. The amounts requested may not be ultimately collected through rates, as amounts may be disallowed during the review process or subject to a non-weather adjusted earnings test. While the adjustments would not impact previously recorded amounts, the adjustments may change future earnings and cash flows. At this time, we cannot predict the actual recovery (refund) associated with 2006 offsetable expenses to be requested in 2007. See Rates and Regulations below for more information. As of December 31, 2006, the amount in the balancing accounts is approximately \$1.5 million.

Washington Water, New Mexico Water, and Hawaii Water did not have material amounts in expense balancing or memorandum accounts.

### **Income Taxes**

Significant judgment is required in determining the provision for income taxes. The process involves estimating current tax exposure and assessing temporary differences resulting from treatment of certain items, such as depreciation, for tax and financial statement reporting. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are reported in the consolidated balance sheet. Management must also assess the likelihood that deferred tax assets will be recovered in future taxable income. To the extent recovery is unlikely, a valuation allowance would be required. If a valuation allowance was required, it could significantly increase income tax expense. In management's view, a valuation allowance was not required at December 31, 2006. Detailed schedules relating to income taxes are provided in Note 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

### **Employee Benefit Plans**

We incur costs associated with our pension and postretirement health care benefits plans. To measure the expense of these benefits, management must estimate compensation increases, mortality rates, future health cost increases, and discount rates used to value related liabilities and to determine appropriate funding. Management works with independent actuaries to measure these benefits. Different estimates and/or actual amounts could result in significant variances in the costs and liabilities recognized for these benefit plans. The estimates used are based on historical experience, current facts, future expectations, and recommendations from independent advisors and actuaries.

We use an investment advisor to provide expert advice for managing investments in these plans. To diversify investment risk, the plan's goal is to invest 40%-60% of the assets in domestic equity mutual funds, 5%-15% in foreign equity mutual funds, and 35%-45% in bond funds. At December 31, 2006, 47.8% of the assets were invested in domestic equity mutual funds, 12.0% in foreign equity mutual funds, and 40.2% in bond funds. Based on the market values of the investment funds for the year ended December 31, 2006, the total return on the pension plan assets was 12% for 2006. For 2005 and 2004, returns were 6% and 13%, respectively. Future returns on investments

**Table of Contents**

could vary significantly from estimates and could impact earnings and cash flows. Management expects any changes to these costs to be recovered in future rate filings, mitigating the financial impact.

For measurement in 2006, management estimated the discount rate at 5.9%, which approximates the average return on long-term corporate bonds as of year-end, using the interest rate derived from the Citigroup Pension Discount Curve. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, the equivalent level discount rates were 5.75% and 5.74%, respectively. Management assumed the rate of compensation increases to be 3.75% in the 2006 calculation. Any change in these assumptions would have an effect on the service costs, interest costs, and accumulated benefit obligations. Additional information related to employee benefit plans is listed in Note 12 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Workers Compensation, General Liability, and Other Claims**

We are self-insured for a portion of workers compensation and general liability claims. Excess amounts are covered by insurance policies. For workers compensation, we utilize an actuary firm to estimate the discounted liability associated with claims submitted and claims not yet submitted based on historical data. These estimates could vary significantly from actual claims paid, which could impact earnings and cash flows. For general liability claims and other claims, management estimates the cost incurred but not yet paid using historical information. Actual costs could vary from these estimates. Management believes actual costs incurred would be allowed in future rates, mitigating the financial impact.

**Contingencies**

We did not record any provisions relating to the contingencies reported in Note 15 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, as these did not qualify for recording under SFAS No. 5 or other accounting standards. If management's assessment is incorrect, these items could have a material impact on our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

**Results of Operations**

**Earnings**

Net income in 2006 was \$25.6 million compared to \$27.2 million in 2005 and \$26.0 million in 2004. Diluted earnings per common share were \$1.34 in 2006, \$1.47 in 2005, and \$1.46 in 2004. The weighted average number of common shares outstanding used in the diluted earnings per share calculation was 18,925,000 in 2006, 18,402,000 in 2005, and 17,674,000 in 2004. As explained below, the decrease in 2006 earnings per share resulted from these primary factors:

- increased operating expenses, largely driven by higher water production costs;
- increased depreciation and amortization costs associated with capital expenditures in prior year;
- increased other operations expenses associated with employee health and welfare plans; and
- a decrease in the gain on sale of non-utility property.

**Dividends**

At the January 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors declared the quarterly dividend, increasing it for the 40th consecutive year. The quarterly dividend was raised from \$0.2875 to \$0.2900 per common share, or an annual rate of \$1.16 per common share. Dividends have been paid for 62 consecutive years. The annual dividends paid per

common share in 2006, 2005, and 2004 were \$1.15, \$1.14, and \$1.13, respectively. Earnings not paid as dividends are reinvested in the business for the benefit of stockholders. In its long-term consideration, the Board of Directors plan to achieve a payout ratio of approximately 60%. The dividend payout ratio was 86% in 2006, 78% in 2005, and 77% in 2004, for an average of 80% over the three-year period.



**Table of Contents****Operating Revenue**

Operating revenue in 2006 was \$334.7 million, an increase of \$14.0 million, or 4.4%, over 2005. Operating revenue in 2005 was \$320.7 million, an increase of \$5.1 million, or 1.6%, above 2004. The estimated sources of changes in operating revenue were:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>Dollars in millions</b>	
Customer usage	\$ 0.8	\$ (10.9)
Rate increases	10.1	12.2
Usage by new customers	3.1	3.8
Net change	\$ 14.0	\$ 5.1
Average revenue per customer per year (in dollars)	\$ 692	\$ 670
New customers added	4,892	5,846

The usage by existing customers can materially change based upon current weather patterns, influenced both by temperature and rainfall. During the first half of 2006, we experienced record rainfall in many of our service areas.

In 2006, rate relief increased revenues by \$10.1 million. See the Rates and Regulation section of this report for more information on regulatory activity occurring in 2005, 2006, and through February 28, 2007.

The number of customers in 2006 increased by 4,892 or an increase of 1.0% over 2005 levels. This increase includes 649 customers in New Mexico, 7 customers in Hawaii, 47 customers in Washington, and 4,189 additional customers in California. The growth of our customer base resulted from organic growth in our existing service areas with the exception of approximately 400 customers who were added through acquisition of a system in New Mexico.

**Water Production Expenses**

Water production expenses, which consist of purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes, comprise the largest segment of total operating expenses. Water production costs accounted for 42.0%, 41.2%, and 43.5% of total operating costs in 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. The rates charged for wholesale water supplies, electricity, and pump taxes are established by various public agencies. As such, these rates are beyond our control.

The table below provides the amount of increases (decreases), and percent changes in water production costs during the past two years:

	<b>2006</b>			<b>2005</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
	<b>Dollars in millions</b>					
Purchased water	\$ 93.4	\$ 5.9	7%	\$ 87.5	\$ (2.2)	(3)%
Purchased power	22.7	2.2	11%	20.5	(1.3)	(6)%

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Pump taxes	8.1	0.5	7%	7.6		%
Total water production expenses	\$ 124.2	\$ 8.6	7%	\$ 115.6	\$ (3.5)	(3)%

Two of the principal factors affecting water production expenses are the amount of water produced and the source of the water. Generally, water from wells costs less than water purchased from wholesale suppliers.

**Table of Contents**

The table below provides the amounts, percentage change, and source mix for the respective years:

	<b>2006</b>		<b>2005</b>		<b>2004</b>	
	<b>MG</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>MG</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>MG</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
	<b>Millions of gallons (MG)</b>					
Source:						
Wells	64,481	48.7%	62,780	48.5%	66,951	48.2%
% change from prior year	3%		(6)%		1%	
Purchased	62,320	47.1%	61,612	47.6%	66,760	48.0%
% change from prior year	1%		(8)%		6%	
Surface	5,613	4.2%	5,061	3.9%	5,328	3.8%
% change from prior year	11%		(5)%		121%	
Total	132,414	100.0%	129,453	100.0%	139,039	100.0%
% change from prior year		2%		(7)%		6%

Purchased water expenses are affected by changes in quantities purchased, supplier prices, and cost differences between wholesale suppliers. For 2006, the \$5.9 million increase in purchased water costs is due to a 2% increase in quantities purchased, magnified by overall higher wholesale water rates. For 2005, the \$2.2 million decrease in purchased water costs is due to a 7% decrease in quantities purchased, partially offset by overall higher wholesale water rates. On an overall blended basis, wholesale water rates increased 5.6% on a cost-per-million-gallon basis.

In 2004, purchased water expenses included an additional adjustment of \$0.9 million, which related to the settlement of a meter malfunction issue in the Stockton district. Purchased power expenses are affected by the quantity of water pumped from wells and moved through the distribution system, rates charged by electric utility companies, and rate structures applied to usage during peak and non-peak times of the day or season. The purchased power expense increase of \$2.2 million was primarily due to the combination of increased well production and higher energy costs. Pump taxes increased \$0.5 million in 2006 over 2005.

**Administrative and General Expenses**

Administrative and general expenses include payroll related to administrative and general functions, all employee benefits charged to expense accounts, insurance expenses, legal fees, regulatory utility commissions expenses, expenses associated with being a public company, and general corporate expenses.

During 2006, administrative and general expenses increased \$4.0 million, or 8.2%, compared to 2005. Employee benefits increased \$2.6 million, due primarily to increases in employee/retiree health care expenses. We also experienced higher costs for workers compensation, which increased \$0.4 million, or 32%. Fees to the Commissions increased \$0.6 million due to the increased revenue, as these fees are calculated as a percentage of revenue. Other expense elements contributed to the balance of the change, but none were individually significant.

During 2005, administrative and general expenses increased \$1.1 million, or 2.2%, compared to 2004. Payroll expenses charged to administrative and general expense remained constant due to a decrease in the number of employees offset by higher wages. Employee/retiree health care costs increased \$1.6 million, or 19%, due to increased

medical claims. We are self-insured and experienced several large-dollar medical claims (claims over \$200,000), which primarily caused the increase. Increases in other costs, including legal and outside services, were substantially offset by a decrease in workers' compensation of \$1.1 million, which was due to fewer claims and refunds from our stop-loss insurance carrier.

**Other Operations Expenses**

The components of other operations expenses include payroll, material and supplies, and contract 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.

**Table of Contents**

For 2006, other operations expenses increased \$2.9 million, or 7.2%, from 2005 Payroll costs charged to other operating expenses increased \$1.1 million, or 6.8%, due to general wage increases and increases in the number of employees. Other expense elements contributed to the balance of the change, but none were individually significant.

For 2005, other operations expenses increased \$0.1 million, or 0.3%, from 2004. Payroll costs charged to other operating expenses increased \$0.7 million, or 2.2%, due to general wage increases. Expenses were offset by a decrease of \$0.5 million, or 64%, for changing the process to dispose of by-products for the Bakersfield Treatment Plant. Other expense elements contributed to the balance of the change, but none were individually significant.

**Maintenance**

Maintenance expenses increased \$0.4 million, or 2.5%, in 2006, compared to 2005. For 2005, maintenance expenses increased \$2.0 million, or 15%, compared to 2004. In 2005, maintenance expense increased due to repairs of water treatment equipment, water mains, and wells.

**Depreciation and Amortization**

Depreciation and amortization increased due to the increased level of our capital expenditures and our use of a higher depreciation rate as authorized by the CPUC.

**Income Taxes**

For 2006, income taxes decreased \$2.6 million as compared to 2005. For 2005, income taxes increased \$2.9 million as compared to 2004. The reduction in income tax for 2006, as compared to 2005, was due to a combination of a lower effective tax rate and a lower pretax income. The effective tax rate was affected by the flow through method of accounting for income taxes which resulted from differences between tax depreciation and book depreciation on both pre-1982 assets, as well as all California assets. The flow through method of Accounting is described in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. We anticipate the reversal of federal tax depreciation on pre-1982 assets to continue in future years; however, its effect on our tax provision is uncertain due to the offsetting flow-through of state tax depreciation, which continues to increase with capital additions and the impact of cost to remove of pre-1982 assets.

**Property and Other Taxes**

For 2006, expenses increased \$0.3 million, or 2.3%, compared to 2005. For 2005, expenses increased \$1.1 million, or 10%. Increased property taxes were the primary cause for the increase in both years.

**Non-Regulated Income, Net**

The major components of non-regulated income are revenue and operating expenses related to the following activities:

operating and maintenance services (O&M);

meter reading and billing services;

antenna site leases;

Extended Service Protection (ESP); and

design and construction services.

For 2006, non-regulated income increased \$0.5 million, or 15%, compared to 2005. The increase was primarily due to increased non-regulated revenues from O & M contracts and antenna site leases. For 2005, non-regulated income was flat compared to 2004. Water rights brokerage income is sporadic and is affected by market opportunities and price volatility. See Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information.

**Table of Contents**

**Gain on Sale of Non-Utility Property**

For 2006, pretax gains from non-utility property sales were \$0.3 million compared to \$2.2 million for 2005 and insignificant gains in 2004. The 2005 gains were primarily from three properties sold in the Los Altos and Chico districts. Earnings and cash flow from these transactions are sporadic and may or may not continue in future periods, depending upon market conditions. The Company has other non-utility properties that may be marketed in the future based on real estate market conditions.

**Interest Expenses**

In 2006, interest expenses increased by \$1.1 million, or 6%, as a result of our issuance of \$20 million senior unsecured notes and higher interest rates. In 2005, interest expenses decreased by \$0.1 million, or 1%, as there were no short-term borrowings in 2005. The primary reason for the increase was increases in our capital expenditure program. Capitalized interest in 2006 increased \$1.8 million, as compared to 2005. Capitalized interest in 2005 was comparable to 2004. See the Liquidity and Capital Resources section for more information.

**Rates and Regulation**

The state regulatory commissions have plenary powers setting rates and operating standards. As such, state commission decisions significantly impact our revenues, earnings, and cash flow. The amounts discussed are generally annual amounts, unless specifically stated, and the financial impact to recorded revenue is expected to occur over a 12-month period from the effective date of the decision. In California, water utilities are required to make several different types of filings. Most filings result in rate changes that remain in place until the next General Rate Case (GRC). As explained below, surcharges and surcredits to recover balancing and memorandum accounts as well as the catch-up are temporary rate changes, which have specific time frames for recovery.

GRCs, step rate increase filings, and offset filings change rates to amounts that will remain in effect until the next GRC. The CPUC follows a rate case plan, which requires Cal Water to file a GRC for each of its 24 regulated operating districts every three years. In a GRC proceeding, the CPUC not only considers the utility's rate setting requests, but may consider other issues that affect the utility's rates and operations. Effective in 2004, Cal Water's GRC schedule was shifted from a calendar year to a fiscal year with test years commencing July 1. The CPUC is generally required to issue its GRC decision prior to the first day of the test year or authorize interim rates. As such, Cal Water's GRC decisions currently, and since 2005, are expected to be issued in the second quarter of each year. Cal Water expects decisions on the eight GRCs filed in July of 2006 to be issued in the second quarter of 2007. If a decision is not granted before July 1, 2007, Cal Water expects the Commission to authorize interim rates as of that date.

Between GRC filings utilities may file step rate increases, which allow the utility to recover cost increases, primarily from inflation and incremental investment, during the second and third years of the rate case cycle. However, step rate increases are subject to a weather-normalized earnings test. Under the earnings test, the CPUC may reduce the step rate increase to prevent the utility from earning in excess of the authorized rate of return for that district.

In addition, utilities are entitled to file offset filings. Offset filings may be filed to adjust revenues for construction projects authorized in GRCs when the plant is placed in service or for rate changes charged to the Company for purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes (referred to as offsettable expenses). Such rate changes approved in offset filings remain in effect until a GRC is approved.

Surcharges and surcredits, which are usually effective for a twelve-month period, are authorized by the CPUC to recover the memorandum and balancing accounts under- and over- collections usually due to changes in offsettable

expenses. However, significant under-collection may be authorized over multiple years. Currently, filings to recover offsettable expenses are subject to a non-weather-adjusted earnings test. Under the earnings test, the CPUC may reduce recovery of an offsettable expense to prevent the utility from earning in excess of its authorized rate of return. Typically, an expense difference occurs during the time period from when an offsettable expense rate changes and we are allowed to adjust our water rates. Expense changes for this regulatory lag period, which is about two months, are booked into memorandum and balancing accounts for later recovery. However, in



**Table of Contents**

2001, the CPUC changed its procedures and did not permit water companies to file for an adjustment to water rates for offsettable expense rate changes. As a result, the amount accrued in memorandum and balancing accounts, due primarily to the major increases in electric power costs in 2001, grew to \$9.2 million at the end of 2004. Beginning in November 2002, the CPUC allowed water companies to file for recovery of memorandum and balancing account under-collections subject to a non-weather-adjusted earnings tests. However, we did not receive authorization to collect a significant portion of the under-collection from our ratepayers until the fourth quarter of 2004.

We do not record an asset (or liability) for the recovery (or refund) of expense balancing or memorandum accounts in our consolidated financial statements as revenue (refunds), nor as a receivable (or payable), until the CPUC and other regulators have authorized recovery and the customer is billed. Therefore, a timing difference may occur between when costs are recorded as an expense and the associated revenues are received (or refunds are made) and booked.

The following is a summary of rate filings and the anticipated annual impact on revenues. California decisions and resolutions may be found on the CPUC website at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

Type of Filing	Decision/ Resolution	Approval Date	Increase(Decrease) Annual Revenue	CA District/ Subsidiary
<b><u>GRC, Step Rate and Offset Filings</u></b>				
Offset	Various(1)	February 2007	\$2.1 million	2 districts
Offset	1798,1799	January 2007	\$1.1 million	4 districts
Step Rate	Various(2)	January 2007	\$1.8 million	7 districts
GRC 2006	060761	September 2006	\$1.0 million	Washington
Offset	AL 1785, 1786, 1788	October 2006	\$2.3 million	3 districts
GRC 2005	D.06-08-011	September 2006	\$4.9 million	8 districts
Offset	ALs 1776 and 1777	July 2006	\$2.2 million	2 districts
Step Rate	D.05-07-022	July 2006	\$4.7 million	8 districts
Offset	AL 1766	June 2006	\$0.2 million	Westlake
Offset	AL 1748-A	February 2006	\$0.3 million	Selma
Step Rate	Various(3)	January 2006	\$1.9 million	11 districts
GRC 2004	D.05-07-022	July 2005	\$7.6 million	8 districts
Offset	AL 1732	July 2005	\$0.6 million	Westlake
Offset	AL 1708	May 2005	\$0.8 million	Stockton
GRC 2004	04-00247-UT	April 2005	\$0.3 million	New Mexico
GRC 2004	21644	August 2005	\$(0.05 million)	Hawaii
Step Rate	Various(4)	January 2005	\$4.8 million	19 Districts
<b><u>Surcharges and Surcredits</u></b>				
Memorandum	AL 1734A	February 2006	\$1.1 million	Salinas
Balancing	AL 1711A	February 2006	\$(0.3 million)	Visalia
Balancing	AL 1718A	February 2006	\$(0.4 million)	Hermosa-Redondo
Balancing	AL1710	September 2005	\$0.9 million	Stockton

In 2006 and 2005, our revenues were favorably affected by approximately \$2.2 million and \$5.4 million, respectively, from the net recovery of memorandum and balancing accounts.

(1) Step rate increases were granted in compliance with AL 1791, AL 1798, AL 1799, AL 1801, and AL 1804.

- (2) Step rate increases were granted in compliance with D.03-09-021, D.04-04-041, and D.04-09-038.
- (3) Step rate increases were granted in compliance with D.03-09-021, D.-10-005, D.04-04-041, and D.04-09-038.
- (4) Step rate increases were granted in compliance with D.03-09-021, D.03-10-005, D.04-04-041, D.04-07-033, and D.04-09-038.

**Table of Contents**

The estimated impact of rate changes compared to the prior years is listed in the following table:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>Dollars in millions</b>		
Step rate increases	\$ 4.4	\$ 4.8	\$ 4.4
Bakersfield Treatment Plant			4.2
General Rate Case (GRC)	5.7	5.8	13.3
Offset (purchased water/pump taxes)	3.2	1.2	4.7
Balancing accounts, net	(3.4)	3.9	0.4
Catch-up surcharge, net		(3.5)	2.2
Other	0.2		0.6
Rate increases	\$ 10.1	\$ 12.2	\$ 29.8

**Remaining Unrecorded Balances from Previously Authorized Balancing Accounts Recoveries/Refunds**

The total of unrecorded, under-collected memorandum and balancing accounts was approximately \$1.5 million as of December 31, 2006. Included in this amount, Cal Water has amounts from 14 districts that are pending further action when balances become large enough to warrant action of either recovery or refund.

**Pending Filings as of February 21, 2007**

Cal Water has pending its 2006 GRC filings covering eight districts. Cal Water expects decisions regarding its 2006 GRCs to be issued in the second quarter of 2007. The amount requested in the 2006 GRCs is approximately \$19.1 million in 2007/2008, \$3.8 million in 2008/2009, and \$3.8 million in 2009/2010. The amounts granted may vary due to a variety of factors. Over the past few years, the amount approved by the CPUC has been substantially less than the requested amount. The GRCs also requested the CPUC to consider several modifications to CPUC rate-setting procedures. The GRCs request a water revenue adjustment mechanism that would allow the Company to recover (refund) water revenues when actual water sales are below (above) adopted water sales in the GRCs. This proposal would decouple our revenues from conservation efforts and inaccurate weather forecasts, putting in place a mechanism similar to that employed by California's investor-owned electric utilities. The GRCs also request a full-cost balancing account that would allow us to recover changes in source of supply mix as well as price changes under current procedures. Finally, we requested that the Commission adjust our authorized rate of return if modifications are not adopted to change certain rate-setting procedures. We are unable to predict the timing and final outcome of the filings at this time.

Additionally, Decision 06-08-011 directed Cal Water to file an application to implement conservation rates and a sales decoupling mechanism. On October 23, 2006, Cal Water filed Application 06-10-026 requesting a water revenue balancing account, a conservation memorandum account, and conservation rates. This request was consolidated with applications filed by other water companies in the Commission's Order Instituting Investigation 07-01-022. A decision is expected during the third quarter of 2007.

**2007 Regulatory Activity**

In accordance with the CPUC's Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.) 06-12-016, which proposes changes to the rate case plan, Cal Water expects to file a GRC for all 24 districts in May of 2007. At this time, Cal Water does not know the

amounts it will request. In January 2007, Cal Water requested step rate increases for seven districts and was authorized an increase of \$1.8 million.

Cal Water intends to file for step rate increases in July 2007 for sixteen districts. The Commission's current practice on approving step rate increases is based partly on inflation through March 2007. Inputs to the weather-adjusted earnings test include recorded information through March 2007. Therefore, Cal Water does not know the amount of its request at this time.

**Table of Contents**

In December of 2006, Cal Water filed six advice letters to offset purchased water and pump tax increases of \$3.4 million from wholesale suppliers effective January 1, 2007. These advice letters were approved in January and February 2007.

In December of 2006, Cal Water filed an application to allow it to recover additional funding associated with its postretirement benefit other than pensions (PBOP) or retiree healthcare plan. Currently, Cal Water funds and recognizes expenses associated with the plan on a pay-as-you-go basis. The excess expense between pay-as-you-go and accrual during the employees' expected service period has been recognized as a regulatory asset. As of December 31, 2006, the regulatory asset was approximately \$9.8 million. In February 2007, the Division of Rate Payer Advocates (DRA) filed its protest to our PBOP application. In their protest, the DRA requested to dismiss the application with prejudice. The DRA further noted that prior to their protest, the parties met several times to discuss the Company's application. During the discussions it became apparent to the DRA that negotiations would extend beyond the deadline for filing their protest. The DRA further noted that subsequent to this filing, the parties will continue their discussions to achieve a settlement that is reasonable, consistent with the law, and in the public interest. Cal Water intends to increase its funding so the plan is funded during the employee's service period. Cal Water has established two Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Associations (VEBAs) to allow for increased funding and a current period income tax deduction. While the DRA has filed its protest, the ultimate outcome will be determined by the CPUC. Cal Water believes that the CPUC will recognize in rates the recovery of the regulatory asset and the additional funding of the plan. If the CPUC does not permit the us to recover the full amount of our regulatory asset, the regulatory asset, to the extent not allowed in recovery, will be written off.

**Review of Property Sales by CPUC**

In 1995, the California Legislature enacted the Water Utility Infrastructure Improvement Act of 1995 (Infrastructure Act) to encourage water utilities to sell surplus properties and reinvest in needed water utility facilities. In September 2003, the CPUC issued Decision (D.) 03-09-021 in Cal Water's 2001 GRC filing. In this decision, the CPUC ordered Cal Water to file an application setting up an Infrastructure Act memorandum account with an up-to-date accounting of all real property that was at any time in rate base and that Cal Water had sold since the effective date of the Infrastructure Act. The decision also ordered Cal Water to file an application for approval to replace the operations and customer centers in its Chico District and for treatment of the gain on sale proceeds.

On December 1, 2005, the CPUC issued D.05-12-002, which found that Cal Water appropriately reclassified all properties as non-utility property prior to being sold and the criteria Cal Water followed to reclassify its properties were reasonable and consistent with the requirements of the CPUC. Since the properties were properly reclassified, the CPUC found that approval of the property sales was not required and no penalty was warranted. Furthermore, the decision found that Cal Water should be allowed to include in rate base the full cost of the Chico customer center.

Although the decision concluded that all gains for the property sales qualified for reinvestment in accordance with the Infrastructure Act, the decision defers the ratemaking issue regarding treatment of sale proceeds to its Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.) 04-09-003. On May 25, 2006, the Commission issued D.06-05-041 regarding the allocation of proceeds from the sale of utility assets. The Decision concluded that the CPUC has limited discretion in how it allocates between ratepayers and utility shareholders the gains on sale of real property that meets the criteria in the Infrastructure Act, provided that water utilities reinvest the proceeds in new water infrastructure.

Accordingly, Cal Water is entitled to earn its full authorized return on the proceeds reinvested in utility plant from the gains on surplus property sales that were under review.

**Elimination of the Earnings Test on Balancing Accounts**

On April 13, 2006, the CPUC issued D.06-04-037, which eliminated the non-weather-adjusted earnings test that applied to memorandum and balancing account recovery for water utilities. Eliminating the earnings test significantly improves Cal Water's opportunity to earn our authorized rate of return. For the years 2002-2004 Cal Water was unable to recover \$3.5 million in off-settable expenses. The draft decision does not address the weather-adjusted earnings test that is required for step rate increases and no guarantee can be given that Cal Water will be permitted to recover these off-settable expenses.

**Table of Contents**

**Rate Case Plan**

In accordance with the Water Action Plan's objective to streamline regulatory decision-making the Commission issued R.06-12-016 in December 2006, to address streamlining of its water rate case plan. As proposed, Cal Water and other multi-district water companies would file a company-wide general rate case once every three years. This would reduce the number of rate filings and reduce the regulatory lag associated with implementing general office cost increases, including health care, insurance, and other allocated costs. In May 2007, Cal Water is scheduled to be the first multi-district to file a company-wide general rate case.

**Water Supply**

Our source of supply varies among our operating districts. Certain districts obtain all of their supply from wells; some districts purchase all of their supply from wholesale suppliers; and other districts obtain supply from a combination of wells and wholesale suppliers. A small portion of supply comes from surface sources and is processed through Company-owned water treatment plants. To the best of management's knowledge, we are meeting water quality, environmental, and other regulatory standards for all company-owned systems.

California's normal weather pattern yields little precipitation between mid-spring and mid-fall. The Washington Water service areas receive precipitation in all seasons, with the heaviest amounts during the winter. New Mexico Water's rainfall is heaviest in the summer monsoon season. Hawaii Water receives precipitation throughout the year, with the largest amounts in the winter months. Water usage in all service areas is highest during the warm and dry summers and declines in the cool winter months. Rain and snow during the winter months replenish underground water aquifers and fill reservoirs, providing the water supply for subsequent delivery to customers. To date, snow and rainfall accumulation during the 2006-2007 water year has been below average. Precipitation in the prior year was above average. Management believes that supply pumped from underground aquifers and purchased from wholesale suppliers will be adequate to meet customer demand during 2006 and beyond. Long-term water supply plans are developed for each of our districts to help assure an adequate water supply under various operating and supply conditions. Some districts have unique challenges in meeting water quality standards, but management believes that supplies will meet current standards using current treatment processes.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

**Cash flow from Operations**

During 2006 we generated cash flow from operations of approximately \$61 million, down from \$82 million during 2005, and up from \$53 million in 2004. Cash flow from operations is primarily generated by net income and non-cash expenses for depreciation and amortization and deferred income taxes. Cash generated by operations varies during the year.

The water business is seasonal. Revenue is lower in the cool, wet winter months when less water is used compared to the warm, dry summer months when water use is highest. This seasonality results in the possible need for short-term borrowings under the bank lines of credit in the event cash is not available during the winter period. The increase in cash flow during the summer allows short-term borrowings to be paid down. Customer water usage can be lower than normal in years when more than normal precipitation falls in our service areas or temperatures are lower than normal, especially in the summer months. The reduction in water usage reduces cash flow from operations and increases the need for short-term bank borrowings. In addition, short-term borrowings are used to finance capital expenditures until long-term financing is arranged.

**Short-Term Financing**

Short-term liquidity is provided by bank lines of credit funds extended to us and certain of our subsidiaries and by internally generated funds. Long-term financing is accomplished through use of both debt and equity. Short-term bank borrowings were zero at December 31, 2006, and December, 2005. Cash and cash equivalents were \$60.3 million at December 31, 2006, and \$9.5 million at December 31, 2005. Given our ability to access our lines of credit on a daily basis, cash balances are managed to levels required for daily cash needs and excess cash is



**Table of Contents**

invested in short-term or cash equivalent instruments. Minimal operating levels of cash are maintained for Washington Water, New Mexico Water, and Hawaii Water.

Cal Water has a \$45 million credit facility agreement that expires in April, 2007. The agreement requires an out-of-debt period of 30 consecutive days during any consecutive 24-month period and outstanding balances below \$10 million for a period of 30 consecutive days during any consecutive 12-month period. Additionally, the agreement requires debt as a percent of total capitalization to be less than 67%. To date, we have met all covenant requirements and are eligible to use the full amount of the commitment. In addition to borrowings, the credit facility allows for letters of credit up to \$10 million, which reduces the available amount to borrow when utilized. One letter of credit was outstanding at December 31, 2006, for \$0.5 million related to an insurance policy. Interest is charged on a variable basis and fees are charged for unused amounts. As of December 31, 2006, there were no borrowings against the credit facility.

A separate credit facility for \$10 million also exists for use by us and our subsidiaries, including Washington Water, New Mexico Water, and Hawaii Water. The term of the current agreement expires in April 2007. The agreement requires an out-of-debt period of 30 consecutive days during any consecutive 24-month period and outstanding balances below \$10 million for a period of 30 consecutive days during any consecutive 12-month period. Additionally, the agreement requires debt as a percent of total capitalization to be less than 67%. To date, we have met all covenant requirements and are eligible to use the full amount of the commitment. In addition to borrowings, the credit facility allows for letters of credit up to \$5 million, which would reduce the amount available to borrow. No letters of credit were outstanding at December 31, 2006. Interest is charged on a variable basis and fees are charged for unused amounts. As of December 31, 2006, there were no borrowings against the credit facility.

**Credit Ratings**

Cal Water's first mortgage bonds are rated by Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) and Standard & Poor's (S&P). Previously, the two major credit facility agreements contained covenants related to these debt ratings. The current agreements do not contain such covenants. Since 2004, the two credit rating agencies maintained their ratings of A2 for Moody's and A+ for S & P. Both agencies characterized us as stable. In the past, the agencies have been concerned over the rate-setting process and decisions by the CPUC. Also, concerns were raised about our present level of capital expenditures, which will need to be partially financed through long-term borrowings or equity offerings. Management believes we would be able to meet financing needs even if ratings were downgraded, but a rating change could result in a higher interest rate on new debt.

**Long-Term Financing**

Long-term financing, which includes senior notes, other debt securities, and common stock, has been used to replace short-term borrowings and fund capital expenditures. Internally generated funds, after making dividend payments, provide positive cash flow, but have not been at a level to meet the needs of our capital expenditure requirements. Management expects this trend to continue given our capital expenditures plan for the next 5 years. Some capital expenditures are funded by payments received from developers for contributions in aid of construction or advances for construction. Funds received for contributions in aid of construction are non-refundable, whereas funds classified as advances in construction are refundable. Management believes long-term financing is available to meet our cash flow needs through issuances in both debt and equity markets.

During 2006, we raised approximately \$103 million of capital. Of this amount, \$20 million was raised through privately placed senior unsecured notes. The remaining \$83 million was raised through the issuance of 2.3 million shares of common stock. We anticipate that the majority of our 2007 capital needs will be covered by the \$103 million raised in 2006. In future periods, management anticipates funding our capital needs through a relatively balanced

approach between long term debt and equity.

In September 2006, we filed a shelf registration statement with the SEC for up to \$150 million in preferred stock and common stock in addition to our prior shelf permitting up to \$35.6 million in preferred stock and common stock. On October 12, 2006, we completed an underwritten public offering of 2,250,000 shares of our common stock (including 250,000 shares pursuant to the exercise, in part, by the underwriters of their over-allotment option) at a price per share of \$36.75 to the public, raising approximately \$83 million in gross proceeds. For additional

**Table of Contents**

information please reference our Form 8-K, dated October 12, 2006 on file with the SEC. After issuance of these shares, we had approximately \$101 million in remaining securities available for future issuance under our shelf registration.

We did not issue any significant long-term debt or additional stock in 2005.

In June 2004, we issued 1,409,700 shares of our common stock at \$27.25 per share. The net proceeds of \$36.8 million were used to pay down short-term borrowings and invest in short-term money market instruments, pending their use for general corporate purposes.

In September 2004, the CPUC issued a decision granting Cal Water authority to complete up to \$250 million of equity and debt financing through 2010, subject to certain restrictions.

We do not utilize off-balance-sheet financing or utilize special purpose entity arrangements for financing. We do not have equity ownership through joint ventures or partnership arrangements.

Additional information regarding the bank borrowings and long-term debt is presented in Notes 8 and 9 in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Contractual Obligations**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Less than 1 year</b>	<b>1-3 years</b>	<b>3-5 years</b>	<b>After 5 years</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>				
Long-term debt	\$ 293,592	\$ 1,778	\$ 5,208	\$ 4,889	\$ 281,717
Interest payments	276,889	17,930	35,628	34,570	188,761
Advances for construction	157,660	5,321	10,541	10,440	131,358
Office leases	1,207	520	519	131	37
System leases	10,271	961	1,922	1,825	5,563
Water supply contracts	414,218	13,614	29,576	29,576	341,452
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,153,837</b>	<b>40,124</b>	<b>83,394</b>	<b>81,431</b>	<b>948,888</b>

Our contractual obligations are summarized in the table above. For pension and post retirement benefits other than pension obligations see Note 12 to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Long-term debt payments include annual sinking fund payments on first mortgage bonds, maturities of long-term debt, and annual payments on other long-term obligations. Advances for construction represent annual contract refunds to developers for the cost of water systems paid for by the developers. The contracts are non-interest bearing, and refunds are generally on a straight-line basis over a 40-year period. System and office leases include obligations associated with leasing water systems and rents for office space.

Cal Water has water supply contracts with wholesale suppliers in 14 of its operating districts and for the two leased systems in Hawthorne and Commerce. For each contract, the cost of water is established by the wholesale supplier and is generally beyond our control. The amount paid annually to the wholesale suppliers is charged to purchased water expense on our statement of income. Most contracts do not require minimum annual payments and vary with the volume of water purchased.

We have a contract with the Santa Clara Water District, which contains minimal purchase provisions. The contract payment varies with the volume of water purchased above the minimal levels. Management plans to continue to purchase and use at least the minimum water requirement under this contract in the future. Total paid under this contract was \$5.3 million in 2006, \$4.8 million in 2005, and \$4.6 million in 2004.

The water supply contract with Stockton East Water District (SEWD) requires a fixed, annual payment and does not vary during the year with the quantity of water delivered by the district. Due to the fixed price arrangement, we utilize as much water as possible from SEWD in order to minimize the cost of operating Company-owned wells used to supplement SEWD deliveries. The total paid under the contract was \$4.4 million in 2006, \$4.3 million in 2005, and \$4.4 million in 2004. Pricing under the contract varies annually. Estimated annual contractual obligations in the above table are based on the same payment level as 2006. Future cost increases by SEWD are expected to be

**Table of Contents**

offset by a decline in the allocation of costs to us as more of these costs are expected to be allocated to other SEWD customers due to growth within their service areas.

On September 21, 2005, we entered into an agreement with Kern County Water Agency (Agency) to obtain treated water for our operations. The term of the agreement is to January 1, 2035, or until the Agency's bonds are repaid. The Agency's bonds are described below. Under the terms of the agreement, we are obligated to purchase 20,500 acre feet of treated water per year by the year 2017, prior years to increase incrementally. We are obligated to pay a capital facilities charge and a treated water charge, both of which will be expensed as invoiced, regardless of whether we can use the water in our operation, and we are obligated for these charges even if the Agency cannot produce an adequate amount to supply the 20,500 acre feet in the year. This agreement supersedes a prior agreement with Kern County Water Agency for the supply of 11,500 acre feet of water per year. Total paid, under the prior agreement, was \$3.3 million in 2006, 2005 and 2004.

Three other parties, including the City of Bakersfield, are also obligated to purchase a total of 32,500 acre feet per year under separate agreements with the Agency. Further, the Agency has the right to proportionally reduce the water supply provided to all of the participants if it cannot produce adequate supplies. The participation of all parties in the transaction for expansion of the Agency's facilities, including its water purification plant, purchase of the water, and payment of interest and principal on the bonds being issued by the Agency to finance the transaction, is required as a condition to the obligation of the Agency to proceed with expansion of the Agency's facilities. If any of the other parties does not use its allocation, that party is obligated to pay its contracted amount.

The Agency is planning to issue bonds to fund the project and will use the payments of the capital facilities charges by us and the other contracted parties to meet the Agency's obligations to pay interest and repay principal on the bonds. If any of the parties were to default on making payments of the capital facilities charge, then the other parties are obligated to pay for the defaulting party's share on a pro-rata basis. If there is a payment default by a party and the remaining parties have to make payments, they are also entitled to a pro-rata share of the defaulting party's water allocation.

We expect to use all our contracted amount of water in our operations every year. If additional treated water is available, all parties have an option to purchase this additional treated water, subject to the Agency's right to allocate the water among the parties. If we were to pay for and receive additional amounts of water due to a default of another participating party, we believe we could use this additional water in our operations without incurring substantial increases in incremental costs.

The total obligation of all parties, excluding us, is approximately \$50 million to the Agency. Based on the credit worthiness of the other participants, which are government entities, our management believes it to be highly unlikely that we would be required to assume any other parties' obligations under the contract due to their default. If a party defaults, we would receive entitlement to the additional water for assuming the additional obligation.

Once the project is complete, we are obligated to pay a capital facilities charge and a treated water charge that together total \$4.7 million annually, which equates to \$231 per acre foot. Annual payments of \$2.0 million for the capital facilities charge will begin when the Agency issues bonds to fund the project. Some of the treated water charge of \$2.7 million is expected to begin July 1, 2007, when a portion of the planned capacity is expected to be available. The expanded water treatment plant is expected to be at full capacity by July 1, 2008, and at that time, the full annual payments of \$4.7 million would be made and continue through the term of the agreement. Once treated water is being delivered, we will also be obligated for our portion of the operating costs; that portion is currently estimated to be \$69 per acre foot. The actual amount will vary due to variations from estimates, inflation, and other changes in the cost structure. Our overall estimated cost of \$300 per acre foot is less than the estimated cost of procuring untreated water (assuming water rights could be obtained) and then providing treatment.

**Capital Requirements**

Capital requirements consist primarily of new construction expenditures for expanding and replacing utility plant facilities and the acquisition of water systems. They also include refunds of advances for construction.

**Table of Contents**

Company-funded utility plant expenditures were \$86.2 million, \$77.6 million, and \$50.4 million in 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. A majority of capital expenditures was associated with mains and water treatment equipment.

For 2007, Company-funded capital expenditures are budgeted at approximately \$85 million. For the years 2007 through 2011, capital expenditures are currently estimated at \$75 to \$85 million per year.

Other capital expenditures are funded through developer advances and contributions in aid of construction (non-company funded). The expenditure amounts were \$26.0 million, \$16.9 million, and \$18.2 million in 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. The changes from year-to-year reflect expansion projects by developers in our service areas.

Management expects us to incur non-company funded expenditures in 2007. These expenditures will be financed by developers through refundable advances for construction and non-refundable contributions in aid of construction. Developers are required to deposit the cost of a water construction project with us prior to our commencing construction work, or the developers may construct the facilities themselves and deed the completed facilities to us. Funds are generally received in advance of incurring costs for these projects. Advances are normally refunded over a 40-year period without interest. Future payments for advances received are listed under contractual obligations above. Because non-company-funded construction activity is solely at the discretion of developers, we cannot predict the level of future activity. The cash flow impact is expected to be minor due to the structure of the arrangements.

**Capital Structure**

In 2006, common stockholders' equity increased by \$84.4 million, due primarily to a net increase in Common Stock of \$79.6 million, which was the direct result of the aforementioned October 2006 public offering. In 2005, common stockholders' equity increased by \$6.3 million, due primarily to an increase in retained earnings. In 2004, common stockholders' equity increased \$43.1 million, or 18%, due primarily to earnings and the issuance of new shares of common stock. The long-term debt increased \$18.3 million due primarily to the issuance of \$20 million of senior unsecured notes. See the Long-Term Financing section above for additional information.

Total capitalization at December 31, 2006, was \$673.6 million and \$571.6 million at December 31, 2005. The Company intends to issue common stock and long-term debt to finance our operations. The capitalization ratios will vary depending upon the method we choose to finance our operations.

At December 31, 2006, capitalization ratios were:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Common equity	56.2%	51.4%
Preferred stock	0.5%	0.6%
Long-term debt	43.3%	48.0%

The return (from both regulated and non-regulated operations) on average common equity was 6.8% in 2006 compared to 9.3% in 2005.

**Acquisitions**

Although there were no significant acquisitions in the periods presented, the following acquisitions were completed in 2006 and 2005:

In August 2006, we acquired the assets of Independent Utility Company, for approximately \$500,000 in cash in exchange for the assets of the system, including three wells and 340 acre-feet of water rights. Located 15 miles east of Albuquerque, New Mexico, we merged the system and its 400 customers into New Mexico Water Service Company. No goodwill was recorded in the transaction.

In April 2005, we acquired the water system assets of the Los Trancos Water District for \$125,000 in cash. The Los Trancos water system and its 270 customers were merged into California Water Service Company's Bear Gulch district. The purchase price was approximately equal to rate base and no goodwill was recorded in the transaction.



## **Table of Contents**

In June 2005, we acquired the water system assets of Gamble Bay for \$370,000. We assumed net liabilities of \$336,000 and the balance was paid in cash. We merged the water system and its 169 customers into Washington Water. We recorded an acquisition adjustment of \$18,000, which we believe will be included in rate base. As such, the purchase price is approximately equal to rate base and no goodwill was recorded.

In June 2005, we acquired the water system assets of the Cypress Gardens Water Company for \$312,000 in cash. We merged the water system and its 350 customers into New Mexico Water. The purchase price is approximately equal to rate base and no goodwill was recorded.

In April 2004, we acquired the stock of National Utility Company (NUC) and land from owners of NUC for \$0.9 million in cash. We retired NUC's stock and merged it into New Mexico Water. Revenue for NUC for the 8-month period in 2004 was \$0.4 million and net income was zero. The purchase price is approximately equal to rate base and an immaterial amount of goodwill was recorded in the transaction.

### **Real Estate Program**

We own real estate. From time to time, certain parcels are deemed no longer used or useful for water utility operations. Most surplus properties have a low cost basis. We developed a program to realize the value of certain surplus properties through sale or lease of those properties. The program will be ongoing for a period of several years. Property sales produced pretax gains of \$0.3 million and \$2.2 million in 2006 and 2005 respectively; no pretax gains were recorded in 2004. As sales are dependent on real estate market conditions, future sales, if any, may or may not be at prior year levels. As discussed in the Rates and Regulations section, future sales may be affected by the CPUC ruling in its proceeding regarding sales of utility assets.

### **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We do not participate in hedge arrangements, such as forward contracts, swap agreements, options, or other contractual agreements to mitigate the impact of market fluctuations on our assets, liabilities, production, or contractual commitments. We operate only in the United States and, therefore, are not subject to foreign currency exchange rate risks.

#### **Terrorism Risk**

Due to terrorist risks, we have heightened security at our facilities over the past few years and have taken added precautions to protect our employees and the water delivered to customers. We have complied with EPA regulations concerning vulnerability assessments and have made filings to the EPA as required. In addition, communication plans have been developed as a component of our procedures related to this risk. While we do not make public comments on our security programs, we have been in contact with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate and improve our water delivery systems' security.

#### **Interest Rate Risk**

We are subject to interest rate risk, although this risk is lessened because we operate in a regulated industry. If interest rates were to increase, management believes customer rates would increase accordingly, subject to Commission approval in future GRC filings. The majority of our debt is long-term at a fixed rate. Interest rate risk does exist on short-term borrowings within our credit facilities, as these interest rates are variable. We also have interest rate risk on new financing, as higher interest cost may occur on new debt if interest rates increase.

**Stock Price Risk**

Because we operate primarily in a regulated industry, our stock price volatility risk is somewhat lessened; however, regulated parameters also can be recognized as limitations to operations, earnings, and the ability to respond to certain business condition changes. An adverse change in the stock price could make issuance of common stock less attractive in the future.

**Table of Contents**

**Stock Market Performance Risk**

Our stock price could be affected by changes in the general market. This could impact the costs of obtaining funds through the equity markets. Stock market performance could also impact us through the investments by our defined benefit plan and postretirement medical benefit plan. We are responsible for funding these plans. Plan investments are made in stock market equities using mutual funds and in corporate bonds. Poor performance of the equity and bond markets could result in increased costs and additional funding requirements due to lower investment returns. Management believes we would be able to recover these higher costs in customer rates.

**Equity Risk**

We do not have equity investments and, therefore, does not have equity risks.

**Table of Contents**

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

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
California Water Service Group:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of California Water Service Group and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related consolidated statements of income, common stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the management of California Water Service Group. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our 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 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. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of California Water Service Group and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, effective January 1, 2006, California Water Service Group adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*, and effective December 31, 2006, California Water Service Group adopted the initial funded status recognition and disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*. In addition, California Water Service Group changed its method for quantifying errors in its financial statements in 2006.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of California Water Service Group and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 9, 2007 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of, and the effective operation of, internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Mountain View, California  
March 9, 2007

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders  
California Water Service Group:

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, that California Water Service Group and subsidiaries maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Management of California Water Service Group is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting of California Water Service Group and subsidiaries based on our audit.

We conducted our audit 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 effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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 (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) 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 (3) 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.

In our opinion, management's assessment that California Water Service Group and subsidiaries maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, issued by the COSO. Also, in our opinion, California Water Service Group and subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*, issued by the COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of California Water Service Group and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related consolidated statements of income, common stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2006, and our report dated March 9, 2007 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Mountain View, CA

March 9, 2007

**Table of Contents****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	<b>In thousands,</b>	
	<b>except per share data</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		
Utility plant:		
Land	\$ 15,460	\$ 14,274
Depreciable plant and equipment	1,278,356	1,171,218
Construction work in progress	35,659	35,372
Intangible assets	14,940	14,226
Total utility plant	1,344,415	1,235,090
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	402,940	372,359
Net utility plant	941,475	862,731
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	60,312	9,533
Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts		
Customers	19,526	16,061
Other	6,700	4,700
Unbilled revenue	11,341	11,445
Materials and supplies at weighted average cost	4,515	4,182
Prepaid pension expense	1,696	1,696
Taxes and other prepaid expenses	5,534	4,607
Total current assets	109,624	52,224
Other assets:		
Regulatory assets	93,785	58,213
Unamortized debt premium and expense	7,418	7,746
Other	12,717	16,031
Total other assets	113,920	81,990
	\$ 1,165,019	\$ 996,945
<b>Capitalization and Liabilities</b>		
Capitalization:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 25,000 shares authorized, 20,657 and 18,390, outstanding in 2006 and 2005, respectively	\$ 207	\$ 184
Additional paid-in capital	211,513	131,991
Retained earnings	166,582	162,968
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(1,202)

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Total common stockholders' equity	378,302	293,941
Preferred stock without mandatory redemption provision, \$25 par value, 380 shares authorized, 139 shares outstanding	3,475	3,475
Long-term debt, less current maturities	291,814	274,142
Total capitalization	673,591	571,558
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	1,778	1,133
Accounts payable	33,130	36,120
Income taxes payable	7,918	
Accrued other taxes	1,971	1,791
Accrued interest	3,072	2,715
Other accrued liabilities	22,356	21,266
Total current liabilities	70,225	63,025
Unamortized investment tax credits	2,541	2,615
Deferred income taxes	69,503	63,920
Regulatory liabilities	19,954	18,782
Pension and postretirement benefits other than pension	48,584	21,514
Advances for construction	157,660	141,842
Contributions in aid of construction	109,504	99,958
Other long-term liabilities	13,457	13,731
Commitments and contingencies		
	\$ 1,165,019	\$ 996,945

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Income**

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>In thousands, except per share data</b>		
Operating revenue	\$ 334,717	\$ 320,728	\$ 315,567
Operating expenses:			
Operations:			
Purchased water	93,426	87,504	89,787
Purchased power	22,738	20,541	21,801
Pump taxes	8,094	7,620	7,555
Administrative and general	52,793	48,771	47,710
Other	42,923	40,032	39,928
Maintenance	15,591	15,216	13,228
Depreciation and amortization	30,652	28,731	26,114
Income taxes	15,297	17,875	15,855
Property and other taxes	12,897	12,613	11,508
Total operating expenses	294,411	278,903	273,488
Net operating income	40,306	41,825	42,079
Other income and expenses:			
Non-regulated revenue	10,645	9,261	8,073
Non-regulated expense	(7,208)	(6,282)	(5,065)
Gain on sale of non-utility property	348	2,250	8
Less: income taxes on other income and expenses	(1,542)	(2,131)	(1,229)
Net other income and expenses	2,243	3,098	1,787
Interest expense:			
Interest expense	19,669	18,600	18,664
Less capitalized interest	(2,700)	(900)	(824)
Net interest expense	16,969	17,700	17,840
Net income	\$ 25,580	\$ 27,223	\$ 26,026
Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Diluted	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:			
Basic	18,905	18,379	17,652
Diluted	18,925	18,402	17,674

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Common Stockholders Equity and Comprehensive Income****For the Years Ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004**

	<b>Common Stock</b>	<b>Additional Paid-in Capital</b>	<b>Retained Earnings In thousands</b>	<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</b>	<b>Total Stockholders Equity</b>
Balance at December 31, 2003	\$ 169	\$ 93,748	\$ 150,908	\$ (301)	\$ 244,524
Net income			26,026		26,026
Net other comprehensive loss				(400)	(400)
Comprehensive income					25,626
Issuance of common stock, net of expenses of \$1,594	15	37,523			37,538
Dividends paid:					
Preferred stock			(153)		(153)
Common stock			(19,930)		(19,930)
Total dividends paid			(20,083)		(20,083)
Balance at December 31, 2004	184	131,271	156,851	(701)	287,605
Net income			27,223		27,223
Net other comprehensive loss				(501)	(501)
Comprehensive income					26,722
Issuance of common stock		720			720
Dividends paid:					
Preferred stock			(153)		(153)
Common stock			(20,953)		(20,953)
Total dividends paid			(21,106)		(21,106)
Balance at December 31, 2005	184	131,991	162,968	(1,202)	293,941
Net income			25,580		25,580
Reclassification of minimum pension liability to regulatory asset, net of tax effect of \$802, in conjunction with the implementation of SFAS no. 158 (see Note 12)				1,202	1,202
Comprehensive income					26,782
Issuance of common stock, net of expenses of \$3,680	23	79,522			79,545
Dividends paid:					

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Preferred stock			(153)			(153)
Common stock			(21,813)			(21,813)
Total dividends paid			(21,966)			(21,966)
Balance at December 31, 2006	\$ 207	\$ 211,513	\$ 166,582	\$	\$	378,302

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>In thousands</b>		
Operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 25,580	\$ 27,223	\$ 26,026
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	30,652	28,731	26,114
Amortization of debt premium and expenses	665	661	660
Net change in deferred income taxes, investment tax credits, and regulatory assets and liabilities	3,218	3,908	17,637
Gain on sale of non-utility property	(348)	(2,250)	(8)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Receivables	(5,381)	5,545	(2,720)
Unbilled revenue	104	(2,138)	(771)
Taxes and other prepaid expenses	(437)	6,491	(7,168)
Accounts payable	(865)	12,604	(6,406)
Other current assets	(322)	(1,021)	(203)
Other current liabilities	11,045	3,841	2,713
Other changes, net	(2,944)	(1,106)	(2,827)
Net adjustments	35,387	55,266	27,021
Net cash provided by operating activities	60,967	82,489	53,047
Investing activities:			
Utility plant expenditures:			
Company-funded	(88,382)	(73,799)	(48,024)
Developer advances and contributions in aid of construction	(26,032)	(16,948)	(18,185)
Proceeds from sale of non-utility assets	353	2,316	14
Acquisitions	(509)	(471)	(900)
Net cash used in investing activities	(114,570)	(88,902)	(67,095)
Financing activities:			
Net changes in short-term borrowings			(6,454)
Issuance of common stock, net of expenses	79,545	720	37,538
Issuance of long-term debt, net of expenses	19,879	227	3,501
Advances for construction	22,007	15,389	14,388
Refunds of advances for construction	(6,189)	(4,840)	(5,049)
Contributions in aid of construction	12,953	7,924	6,882
Retirement of long-term debt	(1,848)	(1,188)	(711)
Dividends paid	(21,966)	(21,106)	(20,083)

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	104,381	(2,874)	30,012
Change in cash and cash equivalents	50,779	(9,287)	15,964
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	9,533	18,820	2,856
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 60,312	\$ 9,533	\$ 18,820
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:			
Cash paid during the year for:			
Interest (net of amounts capitalized)	\$ 16,146	\$ 16,811	\$ 17,202
Income taxes	5,471	12,411	8,026
Supplemented disclosure of non-cash activities:			
Accrued payables for investments in utility plant	10,477	12,613	8,843

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004**

**Amounts in thousands, except per share data and share data**

**1 ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

California Water Service Group (Company) is a holding company that provides water utility and other related services in California, Washington, New Mexico, and Hawaii through its wholly-owned subsidiaries. California Water Service Company (Cal Water), Washington Water Service Company (Washington Water), New Mexico Water Service Company (New Mexico Water), and Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc. (Hawaii Water) provide regulated utility services under the rules and regulations of their respective state's regulatory commissions (jointly referred to as the Commissions). CWS Utility Services provides non-regulated water utility and utility-related services.

The Company operates primarily in one business segment, providing water and related utility services.

**2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Principles of Consolidation and Accounting Records* The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated. The accounting records of the Company are maintained in accordance with the uniform system of accounts prescribed by the Commissions.

*Reclassifications* Certain other prior years' amounts have been reclassified, where necessary, to conform to the current year presentation.

On the balance sheet, prior year amounts for the non-current portion of the liability for postretirement benefits other than pension in the amount of \$10,191 and the non-current portion of the liability for supplemental executive retirement plan in the amount of \$3,600 were reclassified from current liabilities to the non-current liability entitled Pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions, as such amounts were not expected to be paid within one year of the balance sheet date. In addition, non-regulated income and non-regulated expenses which were previously netted in the income statement have been broken out separately. Also, prior year amounts for income taxes associated with other income and expenses were reclassified from income taxes included in operating expenses.

On the statement of cash flows, prior year amounts for the company funded utility plant expenditures and accounts payable have been reduced for non-cash activities.

*Use of Estimates* The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Revenue* Revenue consists primarily of monthly cycle customer billings for regulated water and waste water services at rates authorized by the Commissions and billings to certain non-regulated customers. Revenue from metered accounts includes unbilled amounts based on the estimated usage from the latest meter reading to the end of the accounting period. Flat-rate accounts, which are billed at the beginning of the service period, are included in revenue on a pro rata basis for the portion applicable to the current accounting period.

Revenues from regulated customers include fees that are paid to the Commissions. This amount is recorded in revenue and in other operating expenses. Fees paid to the Commissions were \$4,483 in 2006, \$4,123 in 2005, and \$4,088 in 2004.

The Company provides an allowance for doubtful accounts. The balance of customer receivables is net of the allowance for doubtful accounts at December 31, 2006 and 2005 of \$260 and \$272, respectively.



**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The activity in the reserve account is as follows:

	2006	2005
Beginning Balance	\$ 272	\$ 287
Provision for uncollectible accounts	928	756
Net write off of uncollectible accounts	(940)	(771)
Ending Balance	\$ 260	\$ 272

*Non-Regulated Revenue* Revenues from non-regulated operations and maintenance agreements are recognized when services have been rendered to companies or municipalities under such agreements. Other non-regulated revenue is recognized when title has transferred to the buyer, or ratably over the term of the lease. For construction and design services, revenue is generally recognized on the completed contract method, as most projects are completed in less than three months.

*Expense Balancing and Memorandum Accounts* Expense balancing and memorandum accounts are used to track suppliers' rate changes for purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes that are not included in customer water rates. The cost changes are referred to as *Offsetable Expenses* because under certain circumstances they are recoverable from customers (or refunded to customers) in future rates designed to offset the cost changes from the suppliers. The Company does not record the balancing and memorandum accounts until the Commission has authorized a change in customer rates and the customer has been billed.

*Utility Plant* Utility plant is carried at original cost when first constructed or purchased, except for certain minor units of property recorded at estimated fair values at the date of acquisition. When depreciable plant is retired, the cost is eliminated from utility plant accounts and such costs are charged against accumulated depreciation. Maintenance of utility plant is charged to operating expenses as incurred. Maintenance projects are not accrued for in advance. Interest is capitalized on plant expenditures during the construction period and amounted to \$2,700 in 2006, \$900 in 2005, and \$824 in 2004.

Intangible assets acquired as part of water systems purchased are stated at amounts as prescribed by the Commissions. All other intangibles have been recorded at cost and are amortized over their useful life. Included in intangible assets is \$6,515 paid to the City of Hawthorne in 1996 to lease the city's water system and associated water rights. The asset is being amortized on a straight-line basis over the 15-year life of the lease.

The following table represents depreciable plant and equipment as of December 31:

	2006	2005
Equipment	\$ 260,437	\$ 234,073
Transmission and distribution plant	940,434	864,450
Office buildings and other structures	77,485	72,695

Total	\$ 1,278,356	\$ 1,171,218
-------	--------------	--------------

Depreciation of utility plant for financial statement purposes is computed on a straight-line basis over the assets estimated useful lives and provides for asset retirement costs as follows:

	<b>Useful Lives</b>
Equipment	5 to 50 years
Transmission and distribution plant	40 to 65 years
Office Buildings and other structures	50 years

The provision for depreciation expressed as a percentage of the aggregate depreciable asset balances was 2.6% in 2006, 2.7% in 2005, and 2.6% in 2004. For income tax purposes, as applicable, the Company computes depreciation using the accelerated methods allowed by the respective taxing authorities. Plant additions since June 1996 are depreciated on a straight-line basis for tax purposes in accordance with tax regulations.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

*Cash Equivalents* Cash equivalents include highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, cash equivalents included investments in money market funds in the amount of \$53,896 and \$4,003, respectively.

*Restricted Cash* Restricted cash primarily represents proceeds collected through a surcharge on certain customers bills plus interest earned on the proceeds and is used to service California Safe Drinking Water Bond obligations. All restricted cash is classified in other prepaid expenses. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, restricted cash was \$1,304 and \$1,200, respectively.

*Regulatory Assets and Liabilities* The Company operates extensively in a regulated business, and as such is subject to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 71, Accounting for the Effects of Certain Types of Regulations. In accordance with SFAS No. 71, the Company records regulatory assets for future revenues expected to be realized in customers rates when certain items are recognized as expenses for rate making purposes. The income tax temporary differences relate primarily to the difference between book and federal income tax depreciation on utility plant that was placed in service before the regulatory Commissions adopted normalization for rate making purposes. Previously, the tax benefit of tax depreciation was passed onto customers (flow-through). For state income tax purposes, the Commission continues to use the flow-through method. As such timing differences reverse, the Company will be able to include the impact of such differences in customer rates. These federal tax differences will continue to reverse over the remaining book lives of the related assets.

In addition, regulatory assets include expense items that are capitalized for financial statement purposes, because they will be recovered in future customer rates. The capitalized expenses relate to asset retirement obligations, pension benefits, postretirement benefits other than pensions (Retiree Group Health), and accrued benefits for vacation, self-insured workers compensation, and directors retirement benefits. Asset retirement obligations are recorded net of depreciation which has been recorded and recognized through the regulatory process.

Regulatory liabilities represent future benefits to ratepayers for tax deductions that will be allowed in the future. Regulatory liabilities also reflect timing differences provided at higher than the current tax rate, which will flow-through to future ratepayers.

Regulatory assets and liabilities are comprised of the following as of December 31:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<i>Regulatory Assets</i>		
Income tax temporary differences	\$ 35,213	\$ 32,856
Asset retirement obligations, net	2,914	1,538
Pension and Retiree Group Health	43,345	9,791
Other accrued benefits	12,313	14,028
<b>Total Regulatory Assets</b>	<b>\$ 93,785</b>	<b>\$ 58,213</b>
<i>Regulatory Liabilities</i>		
Future tax benefits due ratepayers	\$ 19,954	\$ 18,782

*Long-Lived Assets* The Company regularly reviews its long-lived assets for impairment, annually or when events or changes in business circumstances have occurred that indicate the carrying amount of such assets may not be fully realizable. Potential impairment of assets held for use is determined by comparing the carrying amount of an asset to the future undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured as the amount by which the carrying value of the asset exceeds its fair value. There have been no asset impairments as of December 31, 2006 and 2005.

*Long-Term Debt Premium, Discount and Expense* The discount and issuance expense on long-term debt is amortized over the original lives of the related debt issues on a straight-line basis which approximates the effective

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

interest rate. Premiums paid on the early redemption of certain debt issues and the unamortized original issue discount and expense are amortized over the life of new debt issued in conjunction with the early redemption. Amortization expense included in interest expense was \$665, \$661, and \$660 for 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively.

*Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss* The Company has an unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. In 2005, the unfunded accumulated benefit obligation of the plan, less the accrued benefit, exceeded the unrecognized prior service cost which was recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, as a separate component of Stockholders' Equity. In 2006, with the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 158, Employers Accounting for Retired Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans the Company determined that the amount should be reflected as a regulatory asset, as it will be recovered in future customer rates. As a result, during 2006, the Company recognized \$1,202 of net accumulated other comprehensive loss as a regulatory asset.

*Advances for Construction* Advances for Construction consist of payments received from developers for installation of water production and distribution facilities to serve new developments. Advances are excluded from rate base for rate setting purposes. Annual refunds are made to developers without interest. Advances of \$157,126, and \$141,168 at December 31, 2006, and 2005, respectively, are refunded primarily over a 40-year period in equal annual amounts. In addition, other Advances for Construction totaling \$534 and \$674 at December 31, 2006, and 2005, respectively, are refundable based upon customer connections. Estimated refunds of advances for each succeeding year (2007 through 2011) are approximately \$5,321, \$5,254, \$5,287, \$5,222, \$5,218, and \$131,358 thereafter.

*Contributions in Aid of Construction* Contributions in Aid of Construction represent payments received from developers, primarily for fire protection purposes, which are not subject to refunds. Facilities funded by contributions are included in utility plant, but excluded from rate base. Depreciation related to assets acquired from contributions is charged to Contributions in Aid of Construction account.

*Income Taxes* The Company accounts for income taxes using the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Measurement of the deferred tax assets and liabilities is at enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in the period that includes the enactment date.

It is anticipated that future rate action by the Commissions will reflect revenue requirements for the tax effects of temporary differences recognized, which have previously been flowed through to customers. The Commissions have granted the Company rate increases to reflect the normalization of the tax benefits of the federal accelerated methods and available Investment Tax Credits (ITC) for all assets placed in service after 1980. ITCs are deferred and amortized over the lives of the related properties for book purposes.

Advances for Construction and Contributions in Aid of Construction received from developers subsequent to 1986 were taxable for federal income tax purposes and subsequent to 1991 were subject to California income tax. In 1996, the federal tax law, and in 1997, the California tax law, changed and only deposits for new services were taxable. In late 2000, federal regulations were further modified to exclude contributions of fire services from taxable income.

*Workers' Compensation, General Liability and Other Claims* For workers' compensation, the Company utilized an actuary firm to estimate the discounted liability associated with claims submitted and claims not yet submitted based on historical data. For general liability claims and other claims, the Company estimates the cost incurred but not yet paid using historical information.

*Collective Bargaining Agreements* As of December 31, 2006, the Company had 869 employees, including 577 non-supervisory employees who are represented by the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, except

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

certain engineering and laboratory employees who are represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO. The union agreements expire at the end of 2007.

*Earnings Per Share* The computations of basic and diluted earnings per share are noted below. Basic earnings per share are computed by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflect the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. Restricted Stock Awards are included in the weighted stock outstanding as the shares have all voting and dividend rights as issued and unrestricted common stock.

Common stock options outstanding to purchase common shares were 90,500, 98,000, and 121,500 at December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. Stock Appreciation Rights (SAR) covering 37,969 shares of common stock were outstanding as of December 31, 2006, and none were outstanding as of December 31, 2005 or December 31, 2004.

All options and most SARs are dilutive and the dilutive effect is shown in the table below.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except per share data)</b>		
Net income, as reported	\$ 25,580	\$ 27,223	\$ 26,026
Less preferred dividends	153	153	153
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 25,427	\$ 27,070	\$ 25,873
Weighted average common shares, basic	18,905	18,379	17,652
Dilutive common stock equivalents (treasury method)	20	23	22
Shares used for dilutive calculation	18,925	18,402	17,674
Earnings per share basic	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Earnings per share diluted	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46

*Stock-based Compensation* In 2006, the Company adopted the provisions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 revised 2004 (SFAS 123(R)), Share-Based Payment which replaced Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (SFAS 123), Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation and supersedes APB Opinion No 25 (APB 25), Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. Under the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123(R), stock-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award. The Company recognizes compensation as expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period, which is the vesting period. The Company elected the modified-prospective method of adoption of SFAS No. 123(R), under which prior periods are not revised for comparative purposes. Using this method, the valuation provisions of SFAS 123(R) apply to new grants and the unvested portion of prior grants on a prospective basis. All options that were granted prior to the adoption date were vested as of the adoption date such that no compensation expense is required.

Prior to the adoption of SFAS 123(R), the Company presented all tax benefits for deductions resulting from the exercise of stock options and disqualifying dispositions as operating cash flows on its consolidated statement of cash flows. SFAS 123(R) requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation expense to be reported as a financing cash flow, rather than as an operating cash flow. This requirement will reduce net operating cash flows and increase net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. Total cash flow will remain unchanged from what would have been reported under prior accounting rules.

The adoption of SFAS 123(R) did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows. See Note 13 for further information regarding the Company's stock-based compensation assumptions and expenses.

*Long-Term Incentive Plan* The Company had a stockholder-approved Long-Term Incentive Plan (which was replaced on April 27, 2005, by a stockholder-approved Equity Incentive Plan) that allowed granting of non-



**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

qualified stock options. The Company accounted for options issued under the Long-Term Incentive Plan using the intrinsic value method of accounting as prescribed by Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. All outstanding options issued under the Long-Term Incentive Plan have an exercise price equal to the market price on the date they were granted. All options granted under the Long-Term Incentive Plan are fully vested. No compensation expense was recorded in 2006, 2005 or 2004, related to stock options issued under the Long-Term Incentive Plan.

The table below illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share as if the Company had applied the fair value recognition provision of SFAS No. 123 to employee compensation for the options granted under the Long-Term Incentive Plan.

	2005	2004
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 27,070	\$ 25,873
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	46	67
Pro forma net income available to common stockholders	\$ 27,024	\$ 25,806
Earnings per share:		
Basic as reported	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Basic pro forma	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Diluted as reported	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46
Diluted pro forma	\$ 1.47	\$ 1.46

*Other Recent Accounting Pronouncements* In November 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 151, Inventory Costs an Amendment to ARB No. 43, Chapter 4. The statement clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material. The adoption of this statement in the first quarter of 2006 did not have a material impact the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

In June 2006, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the entity's financial statements. FIN 48 prescribes a comprehensive model for how a company should recognize, measure, present, and disclose in its financial statements uncertain tax positions that the company has taken or expects to take on a tax return. FIN 48 is effective for year beginning after December 16, 2006. The Company does not anticipate the adoption of FIN 48 will have a material effect on the Company's financial statements upon adoption.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, Employers Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans an Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132(R). The statement requires an employer to recognize in its statement of financial position an asset for a plan's over-funded status or a liability for a plan's under-funded status. The measurement date of the plans' assets and obligations that determine the funded status will be as of the end of the employer's fiscal year effective in 2008. The adoption of this statement is described in Note 12.

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 108, Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements (SAB 108). The bulletin was issued to address diversity in practice in quantifying financial statement misstatements and the potential under current practice for the build up of improper amounts on the balance sheet. The adoption of SAB 108 did not have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****3 OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES**

The Company conducts various non-regulated activities as reflected in the table below.

	2006		2005		2004	
	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense	Revenue	Expense
Operating and maintenance	\$ 5,141	\$ 4,476	\$ 4,931	\$ 3,789	\$ 4,536	\$ 3,539
Meter reading and billing	1,159	865	1,112	639	1,261	638
Leases	1,714	571	1,457	499	1,285	467
Design and construction	1,151	744	929	697	606	397
Other and non-regulated expenses	1,480	552	832	658	385	24
Total	\$ 10,645	\$ 7,208	\$ 9,261	\$ 6,282	\$ 8,073	\$ 5,065

Operating and maintenance services and meter reading and billing services are provided for water and wastewater systems owned by private companies and municipalities. The agreements call for a fee-per-service or a flat-rate amount per month. Leases have been entered into with telecommunications companies for cellular phone antennas placed on the Company's property. Design and construction services are for the design and installation of water mains and other water infrastructure for others outside the Company's regulated service areas.

**4 ACQUISITIONS**

In 2006, after receiving regulatory approval, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, New Mexico Water, acquired a water system by purchasing the assets of the system for a purchase price of approximately \$500 which was allowed as the rate base of the system.

In 2005, after receiving regulatory approval, the Company's subsidiaries acquired three water systems for a combined purchase price of \$807, including liabilities assumed of \$336, which was the approximate value of the rate base in aggregate of the assets acquired.

In 2004, after receiving regulatory approval, New Mexico Water, acquired the stock of National Utilities Corporation. The purchase was for \$900 which was the approximate amount of rate base of the assets acquired and for certain real estate used by the water system.

Condensed balance sheets and pro forma results of operations for these acquisitions have not been presented since the impact of the purchases was not material. Minimal or no goodwill was recorded in connection with the acquisitions.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, intangible assets that will continue to be amortized and those not amortized were:

	Weighted Average Amortization Period	Gross Carrying Value	2006 Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Value	Gross Carrying Value	2005 Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Value
Amortized intangible assets:							
Hawthorne lease	15	\$ 6,515	\$ 4,705	\$ 1,810	\$ 6,515	\$ 4,271	\$ 2,244
Water pumping rights	usage	1,084	14	1,070	1,084	11	1,073
Water planning studies	14	3,510	909	2,601	2,873	605	2,268
Leasehold improvements and other	24	938	558	380	876	515	361
Total	16	\$ 12,047	\$ 6,186	\$ 5,861	\$ 11,348	\$ 5,402	\$ 5,946
Unamortized intangible assets:							
Perpetual water rights and other		\$ 2,893		\$ 2,893	\$ 2,878		\$ 2,878

For the years ending December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004, amortization of intangible assets was \$853, \$876, and \$799, respectively. Estimated future amortization expense related to intangible assets for the succeeding five years is approximately \$750, \$718, \$694, \$668, \$258, and \$2,686 thereafter.

**6 PREFERRED STOCK**

As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, 380,000 shares of preferred stock were authorized. Dividends on outstanding shares are payable quarterly at a fixed rate before any dividends can be paid on common stock.

The outstanding 139,000 shares of \$25 par value cumulative, 4.4% Series C preferred shares are not convertible to common stock. A premium of \$243 would be due to preferred stock shareholders upon voluntary liquidation of Series C. There is no premium in the event of an involuntary liquidation. Each Series C preferred share is entitled to sixteen votes, with the right to cumulative votes at any election of directors.

See Note 7 for a description of the Series D preferred Stock.

**7 COMMON STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

The Company is authorized to issue 25 million shares of \$0.01 par value common stock. As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, 20,656,699 shares and 18,389,996 shares, respectively, of common stock were issued and outstanding. In

2006, the Company completed an offering of 2,250,000 shares at \$36.75 per share, raising approximately \$83 million in gross proceeds.

*Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Repurchase Plan* The Company has a Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan (Plan). Under the Plan, stockholders may reinvest dividends to purchase additional Company common stock without commission fees. The Plan also allows existing stockholders and other interested investors to purchase Company common stock through the transfer agent up to certain limits. The Company's transfer agent operates the Plan and purchases shares on the open market to provide shares for the Plan.

*Stockholder Rights Plan* The Company's Stockholder Rights Plan (Plan) is designed to protect stockholders and to maximize stockholder value by encouraging a prospective acquirer to negotiate with the Board. The Plan was adopted in 1998 and authorized a dividend distribution of one right (Right) to purchase 1/100th share of Series D

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

Preferred Stock for each outstanding share of Common Stock in certain circumstances. The Rights are for a ten-year period that expires in February 2008.

Each Right represents a right to purchase 1/100th share of Series D Preferred Stock at the price of \$120, subject to adjustment (Purchase Price). Each share of Series D Preferred Stock is entitled to receive a dividend equal to 100 times any dividend paid on common stock and 100 votes per share in any stockholder election. The Rights become exercisable upon occurrence of a Distribution Date. A Distribution Date event occurs if (a) any person accumulates 15% of the then outstanding Common Stock, (b) any person presents a tender offer which would cause the person's ownership level to exceed 15% and the Board determines the tender offer not to be fair to the Company's stockholders, or (c) the Board determines that a stockholder maintaining a 10% interest in the Common Stock could have an adverse impact on the Company or could attempt to pressure the Company to repurchase the holder's shares at a premium.

Until the occurrence of a Distribution Date, each Right trades with the Common Stock and is not separately transferable. When a Distribution Date occurs: (a) the Company would distribute separate Rights Certificates to Common Stockholders and the Rights would subsequently trade separate from the Common Stock; and (b) each holder of a Right, other than the acquiring person (whose Rights would thereafter be void), would have the right to receive upon exercise at its then current Purchase Price that number of shares of Common Stock having a market value of two times the Purchase Price of the Right. If the Company merges into the acquiring person or enters into any transaction that unfairly favors the acquiring person or disfavors the Company's other stockholders, the Right becomes a right to purchase Common Stock of the acquiring person having a market value of two times the Purchase Price.

The Board may determine that in certain circumstances a proposal that would cause a Distribution Date is in the Company stockholders' best interest. Therefore, the Board may, at its option, redeem the Rights at a redemption price of \$0.001 per Right.

**8 SHORT-TERM BORROWINGS**

At December 31, 2006, the Company maintained a bank line of credit providing unsecured borrowings of up to \$10 million at the prime lending rate, which was 7.5% at December 31, 2006, or lower rates as quoted by the bank. Cal Water maintained a separate bank line of credit for an additional \$45 million on the same terms as the Company's line of credit. Both agreements required a 30-day out-of-debt period during any 24 consecutive months. The \$10 million and \$45 million lines have a requirement where the outstanding balance must be below \$10 million and \$5 million, respectively, for a 30-day consecutive period during any 12-month period. Both agreements have a covenant requiring debt as a percentage of total capitalization to be less than 67%. At December 31, 2006, there were no borrowings on the Company or Cal Water lines of credit.

The following table represents borrowings under the bank lines of credit:

	2006	2005	2004
	Dollars in thousands		
Maximum short-term borrowings	\$ 30,250	\$	\$ 18,800
Average amount outstanding	\$ 7,237	\$	\$ 4,330
Weighted average interest rate	6.76%	n/a	2.94%
Interest rate at December 31	n/a	n/a	n/a



**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****9 LONG-TERM DEBT**

As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, long-term debt outstanding was:

	Series	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	2006	2005
First Mortgage Bonds:	J	8.86%	2023	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,600
	K	6.94%	2012	4,300	5,000
	CC	9.86%	2020	18,000	18,100
Total First Mortgage Bonds				25,700	26,700
Unsecured Senior Notes:	A	7.28%	2025	20,000	20,000
	B	6.77%	2028	20,000	20,000
	C	8.15%	2030	20,000	20,000
	D	7.13%	2031	20,000	20,000
	E	7.11%	2032	20,000	20,000
	F	5.90%	2017	20,000	20,000
	G	5.29%	2022	20,000	20,000
	H	5.29%	2022	20,000	20,000
	I	5.54%	2023	10,000	10,000
	J	5.44%	2018	10,000	10,000
	K	4.58%	2010	10,000	10,000
	L	5.48%	2018	10,000	10,000
	M	5.52%	2013	20,000	20,000
	N	5.55%	2013	20,000	20,000
	O	6.02%	2031	20,000	
Total Unsecured Senior Notes				260,000	240,000
California Department of Water Resources loans		3.0% to 8.0%	2008-32	2,428	2,546
Other long-term debt				5,464	6,029
Total long-term debt				293,592	275,275
Less current maturities				1,778	1,133
Long-term debt excluding current maturities				\$ 291,814	\$ 274,142

The first mortgage bonds and unsecured senior notes are obligations of Cal Water and contain certain restrictive covenants. The Company believes that it is in compliance with such covenants as of December 31, 2006. All bonds are held by institutional investors and secured by substantially all of Cal Water's utility plant. The unsecured senior notes are held by institutional investors and require interest-only payments until maturity, except series G and H



which have an annual sinking fund requirement of \$1.8 million starting in 2012. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) loans were financed under the California Safe Drinking Water Bond Act. Repayment of principal and interest on the DWR loans is through a surcharge on customer bills. Other long-term debt includes other equipment and system acquisition financing arrangements with financial institutions. Aggregate maturities and sinking fund requirements for each of the succeeding five years (2007 through 2011) are \$1,778, \$2,644, \$2,564, \$2,481 and \$2,408, and \$281,717, thereafter.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****10 OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES**

As of December 31, 2006 and 2005, other accrued liabilities were:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Accrued and deferred compensation	\$ 10,094	\$ 9,370
Accrued benefit and workers' compensation claims	4,779	4,533
Other	7,483	7,363
	\$ 22,356	\$ 21,266

**11 INCOME TAXES**

Income tax expense consists of the following:

	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total</b>
2006			
Current	\$ 10,523	\$ 3,107	\$ 13,630
Deferred	3,489	(280)	3,209
Total	\$ 14,012	\$ 2,827	\$ 16,839
2005			
Current	\$ 12,275	\$ 3,433	\$ 15,708
Deferred	4,274	24	4,298
Total	\$ 16,549	\$ 3,457	\$ 20,006
2004			
Current	\$ 4,211	\$ 3,623	\$ 7,834
Deferred	9,146	104	9,250
Total	\$ 13,357	\$ 3,727	\$ 17,084

Income tax expense computed by applying the current federal 35% tax rate to pretax book income differs from the amount shown in the Consolidated Statements of Income. The difference is reconciled in the table below:

<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
-------------	-------------	-------------

Computed expected tax expense	\$ 14,847	\$ 16,530	\$ 15,089
Increase (reduction) in taxes due to:			
State income taxes net of federal tax benefit	2,437	2,714	2,477
Investment tax credits	(32)	(31)	(139)
Other	(413)	793	(343)
Total income tax	\$ 16,839	\$ 20,006	\$ 17,084

Included in Other in the above table is the recognition of the flow-through accounting for Federal depreciation expense on assets acquired prior to 1982 and retirement costs of such assets. For assets acquired prior to 1982, the benefit of excess tax depreciation was previously passed through to the ratepayers. The tax benefit is now reversing and a higher tax expense is being recognized and is included in customer rates. Offsetting the flow-through depreciation in 2006 was the impact of cost to remove pre-1982 assets. Also included is the federal income tax deduction from qualified U.S. production activities, which is being phased in from 2005 through 2010. Under the Act, qualified production activities include production of potable water, but exclude the transmission and distribution of the potable water. The impact of the deduction is being reported in the year in which the deduction

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

is claimed on the Company's tax return. The impact was to lower the income tax provision by \$260 and \$175 in 2006 and 2005, respectively

The components of deferred income tax expense were:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>In thousands</b>		
Depreciation	\$ 3,386	\$ 3,593	\$ 11,603
Developer advances and contributions	(875)	(561)	(1,409)
Prepaid expenses	434	2,004	
Bond redemption premiums			(231)
Investment tax credits	(106)	(106)	(107)
Other	370	(632)	(606)
Total deferred income tax expense	\$ 3,209	\$ 4,298	\$ 9,250

The tax effects of differences that give rise to significant portions of the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities at December 31, 2006 and 2005 are presented in the following table:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Deferred tax assets:		
Developer deposits for extension agreements and contributions in aid of construction	\$ 47,982	\$ 48,020
Federal benefit of state tax deductions	7,638	7,464
Book plant cost reduction for future deferred ITC amortization	1,373	1,545
Insurance loss provisions	1,411	1,846
Pension plan, net	2,012	1,663
Other		812
Total deferred tax assets	60,416	61,350
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Utility plant, principally due to depreciation differences	123,803	120,875
Prepaid expense	2,438	2,004
Premium on early retirement of bonds	2,176	2,391
Other	1,502	
Total deferred tax liabilities	129,919	125,270
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ 69,503	\$ 63,920

A valuation allowance was not required at December 31, 2006 and 2005. Based on historical taxable income and future taxable income projections over the period in which the deferred assets are deductible, management believes it is more likely than not that the Company will realize the benefits of the deductible differences.

## **12 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

*Savings Plan* The Company sponsors a 401(k) qualified, defined contribution savings plan that allows participants to contribute up to 20% of pre-tax compensation. The Company matches fifty cents for each dollar contributed by the employee up to a maximum Company match of 4.0%. Company contributions were \$1,628, \$1,498, and \$1,443, for the years 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively.

*Pension Plans* The Company provides a qualified, defined-benefit, non-contributory pension plan for substantially all employees. The accumulated benefit obligations of the pension plan are \$77,079 and \$71,463

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The fair value of pension plan assets was \$78,393 and \$70,225 as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Plan assets in the defined-benefit pension plan as of December 31, 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Bond Funds	35% to 45%	40.2%	36.4%
Equity Accounts	55% to 65%	59.8%	63.6%

The investment objective of the fund is to maximize the return on assets, commensurate with the risk the Company Trustees deem appropriate to meet the obligations of the Plan, minimize the volatility of the pension expense, and account for contingencies. The Trustees utilize the services of an outside investment advisor and periodically measure fund performance against specific indexes in an effort to generate a rate of return for the total portfolio that equals or exceeds the actuarial investment rate assumptions.

Pension payment obligations are generally funded by the purchase of an annuity from a life insurance company. If monthly benefits are paid to future retirees, rather than with a purchase of an annuity, payments are expected to be made in each year from 2007 to 2011 are \$1,234, \$1,683, \$2,285, \$2,830 and \$3,550, respectively. The aggregate benefits expected to be paid in the five years 2012 through 2016 would be \$31,245. If annuities are purchased for the retirees rather than making monthly payments, the payments for the same period would be approximately, \$3,764, \$5,160, \$7,151, \$6,817 and \$8,947. The aggregate payments to be paid for annuities in the five years 2012 through 2016 would be approximately \$55,571. The expected benefit payments are based upon the same assumptions used to measure the Company's benefit obligation at December 31, 2006, and include estimated future employee service.

The Company also maintains unfunded, non-qualified, supplemental executive retirement plan. The unfunded supplemental executive retirement plan accumulated benefit obligations were \$10,104 and \$8,608 as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Benefit payments under the supplemental executive retirement plan are paid currently and are included in the preceding paragraph.

The costs of the pension and retirement plans are charged to expense and utility plant. The Company makes annual contributions to fund the amounts accrued for pension cost.

*Other Postretirement Plan* The Company provides substantially all active, permanent employees with medical, dental, and vision benefits through a self-insured plan. Employees retiring at or after age 58, along with their spouses and dependents, continue participation in the plan by payment of a premium. Plan assets are invested in mutual funds, short-term money market instruments and commercial paper based upon the same asset mix as the pension plan. Retired employees are also provided with a \$5,000 life insurance benefit.

The Company records the costs of postretirement benefits other than pension during the employees' years of active service. Postretirement benefit expense recorded in 2006, 2005, and 2004, was \$2,369, \$1,572, and \$1,420, respectively. The Company has recorded a regulatory asset in prior years for the difference between the Company-funded amount and the net periodic benefit cost. Prior to the adoption of SFAS No. 158, the remaining net periodic benefit cost as of December 31, 2006, was \$9,791 and is expected to be recovered through future customer rates and is recorded as a regulatory asset. The expected benefit payments, net of retiree premiums and medicare

part D subsidies, for the next five years are \$840, \$933, \$1,050, \$1,139 and \$1,232, respectively.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The following table reconciles the funded status of the plans with the accrued pension liability and the net postretirement benefit liability as of December 31, 2006 and 2005:

	<b>Pension Benefits</b>		<b>Other Benefits</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Change in benefit obligation:</b>				
Beginning of year	\$ 103,198	\$ 87,616	\$ 21,477	\$ 30,870
Service cost	5,347	4,335	1,153	1,019
Interest cost	6,055	5,511	1,144	1,088
Assumption change	(5,790)	11,783	(239)	(8,364)
Amendment	(58)	4,086		
Experience (gain) loss	7,537	3,426	(94)	(2,106)
Benefits paid, net of retiree premiums	(7,212)	(13,559)	(1,782)	(1,030)
End of year	\$ 109,077	\$ 103,198	\$ 21,659	\$ 21,477
<b>Change in plan assets:</b>				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 70,225	\$ 75,064	\$ 5,053	\$ 4,543
Actual return on plan assets	7,969	4,000	431	184
Employer contributions	7,411	4,720	1,845	1,356
Retiree contributions			766	651
Benefits paid	(7,212)	(13,559)	(2,548)	(1,681)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$ 78,393	\$ 70,225	\$ 5,547	\$ 5,053
Funded status	\$ (30,684)	\$ (32,973)	\$ (16,112)	\$ (16,424)
Unrecognized actuarial (gain) or loss	12,323	13,516	3,567	4,053
Unrecognized prior service cost	15,509	17,473	490	564
Unrecognized transition obligation			1,665	1,941
Net amount recognized	\$ (2,852)	\$ (1,984)	\$ (10,390)	\$ (9,866)

In prior years, the unfunded status for the pension plans and other postretirement plans was disclosed primarily in the footnotes to the financial statements. As of December 31, 2006, SFAS No. 158 requires the full recognition of the projected benefit obligation over the fair value of plan assets, reflecting the funded status of benefit plans, on the balance sheet. Therefore, previously disclosed but unrecognized amounts of gains and losses, unrecognized prior service costs and credits, net transition assets or obligations and related taxes have been charged to regulatory assets as a cumulative adjustment upon adoption of SFAS No. 158.





**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The following table shows the impact of the adoption of SFAS 158 on the financial reporting as of December 31, 2006:

	Pension Plan			Other Benefits		
	Prior to SFAS 158	Impact	Final 2006	Prior to SFAS 158	Impact	Final 2006
Accumulated benefit obligation	\$ (87,183)		(87,183)	\$ (21,659)		\$ (21,659)
Effect of future compensation	(21,894)		(21,894)			
Projected benefit obligation	\$ (109,077)		\$ (109,077)			
Plan assets at fair value	78,393		78,393	5,547		5,547
Funded status	\$ (30,684)		\$ (30,684)	\$ (16,112)		\$ (16,112)
Items not yet recognized as a component of net periodic benefit cost:						
Transition obligation	\$		\$	\$ 1,665		\$ 1,665
Prior service cost	15,509		15,509	490		490
Net (gain) or loss	12,323		12,323	3,567		3,567
Total	\$ 27,832		\$ 27,832	\$ 5,722		\$ 5,722
Prepaid (Accrued) cost	\$ 2,412	\$	\$ 2,412	\$ (10,390)	\$	\$ (10,390)
Accrued benefit liability	(10,104)	(22,992)	(33,096)		(5,722)	(5,722)
Intangible asset	1,570	(1,570)				
Accumulated other Comprehensive income (pre-tax)	3,270	(3,270)				
Regulatory asset (pre-tax)		27,832	27,832		5,722	5,722
Net amount recognized	\$ (2,852)		\$ (2,852)	\$ (10,390)		\$ (10,390)

Amounts recognized on the balance sheet, after consideration of the impact of SFAS 158 on the December 31, 2006 balances, consist of:

Pension Benefits		Other Benefits	
2006	2005	2006	2005

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

Prepaid (Accrued) benefit costs	\$ 2,412	\$ (1,984)	\$ (10,390)	\$ (9,866)
Additional minimum liability		(6,921)		
Accrued benefit liability	(33,096)		(5,722)	
Intangible asset		5,719		
Accumulated other comprehensive income		1,202		
Regulatory asset	27,832		5,722	
Net amount recognized	\$ (2,852)	\$ (1,984)	\$ (10,390)	\$ (9,866)

Below are the actuarial assumptions used in determining the benefit obligation for the benefit plans:

	<b>Pension Benefits</b>		<b>Other Benefits</b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Weighted average assumptions as of December 31:				
Discount rate	5.90%	5.60%	5.90%	5.60%
Long-term rate of return on plan assets	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Rate of compensation increases	3.75%	3.75%		

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The long-term rate of return assumption is the expected rate of return on a balanced portfolio invested roughly 60% in equities and 40% in fixed income securities. The average return for the plan for the last five and ten years was 8.9% and 8.4%, respectively. The discount rate was derived from the Citigroup Pension Discount Curve, which approximates the average return on long-term corporate bonds as of year end.

Net periodic benefit costs for the pension and other postretirement plans for the years ending December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004 included the following components:

	Pension Plan			Other Benefits		
	2006	2005	2004	2006	2005	2004
Service cost	\$ 5,347	\$ 4,335	\$ 4,608	\$ 1,153	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,461
Interest cost	6,055	5,511	5,613	1,144	1,088	1,560
Expected return on plan assets	(5,797)	(5,285)	(4,861)	(408)	(419)	(340)
Net amortization and deferral	2,674	2,191	2,014	480	355	894
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 8,279	\$ 6,752	\$ 7,374	\$ 2,369	\$ 2,043	\$ 3,575

Below are the actuarial assumptions used in determining the net periodic benefit costs for the benefit plans, which uses the end of the prior year as the measurement date:

	Pension Benefits		Other Benefits	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
Weighted average assumptions as of December 31:				
Discount rate	5.60%	6.00%	5.60%	6.00%
Long-term rate of return on plan assets	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Rate of compensation increases	3.75%	3.00%		

For 2006 measurement purposes, the Company assumed an 8.5% annual rate of increase in the per capita cost of covered benefits with the rate decreasing 1% per year for the next four years to a long-term annual rate of 4.5% per year after four years. The health care cost trend rate assumption has a significant effect on the amounts reported. A one-percentage point change in assumed health care cost trends is estimated to have the following effect:

	1-percentage Point Increase	1-percentage Point Decrease
Effect on total service and interest costs	\$ 438	\$ (347)
Effect on accumulated postretirement benefit obligation	\$ 3,526	\$ (2,852)

The Company intends to make annual contributions to the plans up to the amount deductible for tax purposes. The Company estimates in 2007 that the annual contribution to the pension plans will be \$7,913 million in 2007 and the

annual contribution to the other postretirement plan will be \$2,400.

### **13 STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION PLANS**

The Company has two stockholder-approved stock-based compensation plans.

*Long-term Incentive Plan* Under the Long-Term Incentive Plan that allowed granting of nonqualified stock options, some of which are currently outstanding, there will be no future grants made. Options were granted at an exercise price that was not less than the per share common stock market price on the date of grant. The options vest at a 25% rate on their anniversary date over their first four years and are exercisable over a ten-year period. At December 31, 2006, 90,500 options are fully vested and exercisable at a weighted average price of \$24.94. The intrinsic value of the vested shares at December 31, 2006 was \$1,400 and the weighted average fair value at date of

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

grant was \$4.67 per share. No options were granted in 2006, 2005, or 2004. The following table summarizes the activity of the Long-Term Incentive Plan:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Options Exercisable
Outstanding at December 31, 2003	149,250	\$ 24.77	7.2	74,625
Exercised	(25,500)	23.67		
Cancelled	(2,250)	25.41		
Outstanding at December 31, 2004	121,500	24.99	6.3	85,500
Exercised	(22,750)	25.15		
Cancelled	(750)	25.15		
Outstanding at December 31, 2005	98,000	24.95	5.4	86,500
Exercised	(7,500)	25.15		
Outstanding at December 31, 2006	90,500	24.94	4.3	90,500

*Equity Incentive Plan* The Equity Incentive Plan, which was approved by shareholders in April 2005, is authorized to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of common stock. In 2006, the Company granted Restricted Stock Awards (RSAs) of 9,467 shares of common stock both to employees and to directors of the Company. Employee awards vest ratably over 48 months, while independent director awards vest at the end of 12 months. The shares were valued based upon the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant. During 2006, 5,065 shares became vested, 264 shares were forfeited and as of December 31, 2006, 4,138 invested shares are outstanding. In 2006, Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs) equivalent to 40,000 shares were granted to employees, which vest ratably over 48 months and expire at the end of 10 years. The grant-date fair value for SARs was determined by using the Black Scholes model, which arrived at a fair value of \$7.73 per share. Upon exercise of a SAR, the appreciation is payable in common shares of the Company.

The assumptions utilized were:

	<b>2006</b>
Expected dividend yield	2.99%
Expected volatility	21.9%
Risk-free interest rate	4.19%
Expected holding period in years	6.0

The Company did not apply a forfeiture rate in the expense computation relating to SARs and RSAs issued to employees as they vest monthly and, as a result, the expense is recorded for actual number vested during the period. For outside directors, the Company did not apply a forfeiture rate in the expense computation relating to RSAs, as the Company expects 100% to vest at the end of twelve months.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

The table below reflects SARs granted under the Equity Incentive Plan.

	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price</b>	<b>Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life</b>	<b>Options Exercisable</b>	<b>Weighted Average Fair Value</b>
Stock Appreciation Rights					
Outstanding at December 31, 2005		\$			\$
Granted	40,000	38.76			7.73
Exercised					
Cancelled	(2,031)	38.51			7.73
Outstanding at December 31, 2006	37,969	38.77	9.02	8,847	7.73

The Company has recorded compensation expense for the RSAs and SARs granted during 2006, net of related tax effects, of \$173.

**14 FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

For those financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate a fair value, the following methods and assumptions were used. For cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable, the carrying amount approximates the fair value because of the short-term maturity of the instruments. The fair value of the Company's long-term debt is estimated at \$316 million and \$289 million as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, using a discounted cash flow analysis, based on the current rates available to the Company for debt of similar maturities. The book value of the long-term debt is \$292 million and \$274 million as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The fair value of advances for construction contracts is estimated at \$59 million as of December 31, 2006, and \$57 million as of December 31, 2005, based on data provided by brokers who purchase and sell these contracts.

**15 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

*Commitments* The Company leases office facilities and two water systems from cities, and has long-term commitments to purchase water from water wholesalers. The commitments are noted in the table below.

	<b>Office Leases</b>	<b>System Leases</b>	<b>Water Contracts</b>
2007	\$ 520	\$ 961	\$ 13,614
2008	320	961	14,788
2009	199	961	14,788
2010	102	961	14,788



2011	29	864	14,788
Thereafter	37	5,563	341,452

The Company leases office facilities in many of its operating districts. The total paid and charged to operations for such leases was \$666 in 2006, \$682 in 2005, and \$632 in 2004.

The Company has a long-term contract with the Santa Clara Water District that requires the Company to purchase minimum annual water quantities. Purchases are priced at the districts then-current wholesale water rate. The Company operates to purchase sufficient water to equal or exceed the minimum quantities under the contract. The total paid under the contract was \$5,361 in 2006, \$4,763 in 2005, and \$4,610 in 2004.

The Company leases the City of Hawthorne water system, which in addition to the upfront lease payment, includes an annual payment. The 15-year lease expires in 2011. There were annual payments of \$116 in 2006, 2005,

**Table of Contents**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

and 2004. In July 2003 the Company negotiated a 15-year lease of the City of Commerce water system. The lease includes an annual lease payment of \$845 per year plus a cost savings sharing arrangement.

The Company also has a water supply contract with Stockton East Water District (SEWD) that requires a fixed, annual payment and does not vary during the year with the quantity of water delivered by the district. Because of the fixed price arrangement, the Company operates to receive as much water as possible from SEWD in order to minimize the cost of operating Company-owned wells used to supplement SEWD deliveries. The total paid under the contract was \$4,420 in 2006, \$4,300 in 2005, and \$4,392 in 2004. Pricing under the contract varies annually.

Estimated annual contractual obligations in the table above are based on the same payment levels as 2005. Future increased costs by SEWD are expected to be offset by a decline in the allocation of costs to the Company, as other customers of SEWD are expected to receive a larger allocation based upon growth of their service areas.

On September 21, 2005, the Company entered into an agreement with Kern County Water Agency to obtain treated water for the Company's operations. The term of the agreement is to January 1, 2035, or until the repayment of the Agency's bonds (described hereafter) occurs. Under the terms of the agreement, the Company is obligated to purchase 20,500 acre feet of treated water per year. The Company is obligated to pay the Capital Facilities Charge and the Treated Water Charge regardless of whether it can use the water in its operation, and is obligated for these charges even if the Agency cannot produce an adequate amount to supply the 20,500 acre feet in the year. (This agreement supersedes a prior agreement with Kern County Water Agency for the supply of 11,500 acre feet of water per year. Total paid, under the prior agreement, was \$3,301 in 2006, \$3,288 in 2005, and \$3,308 in 2004.

Three other parties, including the City of Bakersfield, are also obligated to purchase a total of 32,500 acre feet per year under separate agreements with the Agency. Further, the Agency has the right to proportionally reduce the water supply provided to all of the participants if it cannot produce adequate supplies. The participation of all parties in the transaction for expansion of the Agency's facilities, including the Water Purification Plant, purchase of the water, and payment of interest and principal on the bonds being issued by the Agency to finance the transaction is required as a condition to the obligation of the Agency to proceed with expansion of the Agency's facilities. If any of the other parties does not use its allocation, that party is obligated to pay its contracted amount.

The Agency is planning to issue bonds to fund the project and will use the payments of the Capital Facilities Charges by the Company and the other contracted parties to meet the Agency's obligations to pay interest and repay principal on the bonds. If any of the parties were to default on making payments of the Capital Facilities Charge, then the other parties are obligated to pay for the defaulting party's share on a pro-rata basis. If there is a payment default by a party and the remaining parties have to make payments, they are also entitled to a pro-rata share of the defaulting party's water allocation.

The Company expects to use all its contracted amount of water in its operations every year. In addition, if the Company were to pay for and receive additional amounts of water due to a default of another participating party; the Company believes it could use this additional water in its operations without incurring substantial incremental cost increases. If additional treated water is available, all parties have an option to purchase this additional treated water, subject to the Agency's right to allocate the water among the parties.

The total obligation of all parties, excluding the Company, is approximately \$50 million to the Agency. Based on the credit worthiness of the other participants, which are government entities, it is believed to be highly unlikely that the Company would be required to assume any other parties' obligations under the contract due to their default. In the event of default by a party, the Company would receive entitlement to the additional water for assuming any

obligation.

Once the project is complete, the Company is obligated to pay a Capital Facilities Charge and a Treated Water Charge that together total \$4,700 annually, which equates to \$0.23 per acre foot. Annual payments of \$2,000 for the Capital Facilities Charge will begin when the Agency issues bonds to fund the project. Some of the Treated Water Charge of \$2,700 is expected to begin July 1, 2007, when a portion of the planned capacity is expected to be available. The expanded water treatment plant is expected to be at full capacity by fall 2009, and at that time, the full annual payments of \$4,739 would be made and continue through the term of the agreement. Once treated water is

**Table of Contents**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

being delivered, the Company will also be obligated for its portion of the operating costs; that portion is currently estimated to be \$0.07 per acre foot. The actual amount will vary due to variations from reimbursable operating cost estimates, inflation, and other changes in the cost structure. The Company's overall estimated cost of \$0.3 per acre foot is less than the estimated cost of procuring untreated water (assuming water rights could be obtained) and then providing treatment.

*Contingencies* In 1995, the State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) named us as a potential responsible party for cleanup of a toxic contamination plume in the Chico groundwater. The toxic spill occurred when cleaning solvents, which were discharged into the city's sewer system by local dry cleaners, leaked into the underground water supply. The DTSC contends that our responsibility stems from our operation of wells in the surrounding vicinity that caused the contamination plume to spread. While we are cooperating with the clean up, we deny any responsibility for the contamination or the resulting cleanup.

In December 2002, we were named along with other defendants in two lawsuits filed by DTSC for the cleanup of the plume. The suits assert that the defendants are jointly and severally liable for the estimated cleanup of \$8,700. The parties have undertaken settlement negotiations. If the parties finalize a written settlement agreement, it must then be approved by the court. In connection with these suits, our insurance carrier has filed a separate lawsuit against us for reimbursement of past defense costs which approximate \$1,000. We believe that the insurance carrier has a duty to defend and is not entitled to any defense cost reimbursement. Furthermore, we believe that insurance coverage exists for this claim. Consequently, we have filed a number of pre-trial motions to dismiss the lawsuit. However, if our claim is ultimately found to be excludable under insurance policies, we may have to pay damages. We can give no assurance that we will be able to recover amounts paid for damages through rates.

In December of 2006, Cal Water filed an application to allow it to recover additional funding associated with its postretirement benefit other than pensions (PBOP) or retiree healthcare plan that has been recorded as a regulatory asset. As of December 31, 2006, the regulatory asset was approximately \$9.8 million. In February 2007, the Division of Rate Payer Advocates (DRA) filed its protest to our PBOP application. The DRA further noted that prior to their protest, the parties met several times to discuss the Company's application. During the discussions it became apparent to the DRA that negotiations would extend beyond the deadline for filing their protest. The DRA further noted that subsequent to this filing, the parties will continue their discussions to achieve a settlement that is reasonable, consistent with the law, and in the public interest. While the DRA has filed its protest, the ultimate outcome will be determined by the CPUC. Cal Water believes that the CPUC will recognize in rates the recovery of the regulatory asset and the additional funding of the plan. If the CPUC does not permit the Company to recover the full amount of its regulatory asset, the regulatory asset, to the extent not allowed in recovery, will be written off.

The Company is involved in other proceedings or litigation arising in the ordinary course of operations. The Company believes the ultimate resolution of such matters will not materially affect its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Table of Contents****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****16 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)**

The Company's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CWT.

<b>2006</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
	<b>In thousands except per share amounts</b>			
Operating revenue	\$ 65,216	\$ 81,102	\$ 107,755	\$ 80,644
Net operating income	4,928	9,622	16,081	9,675
Net income	832	5,710	12,619	6,419
Diluted earnings per share	0.04	0.31	0.68	0.31
Common stock market price range:				
High	45.05	45.36	38.60	41.86
Low	38.51	33.72	33.83	36.43
Dividends paid	.2875	.2875	.2875	.2875

<b>2005</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
	<b>In thousands except per share amounts</b>			
Operating revenue	\$ 60,303	\$ 81,457	\$ 101,128	\$ 77,840
Net operating income	4,862	11,511	16,618	8,832
Net income	680	7,591	13,115	5,837
Diluted earnings per share	0.03	0.41	0.71	0.32
Common stock market price range:				
High	36.76	38.12	41.90	41.09
Low	32.12	32.85	36.93	32.64
Dividends paid	.2850	.2850	.2850	.2850

**Table of Contents**

**Item 9. *Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.***

None

**Item 9A. *Controls and Procedures***

Attached as exhibits to this Form 10-K are certifications of our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), which are required in accordance with Rule 13a-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. This *Controls and Procedures* section includes information concerning the controls and controls evaluation referred to in the certifications.

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (Disclosure Controls) as of the December 31, 2006. The controls evaluation was conducted under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our CEO and CFO. Disclosure Controls are controls and procedures designed to reasonably assure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act, such as this Form 10-K, is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure Controls are also designed to reasonably assure that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the CEO and CFO, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Our quarterly evaluation of Disclosure Controls includes an evaluation of some components of our internal control over financial reporting, and internal control over financial reporting is also separately evaluated on an annual basis for purposes of providing the management report, which is set forth below.

Based on the controls evaluation, our CEO and CFO have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-K, our Disclosure Controls were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in our Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC, and that material information related to us and our subsidiaries is made known to management, including the CEO and CFO, particularly during the period when our periodic reports are being prepared.

**Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. 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 our assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management assessed our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, the end of our fiscal year. Management based its assessment on criteria established by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Management's assessment included evaluation of elements such as the design and operating effectiveness of key financial reporting controls, process documentation, accounting policies, and our

overall control environment.

Based on our assessment, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of the end of the fiscal year to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, on a quarterly basis we evaluate any changes to our internal control over financial reporting to determine if material changes occurred.

**Table of Contents**

Our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, audited management's assessment and independently assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. KPMG has issued an attestation report concurring with management's assessment, which is included at the end of Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2006, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls**

Our management, including the CEO and CFO, does not expect that our Disclosure Controls or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent or detect all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system's objectives will be met. The design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Further, because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Controls can also be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Projections of any evaluation of controls effectiveness to future periods are subject to risks. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

**Item 9B. *Other Information***

None.



**Table of Contents**

**PART III**

**Item 10. *Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant.***

The information required by this Item as to directors of the Company is contained in the sections captioned Board Structure, Proposal No. 1 Election of Directors and Other Matters Code of Ethics of the 2007 Proxy Statement, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding executive officers is included in a separate section captioned Executive Officers of the Registrant contained in Part I of this report.

**Item 11. *Executive Compensation.***

The information required by this Item under the caption Compensation Discussion and Analysis and Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors on Executive Compensation of the 2007 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 12. *Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.***

The information required by this Item is contained in the section captioned Stock Ownership of Management and Certain Beneficial Owners of the 2007 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.***

The information required by this Item is contained in the section captioned Certain Related Persons Transactions of the 2007 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 14. *Principal Accountant Fees and Services.***

The information required by this Item is contained in the section captioned Report of the Audit Committee and Relationship with the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm of the 2007 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. *Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.***

(a) As part of this Form 10-K, the following documents are being filed:

1. Financial Statement: See Index to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K.
2. Financial Statement Schedules: No financial statement schedules are being included since the information otherwise required is included in the financial statements and the notes thereto.
3. Exhibits: The exhibits listed in the accompanying index to exhibits are filed or incorporated by reference.



**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

Date: March 14, 2007

By /s/ Peter C. Nelson  
PETER C. NELSON,  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Robert W. Foy  
  
ROBERT W. FOY  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Douglas M. Brown  
  
DOUGLAS M. BROWN  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Edward D. Harris, Jr.  
  
EDWARD D. HARRIS, JR., M.D.  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Bonnie G. Hill  
  
BONNIE G. HILL  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ David N. Kennedy  
  
DAVID N. KENNEDY  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Richard P. Magnuson  
  
RICHARD P. MAGNUSON  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Linda R. Meier

LINDA R. MEIER  
Member, Board of Directors

**Table of Contents**

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Peter C. Nelson

PETER C. NELSON  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Principal Executive Officer  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ George A. Vera

GEORGE A. VERA  
Member, Board of Directors

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Martin A. Kropelnicki

MARTIN A. KROPELNICKI  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;  
Principal Financial Officer

Date: March 14, 2007

/s/ Calvin L. Breed

CALVIN L. BREED  
Controller, Assistant Secretary and  
Assistant Treasurer;  
Principal Accounting Officer

**Table of Contents**

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**Exhibit  
Number**

Unless filed with this Form 10-K, the documents listed are incorporated by reference to the filings referred to:

3. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws:
  - 3.1 Certificate of Incorporation of California Water Service Group (Filed as Exhibit B of the California Water Service Group Proxy Statement dated March 18, 1999)
  - 3.2 Restated Bylaws of California Water Service Group as amended on January 26, 2000 (Exhibit E-2 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 3, 2000)
4. Instruments Defining the Rights of Security Holders of California Water Service Group, including Indentures:
  - 4.1 Shareholder Rights Plan; an agreement between California Water Service Group and BankBoston, N.A., rights agent, dated January 28, 1998 (Exhibit 1 to Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed February 13, 1998)
  - 4.2 Certificate of Designations regarding Series D Participating Preferred Stock, as filed with Delaware Secretary of State on September 16, 1999 (Exhibit 4.2 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003)
  - 4.3 Thirty-fourth Supplemental Indenture dated as of November 1, 1990, covering First Mortgage 9.86% Bonds, Series CC. (Exhibit 4 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1990)
  - 4.4 [reserved]
  - 4.5 [reserved]
  - 4.6 [reserved]
  - 4.7 Note Agreement dated August 15, 1995, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 7.28% Series A Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2025 (Exhibit 4 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 1995)
  - 4.8 Note Agreement dated March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 6.77% Series B Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2028 (Exhibit 4.1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999)
  - 4.9 First Supplement dated October 1, 2000, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 8.15% Series C Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2030 (Exhibit 4.12 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for year ended December 31, 2000)
  - 4.10 Second Supplement dated September 1, 2001, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 7.13% Series D Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2031 (Exhibit 4.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001)
  - 4.11 Third Supplement dated May 1, 2002, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 7.11% Series E Unsecured Senior Notes, due May 1, 2032 (Exhibit 4.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2002)
  - 4.12 Fourth Supplement dated August 15, 2002, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 5.90% Series F Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2017 (Exhibit 4.14 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
  - 4.13 Fifth Supplement dated November 1, 2002, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 5.29% Series G Unsecured Senior Notes, due November 1, 2022

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

- (Exhibit 4.15 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
- 4.14 Sixth Supplement dated December 1, 2002, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$20,000,000, 5.29% Series H Unsecured Senior Notes, due December 1, 2022  
(Exhibit 4.16 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
- 4.15 Ninth Supplement dated February 15, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$10,000,000, 4.58% Series K Unsecured Senior Notes, due June 30, 2010  
(Exhibit 4.17 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)

**Table of Contents****Exhibit  
Number**

- 4.16 Tenth Supplement dated February 15, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$10,000,000, 5.48% Series L Unsecured Senior Notes, due March 1, 2018 (Exhibit 4.18 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
- 4.17 Thirteenth Supplemental Trust Indenture whereby California Water Service Company became the successor to Dominguez Water Corporation in the original trust indenture for Dominguez Water Corporation dated August 1, 1954 (Exhibit 4.13 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 [included within Exhibit 4.12 to such report])
- 4.18 Eleventh Supplemental Trust Indenture dated as of December 8, 1992, covering First Mortgage 8.86% Bonds, Series J (Exhibit 10.2 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997, of Dominguez Services Corporation)
- 4.19 Twelfth Supplemental Indenture dated as of December 1, 1997, covering First Mortgage 6.94% Bonds, Series K due 2012 (Exhibit 10.3 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997, of Dominguez Services Corporation)
- 4.20 Seventh Supplement dated May 1, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$10,000,000, 5.54% Series I Unsecured Senior Notes, due May 1, 2023 (Exhibit 4.22 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003)
- 4.21 Amended and Restated Eighth Supplement dated May 1, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to issuance of \$10,000,000, 5.44% Series J Unsecured Senior Notes, due May 1, 2018 (Exhibit 4.23 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003)
- 4.22 Twelfth Supplement dated October 24, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to the issuance of \$20,000,000, 5.55%, Series N Unsecured Senior Notes due December 1, 2013, (Exhibit 4.24 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003)
- 4.23 Eleventh Supplement dated November 3, 2003, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to the issuance of \$20,000,000, 5.52%, Unsecured Series M Senior Notes due November 1, 2013 (Exhibit 4.25 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003)
- 4.24 Thirteenth Supplement dated August 31, 2006, to Note Agreement of March 1, 1999, pertaining to the issuance of \$20,000,000, 6.02% Unsecured Series O Senior Notes due August 31, 2031
- 10. Material Contracts
  - 10.1 Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and County of Butte relating to Cal Water's Oroville District; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the Kern County Water Agency relating to Cal Water's Bakersfield District; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and Stockton East Water District relating to Cal Water's Stockton District. (Exhibits 5(g), 5(h), 5(i), 5(j), Registration Statement No. 2-53678, which exhibits are incorporated by reference to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1974)
  - 10.2 Settlement Agreement and Master Water Sales Contract between the City and County of San Francisco and Certain Suburban Purchasers dated August 8, 1984; Supplement to Settlement Agreement and Master Water Sales Contract, dated August 8, 1984; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the City and County of San Francisco relating to Cal Water's Bear Gulch District dated August 8, 1984; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the City and County of San Francisco relating to the Cal Water's San Carlos District dated



Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

- August 8, 1984; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the City and County of San Francisco relating to Cal Water's San Mateo District dated August 8, 1984; Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the City and County of San Francisco relating to Cal Water's South San Francisco District dated August 8, 1984 (Exhibit 10.2 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1984)
- 10.3 Water Supply Contract dated January 27, 1981, between Cal Water and the Santa Clara Valley Water District relating to Cal Water's Los Altos District (Exhibit 10.3 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992)
- 10.4 Amendments No. 3, 6 and 7 and Amendment dated June 17, 1980, to Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and the County of Butte relating to Cal Water's Oroville District. (Exhibit 10.5 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992)

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit  
Number**

- 10.5 Amendment dated May 31, 1977, to Water Supply Contract between Cal Water and Stockton East Water District relating to Cal Water's Stockton District. (Exhibit 10.6 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992)
- 10.6 Second Amended Contract dated September 25, 1987, among Stockton East Water District, California Water Service Company, the City of Stockton, the Lincoln Village Maintenance District, and the Colonial Heights Maintenance District Providing for the Sale of Treated Water. (Exhibit 10.7 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1987)
- 10.7 Water Supply Contract dated April 19, 1927, and Supplemental Agreement dated June 5, 1953, between Cal Water and Pacific Gas and Electric Company relating to Cal Water's Oroville District. (Exhibit 10.9 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1992)
- 10.8 [reserved]
- 10.9 [reserved]
- 10.10 Agreement between the City of Hawthorne and California Water Service Company for the 15-year lease of the City's water system. (Exhibit 10.17 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1996)
- 10.11 Water Supply Agreement dated September 25, 1996, between the City of Bakersfield and California Water Service Company. (Exhibit 10.18 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 1996)
- 10.12 Water Supply Contract dated November 16, 1994, between California Water Service Company and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District relating to Cal Water's Livermore District (Exhibit 10.15 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1994)
- 10.13 [reserved]
- 10.14 California Water Service Group Directors' Retirement Plan (As amended and restated on February 22, 2006) (Exhibit 10.14 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.15 [reserved]
- 10.16 \$10,000,000 Business Loan Agreement between Bank of America and California Water Service Group and CWS Utility Services dated February 28, 2003 (Exhibit 10.17 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
- 10.17 \$55,000,000 Business Loan Agreement between Bank of America and California Water Service Company dated February 28, 2003 (Exhibit 10.18 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)
- 10.18 Executive Severance Plan (Exhibit 10.24 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998)\*
- 10.19 California Water Service Group Long-Term Incentive Plan (filed as Appendix A of the California Water Service Group proxy statement dated March 17, 2000)\*
- 10.20 California Water Service Group Deferred Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2001 (Exhibit 10.22 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000)\*
- 10.21 California Water Service Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2001 (Exhibit 10.23 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000)\*
- 10.22 Amendment No. 1 to California Water Service Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2001 (Exhibit 10.22 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004)\*

Edgar Filing: CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP - Form 10-K

- 10.23 Amendment No. 1 effective June 25, 2003, to agreement with Bank of America dated February 28, 2003 (Exhibit 10.24 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003)
- 10.24 Water Supply Contract 99-73 between the City of Bakersfield and California Water Service Company, dated March 31, 1999 (Exhibit 10.25 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003)

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit  
Number**

- 10.25 Amendment No. 1 to Water Supply Contract between the City of Bakersfield and California Water Service Company, dated October 3, 2001 (Exhibit 10.26 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003)
- 10.26 Amendment No. 2 effective February 18, 2004, to agreement with Bank of America dated February 28, 2003 (Exhibit 10.26 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003)
- 10.27 Amendment No. 2 to California Water Service Company Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2001 (Exhibit 10.27 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004)\*
- 10.28 \$10,000,000 Business Loan Agreement between Bank of America, N.A. and California Water Service Group, CWS Utility Services, New Mexico Water Service Company, Washington Water Service Company, and Hawaii Water Service Company, Inc., dated December 23, 2004. (Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 8, 2005)
- 10.29 \$45,000,000 Business Loan Agreement between Bank of America, N.A. and California Water Service Company dated December 23, 2004. (Exhibit 10.2 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 8, 2005)
- 10.30 California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan (filed as Appendix B of the California Water Service Group proxy statement dated March 25, 2005, for its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 27, 2005, as filed with the SEC on March 22, 2005 (File No. 1-13883))\*
- 10.31 The registrant's policy on option repricing under its Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Item 8.01 Other Events in the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 7, 2005)\*
- 10.32 Water Supply Contract dated September 21, 2005, between Cal Water and the Kern County Water Agency. (Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 21, 2005)
- 10.33 Separation Agreement between California Water Service Group and Richard D. Nye. (Exhibit 10 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 22, 2005)\*
- 10.34 Form of Stock Appreciation Right Grant Notice under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan. (Exhibit 10.34 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.35 Form of Stock Appreciation Right Agreement under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan with Notice of Exercise. (Exhibit 10.35 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.36 Form of Restricted Stock Award Grant Notice under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan. (Exhibit 10.36 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.37 [reserved]
- 10.38 Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan with Assignment Separate From Certificate and Joint Escrow Instructions. (Exhibit 10.38 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.39 Form of Stock Option Grant Notice for outside director under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan. (Exhibit 10.39 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.40 Form of Stock Option Grant Notice under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan. (Exhibit 10.40 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31,

2005)

- 10.41 Form of Stock Option Agreement (Incentive Stock Option or Nonstatutory Stock Option) under the California Water Service Group Equity Incentive Plan with Notice of Exercise. (Exhibit 10.41 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)
- 10.42 Offer Letter between the registrant and Martin A. Kropelnicki, dated February 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Amendment No. 1 to Current Report on Form 8-K of the registrant, dated February 22, 2006)

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit  
Number**

- 10.43 Underwriting Agreement between California Water Service Group and Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, as representative of the underwriters, October 5, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 6, 2006)
- 10.44 Form of Indemnification Agreement entered into between California Water Service Group and its directors and officers
- 21. Subsidiaries of the Registrant
- 23. Consents of Experts and Counsel
  - 23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- 31. Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 31.1 Chief Executive Officer certification of financial statements pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
  - 31.2 Chief Financial Officer certification of financial statements pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32. Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

\* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement