

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

Form 10-Q

November 01, 2018

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q
(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2018

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-13883

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 77-0448994

(State or other jurisdiction (I.R.S. Employer identification No.)

of incorporation or organization)

1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

408-367-8200

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether 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 whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit). Yes No

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

Large accelerated Filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date. Common shares outstanding as of September 30, 2018 — 48,068,000

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PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The condensed consolidated financial statements presented in this filing on Form 10-Q have been prepared by management and are unaudited.

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

Unaudited (In thousands, except per share data)

	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
Utility plant:		
Utility plant	\$ 3,169,726	\$ 2,970,179
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(983,984)	(922,214)
Net utility plant	2,185,742	2,047,965
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	66,421	94,776
Receivables:		
Customers	50,785	32,451
Regulatory balancing accounts	37,973	36,783
Other	20,903	16,464
Unbilled revenue	40,318	29,756
Materials and supplies at weighted average cost	6,563	6,463
Taxes, prepaid expenses, and other assets	12,576	11,180
Total current assets	235,539	227,873
Other assets:		
Regulatory assets	388,300	401,147
Goodwill	2,615	2,615
Other assets	64,666	60,775
Total other assets	455,581	464,537
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,876,862	\$ 2,740,375
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES		
Capitalization:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 68,000 shares authorized, 48,068 and 48,012 outstanding in 2018 and 2017, respectively	\$ 481	\$ 480
Additional paid-in capital	336,960	336,229
Retained earnings	374,593	356,753
Total common stockholders' equity	712,034	693,462
Long-term debt, less current maturities	714,310	515,793
Total capitalization	1,426,344	1,209,255
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	104,812	15,920
Short-term borrowings	75,100	275,100
Accounts payable	102,938	93,955
Regulatory balancing accounts	43,300	59,303
Accrued interest	13,111	6,122
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	42,629	40,559
Total current liabilities	381,890	490,959
Unamortized investment tax credits	1,724	1,724

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Deferred income taxes	199,143	192,946
Pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions	235,501	252,141
Regulatory liabilities and other	255,569	224,127
Advances for construction	186,897	182,502
Contributions in aid of construction	189,794	186,721
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)		
TOTAL CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES	\$ 2,876,862	\$ 2,740,375
See Accompanying Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements		

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

Unaudited (In thousands, except per share data)

For the three months ended	September 30, 2018	September 30, 2017
Operating revenue	\$ 218,983	\$ 211,731
Operating expenses:		
Operations:		
Water production costs	78,818	75,261
Administrative and general	26,493	22,749
Other operations	21,943	21,208
Maintenance	6,768	6,057
Depreciation and amortization	21,009	19,231
Income taxes	11,262	18,219
Property and other taxes	7,142	6,544
Total operating expenses	173,435	169,269
Net operating income	45,548	42,462
Other income and expenses:		
Non-regulated revenue	4,703	3,542
Non-regulated expenses	(4,897) (2,576
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	(1,975) (2,137
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	1,023	1,105
Income tax benefit on other income and expenses	305	30
Net other loss	(841) (36
Interest expense:		
Interest expense	10,875	9,284
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	(560) (707
Net interest expense	10,315	8,577
Net income	\$ 34,392	\$ 33,849
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.72	\$ 0.70
Diluted	0.72	0.70
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	48,070	48,017
Diluted	48,070	48,017
Dividends declared per share of common stock	\$ 0.1875	\$ 0.1800

See Accompanying Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

Unaudited (In thousands, except per share data)

For the nine months ended	September 30, 2018	September 30, 2017
Operating revenue	\$ 523,862	\$ 504,899
Operating expenses:		
Operations:		
Water production costs	191,797	181,460
Administrative and general	77,195	66,908
Other operations	60,307	55,660
Maintenance	17,596	16,877
Depreciation and amortization	62,677	57,650
Income taxes	15,380	27,941
Property and other taxes	20,253	18,717
Total operating expenses	445,205	425,213
Net operating income	78,657	79,686
Other income and expenses:		
Non-regulated revenue	13,967	10,743
Non-regulated expenses	(16,449)	(6,244)
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	(6,984)	(7,023)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	2,644	2,763
Income tax benefit (expense) on other income and expenses	1,882	(1,105)
Net other loss	(4,940)	(866)
Interest expense:		
Interest expense	30,207	27,073
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	(1,359)	(1,765)
Net interest expense	28,848	25,308
Net income	\$ 44,869	\$ 53,512
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.93	\$ 1.11
Diluted	0.93	1.11
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	48,058	48,007
Diluted	48,058	48,007
Dividends declared per share of common stock	\$ 0.5625	\$ 0.5400
See Accompanying Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements		

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CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 Unaudited (In thousands)

For the nine months ended:	September 30, 2018	September 30, 2017
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 44,869	\$ 53,512
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	64,131	59,016
Change in value of life insurance contracts	124	(1,871)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	(2,644)	(2,763)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables and unbilled revenue	(18,471)	(52,951)
Accounts payable	18,133	6,712
Other current assets	(1,392)	(4,643)
Other current liabilities	8,762	10,939
Other changes in noncurrent assets and liabilities	5,991	41,837
Net cash provided by operating activities	119,503	109,788
Investing activities:		
Utility plant expenditures	(212,856)	(180,442)
Life insurance proceeds	3,491	1,558
Purchase of life insurance contracts	(4,925)	(3,948)
Net cash used in investing activities	(214,290)	(182,832)
Financing activities:		
Short-term borrowings	141,000	185,000
Repayment of short-term borrowings	(341,000)	(87,000)
Issuance of long-term debt, net of expenses of \$617 for 2018 and \$0 for 2017	299,383	—
Repayment of long-term debt	(12,499)	(2,797)
Advances and contributions in aid of construction	13,630	14,964
Refunds of advances for construction	(5,462)	(6,316)
Repurchase of common stock	(1,496)	(1,359)
Dividends paid	(27,029)	(25,920)
Net cash provided by financing activities	66,527	76,572
Change in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(28,260)	3,528
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	95,352	25,935
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$ 67,092	\$ 29,463
Supplemental information:		
Cash paid for interest (net of amounts capitalized)	\$ 19,956	\$ 17,287
Income tax refund	—	\$ (1,697)
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activities:		
Accrued payables for investments in utility plant	\$ 32,328	\$ 31,750
Utility plant contribution by developers	\$ 14,807	\$ 13,022

See Accompanying Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP

Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

September 30, 2018

Dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise stated

Note 1. Organization and Operations and Basis of Presentation

California Water Service Group (the 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 herein as the Commissions). CWS Utility Services and HWS Utility Services LLC provide non-regulated water utility and utility-related services.

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

Basis of Presentation

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information has been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) for interim financial information and in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and therefore do not contain all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP and the SEC for annual financial statements. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, included in its annual report on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC on March 1, 2018.

The preparation of the Company's unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements in accordance with GAAP 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 balance sheet dates and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the periods presented. These include, but are not limited to, estimates and assumptions used in determining the Company's regulatory asset and liability balances based upon probability assessments of regulatory recovery, revenues earned but not yet billed, asset retirement obligations, allowance for doubtful accounts, pension and other employee benefit plan liabilities, and income tax-related assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring transactions that are necessary to provide a fair presentation of the results for the periods covered. The results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results for any future period.

Due to the seasonal nature of the water business, the results for interim periods are not indicative of the results for a 12-month period. Revenue and income are generally higher in the warm, dry summer months when water usage and sales are greater. Revenue and income are generally lower in the winter months when cooler temperatures and rainfall curtail water usage and sales.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Operating revenue

The following tables disaggregate the Company's operating revenue by source for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017:

Three Months
Ended September

	30	
	2018	2017
Revenue from contracts with customers	\$209,541	\$197,007
Regulatory balancing account revenue	9,442	14,724
Total operating revenue	\$218,983	\$211,731

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	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30	
	2018	2017
Revenue from contracts with customers	\$515,567	\$472,412
Regulatory balancing account revenue	8,295	32,487
Total operating revenue	\$523,862	\$504,899

Revenue from contracts with customers

The Company principally generates operating revenue from contracts with customers by providing regulated water and wastewater services at tariff-rates authorized by the Commissions in the states in which they operate and non-regulated water and wastewater services at rates authorized by contracts with government agencies. Revenue from contracts with customers reflects amounts billed for the volume of consumption at authorized per unit rates, for a service charge, and for other authorized charges.

The Company satisfies its performance obligation to provide water and wastewater services over time as services are rendered. The Company applies the invoice practical expedient and recognizes revenue from contracts with customers in the amount for which the Company has a right to invoice. The Company has a right to invoice for the volume of consumption, for the service charge, and for other authorized charges.

The measurement of sales to customers is generally based on the reading of their meters, which occurs on a systematic basis throughout the month. At the end of each month, the Company estimates consumption since the date of the last meter reading and a corresponding unbilled revenue is recognized. The estimate is based upon the number of unbilled days that month and the average daily customer billing rate from the previous month (which fluctuates based upon customer usage).

Contract terms are generally short-term and at will by customers and, as a result, no separate financing component is recognized for the Company's collections from customers, which generally require payment within 30 days of billing. The Company applies judgment, based principally on historical payment experience, in estimating its customers' ability to pay.

Certain customers are not billed for volumetric consumption, but are instead billed a flat rate at the beginning of each monthly service period. The amount billed is initially deferred and subsequently recognized over the monthly service period, as the performance obligation is satisfied. The deferred revenue balance, which is included in "accrued expenses and other liabilities" on the consolidated balance sheets, is inconsequential.

In the following tables, revenue from contracts with customers is disaggregated by class of customers for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017:

	Three Months	
	Ended September	
	2018	2017
Residential	\$138,939	\$131,608
Business	38,538	35,678
Industrial	8,987	7,919
Public authorities	12,180	11,480
Other	10,897	10,322
Total revenue from contracts with customers	\$209,541	\$197,007
	Nine Months Ended	
	September 30	
	2018	2017
Residential	\$340,107	\$309,645
Business	97,720	87,246
Industrial	24,507	21,281
Public authorities	25,875	23,500
Other	27,358	30,740

Total revenue from contracts with customers \$515,567 \$472,412

Regulatory balancing account revenue

The Company's ability to recover revenue requirements authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in its triennial General Rate Case (GRC), is decoupled from the volume of the sales. Regulatory balancing account revenue

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is revenue related to rate mechanisms authorized in California by the CPUC, which allow the Company to recover the authorized revenue and are not considered contracts with customers.

The Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) allows the Company to recognize the adopted level of volumetric revenues. The variance between adopted volumetric revenues and actual billed volumetric revenues for metered accounts is recorded as regulatory balancing account revenue.

Cost-recovery rates, such as the Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA), provide for recovery of the adopted levels of expenses for purchased water, purchased power, pump taxes, water conservation program costs and certain other operating expenses. Variances between adopted and actual costs are recorded as regulatory balancing account revenue.

Each district's WRAM and MCBA regulatory assets and liabilities are allowed to be netted against one another. The Company recognizes regulatory balancing account revenues that have been authorized for rate recovery, are objectively determinable and probable of recovery, and are expected to be collected within 24 months. To the extent that regulatory balancing account revenue is estimated to be collectible beyond 24 months, recognition is deferred.

Non-regulated Revenue

The following tables disaggregate the Company's non-regulated revenue by source for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017:

	Three Months Ended September 30	
	2018	2017
Operating and maintenance revenue	\$2,816	\$1,903
Other non-regulated revenue	1,328	1,143
Non-regulated revenue from contracts with customers	\$4,144	\$3,046
Lease revenue	\$559	\$496
Total non-regulated revenue	\$4,703	\$3,542
	Nine Months Ended September 30	
	2018	2017
Operating and maintenance revenue	\$8,278	\$5,870
Other non-regulated revenue	4,053	3,362
Non-regulated revenue from contracts with customers	\$12,331	\$9,232
Lease revenue	\$1,636	\$1,511
Total non-regulated revenue	\$13,967	\$10,743

Operating and maintenance services are provided for non-regulated water and wastewater systems owned by private companies and municipalities. The Company negotiates formal agreements with the customers, under which they provide operating, maintenance and customer billing services related to the customers' water system. The formal agreements outline the fee schedule for the services provided. The agreements typically call for a fee-per-service or a flat-rate amount per month. The Company satisfies its performance obligation of providing operating and maintenance services over time as services are rendered; as a result, the Company employs the invoice practical expedient and recognizes revenue in the amount that it has the right to invoice. Contract terms are generally short-term and, as a result, no separate financing component is recognized for its collections from customers, which generally require payment within 30 days of billing.

Other non-regulated revenue primarily relates to services for the design and installation of water mains and other water infrastructure for customers outside the regulated service areas and insurance program administration. Other non-regulated revenue is inconsequential.

The Company is the lessor in operating lease agreements with telecommunications companies under which cellular phone antennas are placed on the Company's property. Lease revenue is not considered revenue from contracts with customers and is recognized following current operating lease standards.

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Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash within the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets that sum to the total of the same such amounts shown on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows:

	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Cash and cash equivalents	66,421	94,776
Restricted cash (included in "taxes, prepaid expenses and other assets")	671	576
Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash shown in the statements of cash flows	\$ 67,092	\$ 95,352

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

In May of 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (codified in ASC 606), which amends the existing revenue recognition guidance. The Company completed an evaluation of the new revenue standard and implemented the standard on January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective method for all contracts. The reported results for 2018 reflect the application of ASC 606 guidance, while prior period amounts were not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with the accounting standards in effect for those periods. Other than increased disclosures regarding revenues related to contracts with customers, the implementation did not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements (see "Operating Revenue" section of note 2 above).

In August of 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230) - Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments. This update adds and clarifies guidance on the classification of certain cash receipts and payments in the statement of cash flows. The Company will continue to classify proceeds from the settlement of insurance claims on the basis of the nature of the loss and from the settlement of Company-owned life insurance policies as cash inflows on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The Company implemented the standard on January 1, 2018 and retrospectively applied the standard in the comparative period. The standard does not have a significant impact to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In November of 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230) - Restricted Cash. The update requires the Company to combine restricted cash with cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning and end of period balances in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The Company implemented the standard on January 1, 2018 and retrospectively applied the standard in the comparative period. The following table shows the effect of the accounting change to the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows:

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows line item	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017		
	As Reported on Form 10-Q	Adjusted Balance on Form 10-Q	Increase (Decrease) from Retrospective Adoption
Change in restricted cash	\$(679)	\$—	\$ 679
Net cash used in investing activities	\$(183,511)	\$(182,832)	\$ 679
Change in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	\$2,849	\$3,528	\$ 679
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	\$25,492	\$25,935	\$ 443
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$28,341	\$29,463	\$ 1,122

In March of 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-07, Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost. The update requires employers to present the service cost component of the net periodic benefit cost in the same income statement line item as other employee compensation costs arising from services rendered during the period. The other components of net benefit cost, including interest cost, expected return on plan assets, amortization of prior service cost/credit and actuarial gain/loss, and settlement and curtailment effects, are to be presented as non-operating items. In addition, the standard only allows the service cost component to be

eligible for capitalization.

The standard became effective as of January 1, 2018. The presentation amendments were applied retrospectively and the capitalization amendments were applied prospectively on and after the effective date. The Company applied the practical expedient that permits the Company to use the amounts disclosed in its pension and other postretirement benefit plan footnote from the prior comparative periods as the estimation basis for applying the retrospective presentation

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requirements. The Commissions have authorized the Company to recover the other components of net periodic benefit cost through the Company's capital program and thus on and after the effective date, the other components of net periodic benefit cost that have previously been recorded as part of utility plant have been recognized as a regulatory asset (see note 9). As a result, the changes required by the standard did not have a material impact on the results of operations.

The following tables show the effect of the accounting change to the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2017:

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income line item	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		
	As Reported on Form 10-Q	Adjusted Balance on Form 10-Q	Increase (Decrease) from Retrospective Adoption
Administrative and general	\$24,886	\$22,749	\$ (2,137)
Income taxes	\$17,348	\$18,219	\$ 871
Total operating expenses	\$170,535	\$169,269	\$ (1,266)
Net operating income	\$41,196	\$42,462	\$ 1,266
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	\$—	\$(2,137)	\$ 2,137
Income tax benefit (expense) on other income and expenses	\$(841)	\$30	\$ 871
Net other income (loss)	\$1,230	\$(36)	\$ (1,266)

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income line item	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017		
	As Reported on Form 10-Q	Adjusted Balance on Form 10-Q	Increase (Decrease) from Retrospective Adoption
Administrative and general	\$73,931	\$66,908	\$ (7,023)
Income taxes	\$26,099	\$27,941	\$ 1,842
Total operating expenses	\$430,394	\$425,213	\$ (5,181)
Net operating income	\$74,505	\$79,686	\$ 5,181
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	\$—	\$(7,023)	\$ 7,023
Income tax expense on other income and expenses	\$(2,947)	\$(1,105)	\$ 1,842
Net other income (loss)	\$4,315	\$(866)	\$ (5,181)

New Accounting Standards Issued But Not Yet Adopted

In February of 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases, which amends the guidance relating to the definition of a lease, recognition of lease assets and liabilities on the balance sheet, and the related disclosure requirements. In July of 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-11, Leases: Targeted Improvements, which amends the new leasing guidance such that entities may elect not to restate their comparative periods in the period of adoption. The guidance requires lessees to recognize an asset and liability on the balance sheet for all of their lease obligations. Operating leases were previously not recognized on the balance sheet. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018 and early adoption is permitted. The Company will adopt the standard using the modified retrospective method for its existing leases and expects this standard to increase lease assets and lease liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company intends to elect certain practical expedients and will carry forward historical conclusions related to (1) contracts that contain leases, (2) existing lease classification for any expired or existing leases, and (3) initial direct costs for any existing leases. The Company will also apply the practical expedient that will allow the Company to elect, as an accounting policy, by asset class, to include both lease and nonlease components as a single component and account for it as a lease. The Company will apply the short-term

lease exception for lessees which will allow the Company to not have to apply the recognition requirements of the new leasing guidance for short-term leases and to recognize lease payments in net income on a straight line basis over the lease term. The Company does not expect that the guidance will have a material impact on the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income, Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and lease disclosures.

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Note 3. Stock-based Compensation

Equity Incentive Plan

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company granted annual Restricted Stock Awards (RSAs) of 47,273 and 48,717, respectively, to officers and directors of the Company. During those same periods, 16,520 RSAs and 17,466 RSAs, respectively, were canceled. During the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, 1,138 RSAs and no RSAs, respectively, were granted and 3,214 RSAs and 3,280 RSAs, respectively, were canceled. RSAs granted to officers vest over 36 months with the first year cliff vesting. RSAs granted to directors generally vest at the end of 12 months. During the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, the RSAs granted were valued at \$35.40 and \$36.75 per share, respectively, based upon the fair value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company granted 28,594 and 31,389 performance-based Restricted Stock Unit Awards (RSUs), respectively, to officers. During those same periods, the Company issued 48,753 RSUs and 38,709 RSUs, respectively, to officers, and canceled 24,009 RSUs and 19,735 RSUs, respectively. During the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company did not grant, issue or cancel any RSUs. Each RSU award reflects a target number of shares that may be issued to the award recipient. The 2018 and 2017 awards may be earned upon completion of the three-year performance period and are recognized as expense ratably over the period using a fair value of \$35.40 per share and \$36.75 per share, respectively, and an estimate of RSUs earned during the period. The Company has recorded compensation costs for the RSAs and RSUs in administrative and general operating expenses in the amount of \$2.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017.

Note 4. Equity

The Company's changes in total common stockholders' equity for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 were as follows:

	Total Common Stockholders' Equity	
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$	693,462
Common stock issued		1
Share-based compensation expense		2,227
Repurchase of common stock	(1,496)
Common stock dividends declared	(27,029)
Net income		44,869
Balance at September 30, 2018	\$	712,034

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Note 5. Earnings Per Share

The computations of basic and diluted earnings per share are noted in the table below. Basic earnings per share are computed by dividing the net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts were exercised or converted into common stock. RSAs are included in the weighted average common shares outstanding because the shares have all the same voting and dividend rights as issued and unrestricted common stock. RSUs are not included in diluted shares for financial reporting until authorized by the Organization & Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors.

	Three Months Ended September 30 2018 2017 (In thousands, except per share data)	
Net income available to common stockholders	\$34,392	\$33,849
Weighted average common shares outstanding, basic	48,070	48,017
Weighted average common shares outstanding, dilutive	48,070	48,017
Earnings per share - basic	\$0.72	\$0.70
Earnings per share - diluted	\$0.72	\$0.70
	Nine Months Ended September 30 2018 2017 (In thousands, except per share data)	
Net income available to common stockholders	\$44,869	\$53,512
Weighted average common shares outstanding, basic	48,058	48,007
Weighted average common shares outstanding, dilutive	48,058	48,007
Earnings per share - basic	\$0.93	\$1.11
Earnings per share - diluted	\$0.93	\$1.11

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Note 6. Pension Plan and Other Postretirement Benefits

The Company provides a qualified, defined-benefit, non-contributory pension plan for substantially all employees. The Company makes annual contributions to fund the amounts accrued for in the qualified pension plan. The Company also maintains an unfunded, non-qualified, supplemental executive retirement plan. The costs of the plans are charged to expense or are capitalized in utility plant as appropriate.

The Company offers medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits for retirees and their spouses and dependents. Participants are required to pay a premium, which offsets a portion of the cost.

Cash contributions by the Company related to pension plans were \$42.3 million and \$22.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Cash contributions by the Company related to other postretirement benefit plans were \$8.0 million and \$2.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The total 2018 estimated cash contribution to the pension plans is \$42.3 million and to the other postretirement benefit plans is \$9.7 million.

The following table lists components of net periodic benefit costs for the pension plans and other postretirement benefits. The data listed under “pension plan” includes the qualified pension plan and the non-qualified supplemental executive retirement plan. The data listed under “other benefits” is for all other postretirement benefits.

	Three Months Ended September 30			
	Pension Plan		Other Benefits	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Service cost	\$6,966	\$6,122	\$1,966	\$2,169
Interest cost	6,007	5,861	1,183	1,491
Expected return on plan assets	(7,052)	(6,031)	(1,397)	(1,218)
Amortization of prior service cost	1,263	1,445	11	11
Recognized net actuarial loss	2,791	1,881	242	649
Net periodic benefit cost	\$9,975	\$9,278	\$2,005	\$3,102

	Nine Months Ended September 30			
	Pension Plan		Other Benefits	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Service cost	\$21,770	\$17,851	\$7,066	\$6,207
Interest cost	17,996	17,442	4,152	4,472
Expected return on plan assets	(20,777)	(18,090)	(4,229)	(3,653)
Amortization of prior service cost	3,789	4,336	32	32
Recognized net actuarial loss	8,386	5,386	1,789	1,947
Net periodic benefit cost	\$31,164	\$26,925	\$8,810	\$9,005

Service cost portion of the pension plan and other postretirement benefits is recognized in administrative and general within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income. Other components of net periodic benefit costs include interest costs, expected return on plan assets, amortization of prior service costs, and recognized net actuarial loss and are reported together as other components of net periodic benefit cost within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income (see note 2).

Note 7. Short-term and Long-term Borrowings

Both short-term unsecured credit agreements contain affirmative and negative covenants and events of default customary for credit facilities of this type including, among other things, limitations and prohibitions relating to additional indebtedness, liens, mergers, and asset sales. Also, these unsecured credit agreements contain financial covenants governing the Company and its subsidiaries' consolidated total capitalization ratio and interest coverage ratio.

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The outstanding borrowings on the Company line of credit were \$75.1 million and \$55.1 million as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. There were no borrowings on the Cal Water line of credit as of September 30, 2018 and \$220.0 million of borrowings as of December 31, 2017. The average borrowing rate for borrowings on the Company and Cal Water lines of credit during the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was 2.88% compared to 1.97% for the same period last year.

On September 13, 2018, Cal Water sold \$300.0 million of floating rate First Mortgage Bonds due in September of 2020 in a private placement. The floating interest rate was set at three-month LIBOR plus 70 basis points, will accrue quarterly, and be payable in arrears. The bonds are redeemable at a premium of 102%, or at par after June 13, 2019. The bonds will also rank equally with all of Cal Water's other First Mortgage Bonds and will be secured by liens on Cal Water's properties, subject to certain exceptions and permitted liens.

Note 8. Income Taxes

The Company adjusts its effective tax rate each quarter to be consistent with the estimated annual effective tax rate. The Company also records the tax effect of unusual or infrequently occurring discrete items.

The provision for income taxes is shown in the tables below:

	Three Months Ended September 30	
	2018	2017
Income tax expense	\$10,957	\$18,189
	Nine Months Ended September 30	
	2018	2017
Income tax expense	\$13,498	\$29,046

The income tax expense decreased \$7.2 million to \$11.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017 mostly due to the federal income tax rate reduction from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018, an increase in tax benefits of \$0.9 million, and a decrease in pre-tax income. The income tax expense decreased \$15.5 million to \$13.5 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$29.0 million in the first nine months of 2017. The decrease was mainly due to the federal income tax rate reduction from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018, an increase in tax benefits of \$0.9 million, and a decrease in pre-tax income.

The Company's 2018 effective tax rate, before discrete items, is estimated to be in the range from 22% to 25%. For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company recorded a provisional re-measurement of its deferred tax balances (related mostly to timing differences for plant-related items) which was offset by a change from a net deferred income tax regulatory asset to a net regulatory liability. The Company is continuing to work with state regulators to finalize the customer net refund of \$108.0 million to ensure compliance with federal normalization rules. The final transition impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) may differ from the recorded amounts, possibly materially, due to, among other things, regulatory decisions that could differ from the Company's determination of how the impacts of the TCJA are allocated between customers and shareholders. In addition, while the Company was able to make reasonable estimates of the impact of the reduction in federal tax rate and the elimination of bonus depreciation due to the enactment of the TCJA, the Company has not completed analysis for areas of the TCJA around Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), full expensing of fixed assets, and other asset related items of the TCJA. Changes in interpretations, guidance on legislative intent, and any changes in accounting standards for income taxes in response to the TCJA could impact the recorded amounts. The Company will finalize and record any adjustments related to the TCJA within the one year measurement period provided under Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118. The balances relating to TCJA impact continue to be provisional as of September 30, 2018.

The Company had unrecognized tax benefits of approximately \$12.0 million and \$10.2 million as of September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits as of September 30, 2018 and 2017 are approximately \$2.3 million of tax benefits that, if recognized, would result in an adjustment to the Company's

effective tax rate. The Company does not expect its unrecognized tax benefits to change significantly within the next 12 months.

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Note 9. Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

Regulatory assets and liabilities were comprised of the following as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017:

	September 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Regulatory Assets		
Pension and retiree group health	\$ 213,755	\$ 214,249
Property-related temporary differences (tax benefits flowed through to customers)	81,354	87,323
Other accrued benefits	27,634	28,251
Net WRAM and MCBA long-term accounts receivable	21,826	34,879
Asset retirement obligations, net	18,180	17,126
Interim rates long-term accounts receivable	4,557	4,568
Tank coating	11,490	10,998
Health care balancing account	442	496
Pension balancing account	6,250	2,322
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	2,433	—
Other regulatory assets	379	935
Total Regulatory Assets	\$ 388,300	\$ 401,147
Regulatory Liabilities		
Future tax benefits due to customers	\$ 169,675	\$ 168,343
Health care balancing account	12,124	7,749
Conservation program	6,019	2,273
Pension balancing account	13	364
Net WRAM and MCBA long-term payable	136	513
Tax accounting memorandum account	4,998	—
Cost of capital memorandum account	2,834	—
1,2,3 trichloropropane settlement proceeds	12,841	—
Other regulatory liabilities	50	464
Total Regulatory Liabilities	\$ 208,690	\$ 179,706

Short-term regulatory assets and liabilities are excluded from the above table.

The short-term regulatory assets were \$38.0 million as of September 30, 2018 and \$36.8 million as of December 31, 2017. As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the short-term regulatory assets primarily consist of net WRAM and MCBA receivables.

The short-term portions of regulatory liabilities were \$43.3 million as of September 30, 2018 and \$59.3 million as of December 31, 2017. The short-term regulatory liabilities as of September 30, 2018, primarily consist of 1,2,3 trichloropropane (TCP) settlement proceeds. As of December 31, 2017, the short-term regulatory liabilities primarily consist of TCP settlement proceeds and net WRAM and MCBA liability balances.

The tax accounting and cost of capital memorandum account regulatory liabilities are related to the estimated customer refunds due to changes in the federal income tax rate and to the cost of capital decision for Cal Water.

The other components of net periodic benefit cost regulatory asset are authorized by the Commissions and are probable for rate recovery through the capital program (see Note 2).

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Note 10. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments

The Company has significant commitments to lease certain office spaces and water systems and to purchase water from water wholesalers. These commitments are described in Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. Effective April 3, 2018, the City of Commerce has renewed a lease agreement for Cal Water to operate the City of Commerce's water system for the next 15 years. Cal Water has operated the City of Commerce water system since 1985 and is responsible for all operations, maintenance, water quality assurance, and customer service programs to provide a reliable supply of water that meets federal and state standards to customers served by the City of Commerce system. The City of Commerce will remain responsible for financing infrastructure improvements and setting its customers' water rates.

As of September 30, 2018, there were no other significant changes from December 31, 2017.

Contingencies

Groundwater Contamination

The Company has undertaken litigation against third parties to recover past and anticipated costs related to groundwater contamination in our service areas. The cost of litigation is expensed as incurred and any settlement is first offset against such costs. The CPUC's general policy requires all proceeds from groundwater contamination litigation to be used first to pay transactional expenses, then to make customers whole for water treatment costs to comply with the CPUC's water quality standards. The CPUC allows for a risk-based consideration of contamination proceeds which exceed the costs of the remediation described above and may result in some sharing of proceeds with the shareholder, determined on a case by case basis. The CPUC has authorized various memorandum accounts that allow the Company to track significant litigation costs to request recovery of these costs in future filings and uses of proceeds to comply with CPUC's general policy.

Other Legal Matters

From time to time, the Company is involved in various disputes and litigation matters that arise in the ordinary course of business. The status of each significant matter is reviewed and assessed for potential financial exposure. If the potential loss from any claim or legal proceeding is considered probable and the amount of the range of loss can be estimated, a liability is accrued for the estimated loss in accordance with the accounting standards for contingencies. Legal proceedings are subject to uncertainties, and the outcomes are difficult to predict. Because of such uncertainties, accruals are based on the best information available at the time. While the outcome of these disputes and litigation matters cannot be predicted with any certainty, management does not believe when taking into account existing reserves the ultimate resolution of these matters will materially affect the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company recognized a liability of \$3.8 million and \$6.1 million, respectively, for known legal matters. The decrease is mainly due to several large claims being resolved in the first nine months of 2018. The cost of litigation is expensed as incurred and any settlement is first offset against such costs. Any settlement in excess of the cost to litigate is accounted for on a case by case basis, dependent on the nature of the settlement.

Note 11. Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The accounting guidance for fair value measurements and disclosures provides a single definition of fair value and requires certain disclosures about assets and liabilities measured at fair value. A hierarchical framework for disclosing the observability of the inputs utilized in measuring assets and liabilities at fair value is established by this guidance. The three levels in the hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted market prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and

Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

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If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

Specific valuation methods include the following:

Accounts receivable and accounts payable carrying amounts approximated the fair value because of the short-term maturity of the instruments.

Long-term debt fair values were estimated using the published quoted market price, if available, or the discounted cash flow analysis, based on the current rates available using a risk-free rate (a U.S. Treasury securities yield curve) plus a risk premium of 1.70%.

Advances for construction fair values were estimated using broker quotes from companies that frequently purchase these investments.

	September 30, 2018			
	Cost	Fair Value		Total
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Long-term debt, including current maturities	\$819,122	—	\$847,812	—
Advances for construction	186,897	—	77,745	—
Total	\$1,006,019	\$—	\$925,557	\$—

	December 31, 2017			
	Cost	Fair Value		Total
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Long-term debt, including current maturities	\$531,713	—	\$607,492	—
Advances for construction	182,502	—	75,083	—
Total	\$714,215	\$—	\$682,575	\$—

Note 12. Condensed Consolidating Financial Statements

On April 17, 2009, Cal Water issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.875% First Mortgage Bonds due 2019, and on November 17, 2010, Cal Water issued \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.500% First Mortgage Bonds due 2040, all of which are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Company. As a result of these guarantee arrangements, the Company is required to present the following condensed consolidating financial information. The investments in affiliates are accounted for and presented using the “equity method” of accounting. The following tables present the Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Condensed Consolidating Statements of Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, and the Condensed Consolidating Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 of (i) California Water Service Group, the guarantor of the First Mortgage Bonds and the parent company; (ii) California Water Service Company, the issuer of the First Mortgage Bonds and a 100% owned consolidated subsidiary of California Water Service Group; and (iii) the other 100% owned non-guarantor consolidated subsidiaries of California Water Service Group. No other subsidiary of the Company guarantees the securities. The Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 reflect the retrospective adoption of ASU 2016-18 (refer to Note 2 for more details). The Condensed Consolidating Statements of Income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 reflect the retrospective adoption of ASU 2017-07 (refer to Note 2 for more details).

Table of ContentsCALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2018

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
ASSETS					
Utility plant:					
Utility plant	\$ 1,317	\$ 2,963,674	\$ 211,931	\$ (7,196)	\$ 3,169,726
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(989)	(926,291)	(58,780)	2,076	(983,984)
Net utility plant	328	2,037,383	153,151	(5,120)	2,185,742
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,445	55,108	8,868	—	66,421
Receivables and unbilled revenue	—	144,340	5,639	—	149,979
Receivables from affiliates	44,671	895	286	(45,852)	—
Other current assets	203	17,360	1,576	—	19,139
Total current assets	47,319	217,703	16,369	(45,852)	235,539
Other assets:					
Regulatory assets	—	384,249	4,051	—	388,300
Investments in affiliates	716,177	—	—	(716,177)	—
Long-term affiliate notes receivable	25,172	—	—	(25,172)	—
Other assets	70	63,624	3,660	(73)	67,281
Total other assets	741,419	447,873	7,711	(741,422)	455,581
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 789,066	\$ 2,702,959	\$ 177,231	\$ (792,394)	\$ 2,876,862
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES					
Capitalization:					
Common stockholders' equity	\$ 712,034	\$ 642,588	\$ 78,798	\$ (721,386)	\$ 712,034
Affiliate long-term debt	—	—	—	—	—
Long-term debt, less current maturities	—	713,622	25,860	(25,172)	714,310
Total capitalization	712,034	1,356,210	104,658	(746,558)	1,426,344
Current liabilities:					
Current maturities of long-term debt	—	104,538	274	—	104,812
Short-term borrowings	75,100	—	—	—	75,100
Payables to affiliates	—	21,710	24,142	(45,852)	—
Accounts payable	—	99,315	3,623	—	102,938
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	112	94,675	4,253	—	99,040
Total current liabilities	75,212	320,238	32,292	(45,852)	381,890
Unamortized investment tax credits	—	1,724	—	—	1,724
Deferred income taxes	1,820	193,864	3,459	—	199,143
Pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions	—	235,501	—	—	235,501
Regulatory liabilities and other	—	251,235	4,318	16	255,569
Advances for construction	—	186,389	508	—	186,897
Contributions in aid of construction	—	157,798	31,996	—	189,794
TOTAL CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES	\$ 789,066	\$ 2,702,959	\$ 177,231	\$ (792,394)	\$ 2,876,862

Table of ContentsCALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2017

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
ASSETS					
Utility plant:					
Utility plant	\$ 1,321	\$ 2,771,259	\$ 204,795	\$ (7,196)	\$ 2,970,179
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(919)	(868,762)	(54,543)	2,010	(922,214)
Net utility plant	402	1,902,497	150,252	(5,186)	2,047,965
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,728	80,940	9,108	—	94,776
Receivables and unbilled revenue	—	110,928	4,526	—	115,454
Receivables from affiliates	19,952	4,093	43	(24,088)	—
Other current assets	80	16,569	994	—	17,643
Total current assets	24,760	212,530	14,671	(24,088)	227,873
Other assets:					
Regulatory assets	—	397,333	3,814	—	401,147
Investments in affiliates	698,690	—	—	(698,690)	—
Long-term affiliate notes receivable	26,441	—	—	(26,441)	—
Other assets	192	59,581	3,822	(205)	63,390
Total other assets	725,323	456,914	7,636	(725,336)	464,537
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 750,485	\$ 2,571,941	\$ 172,559	\$ (754,610)	\$ 2,740,375
CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES					
Capitalization:					
Common stockholders' equity	\$ 693,462	\$ 626,300	77,647	\$ (703,947)	\$ 693,462
Affiliate long-term debt	—	—	26,441	(26,441)	—
Long-term debt, less current maturities	—	514,952	841	—	515,793
Total capitalization	693,462	1,141,252	104,929	(730,388)	1,209,255
Current liabilities:					
Current maturities of long-term debt	—	15,598	322	—	15,920
Short-term borrowings	55,100	220,000	—	—	275,100
Payables to affiliates	—	580	23,508	(24,088)	—
Accounts payable	—	90,561	3,394	—	93,955
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	271	104,002	1,711	—	105,984
Total current liabilities	55,371	430,741	28,935	(24,088)	490,959
Unamortized investment tax credits	—	1,724	—	—	1,724
Deferred income taxes	1,652	189,004	2,424	(134)	192,946
Pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions	—	252,141	—	—	252,141
Regulatory and other liabilities	—	220,779	3,348	—	224,127
Advances for construction	—	181,979	523	—	182,502
Contributions in aid of construction	—	154,321	32,400	—	186,721
TOTAL CAPITALIZATION AND LIABILITIES	\$ 750,485	\$ 2,571,941	\$ 172,559	\$ (754,610)	\$ 2,740,375

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the three months ended September 30, 2018

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating revenue	\$—	\$206,390	\$ 12,593	\$ —	\$ 218,983
Operating expenses:					
Operations:					
Water production costs	—	76,317	2,501	—	78,818
Administrative and general	—	23,878	2,615	—	26,493
Other operations	—	20,271	1,816	(144)	21,943
Maintenance	—	6,538	230	—	6,768
Depreciation and amortization	23	19,632	1,376	(22)	21,009
Income tax (benefit) expense	(142)	9,911	1,271	222	11,262
Property and other taxes	—	6,205	937	—	7,142
Total operating (income) expenses	(119)	162,752	10,746	56	173,435
Net operating income	119	43,638	1,847	(56)	45,548
Other income and expenses:					
Non-regulated revenue	628	4,589	259	(773)	4,703
Non-regulated expenses	—	(4,675)	(222)	—	(4,897)
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	—	(1,834)	(141)	—	(1,975)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	1,023	—	—	1,023
Income tax (expense) benefit on other income and expenses	(176)	252	13	216	305
Net other income (loss)	452	(645)	(91)	(557)	(841)
Interest:					
Interest expense	486	10,443	574	(628)	10,875
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	—	(522)	(38)	—	(560)
Net interest expense	486	9,921	536	(628)	10,315
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	34,307	—	—	(34,307)	—
Net income	\$ 34,392	\$ 33,072	\$ 1,220	\$ (34,292)	\$ 34,392

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the three months ended September 30, 2017

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating revenue	\$—	\$ 199,002	\$ 12,729	\$ —	\$ 211,731
Operating expenses:					
Operations:					
Water production costs	—	73,061	2,200	—	75,261
Administrative and general	—	20,352	2,397	—	22,749
Other operations	—	18,979	2,356	(127)	21,208
Maintenance	—	5,729	328	—	6,057
Depreciation and amortization	21	18,115	1,117	(22)	19,231
Income tax (benefit) expense	(136)	17,009	1,080	266	18,219
Property and other taxes	—	5,680	864	—	6,544
Total operating (income) expenses	(115)	158,925	10,342	117	169,269
Net operating income	115	40,077	2,387	(117)	42,462
Other income and expenses:					
Non-regulated revenue	505	3,218	450	(631)	3,542
Non-regulated expenses	—	(2,151)	(425)	—	(2,576)
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	—	(2,010)	(127)	—	(2,137)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	1,105	—	—	1,105
Income tax (expense) benefit on other income and expenses	(206)	(66)	45	257	30
Net other income (loss)	299	96	(57)	(374)	(36)
Interest:					
Interest expense	313	8,951	525	(505)	9,284
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	—	(684)	(23)	—	(707)
Net interest expense	313	8,267	502	(505)	8,577
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	33,748	—	—	(33,748)	—
Net income	\$ 33,849	\$ 31,906	\$ 1,828	\$ (33,734)	\$ 33,849

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the nine months ended September 30, 2018

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating revenue	\$—	\$492,256	\$ 31,606	\$ —	\$ 523,862
Operating expenses:					
Operations:					
Water production costs	—	185,149	6,648	—	191,797
Administrative and general	—	69,531	7,664	—	77,195
Other operations	—	55,626	5,117	(436)	60,307
Maintenance	—	16,974	622	—	17,596
Depreciation and amortization	70	58,909	3,763	(65)	62,677
Income tax (benefit) expense	(342)	13,511	1,591	620	15,380
Property and other taxes	—	17,894	2,359	—	20,253
Total operating (income) expenses	(272)	417,594	27,764	119	445,205
Net operating income	272	74,662	3,842	(119)	78,657
Other income and expenses:					
Non-regulated revenue	1,716	13,572	831	(2,152)	13,967
Non-regulated expenses	—	(15,943)	(506)	—	(16,449)
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	—	(6,618)	(366)	—	(6,984)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	2,644	—	—	2,644
Income tax (expense) benefit on other income and expenses	(480)	1,776	(16)	602	1,882
Net other income (loss)	1,236	(4,569)	(57)	(1,550)	(4,940)
Interest:					
Interest expense	1,155	29,095	1,673	(1,716)	30,207
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	—	(1,250)	(109)	—	(1,359)
Net interest expense	1,155	27,845	1,564	(1,716)	28,848
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	44,516	—	—	(44,516)	—
Net income	\$44,869	\$42,248	\$ 2,221	\$ (44,469)	\$ 44,869

Table of ContentsCALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME

For the nine months ended September 30, 2017

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating revenue	\$—	\$473,518	\$ 31,381	\$ —	\$ 504,899
Operating expenses:					
Operations:					
Water production costs	—	175,339	6,121	—	181,460
Administrative and general	—	59,380	7,528	—	66,908
Other operations	—	50,108	5,931	(379)	55,660
Maintenance	—	16,144	733	—	16,877
Depreciation and amortization	70	54,328	3,320	(68)	57,650
Income tax (benefit) expense	(362)	26,075	1,442	786	27,941
Property and other taxes	(4)	16,407	2,314	—	18,717
Total operating (income) expenses	(296)	397,781	27,389	339	425,213
Net operating income	296	75,737	3,992	(339)	79,686
Other income and expenses:					
Non-regulated revenue	1,482	9,822	1,300	(1,861)	10,743
Non-regulated expenses	—	(5,326)	(918)	—	(6,244)
Other components of net periodic benefit cost	—	(6,605)	(418)	—	(7,023)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	2,763	—	—	2,763
Income tax expense on other income and expenses	(604)	(1,227)	(32)	758	(1,105)
Net other income (loss)	878	(573)	(68)	(1,103)	(866)
Interest:					
Interest expense	823	26,216	1,516	(1,482)	27,073
Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction	—	(1,702)	(63)	—	(1,765)
Net interest expense	823	24,514	1,453	(1,482)	25,308
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	53,161	—	—	(53,161)	—
Net income	\$53,512	\$50,650	\$ 2,471	\$ (53,121)	\$ 53,512

Table of ContentsCALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE GROUP
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the nine months ended September 30, 2018

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating activities:					
Net income	\$44,869	\$42,248	\$ 2,221	\$ (44,469)	\$ 44,869
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	(44,516)	—	—	44,516	—
Dividends received from affiliates	27,029	—	—	(27,029)	—
Depreciation and amortization	70	60,298	3,828	(65)	64,131
Changes in value of life insurance contracts	—	124	—	—	124
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	(2,644)	—	—	(2,644)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(281)	6,135	1,178	—	7,032
Other changes in noncurrent assets and liabilities	2,518	1,466	1,989	18	5,991
Net cash provided by operating activities	29,689	107,627	9,216	(27,029)	119,503
Investing activities:					
Utility plant expenditures	4	(205,218)	(7,642)	—	(212,856)
Changes in affiliate advances	(975)	3,198	(269)	(1,954)	—
Issuance of affiliate short-term borrowings	(23,700)	—	—	23,700	—
Reduction of affiliates long-term debt	1,224	—	—	(1,224)	—
Life insurance proceeds	—	3,491	—	—	3,491
Purchase of life insurance contracts	—	(4,925)	—	—	(4,925)
Net cash used in investing activities	(23,447)	(203,454)	(7,911)	20,522	(214,290)
Financing Activities:					
Short-term borrowings	20,000	121,000	—	—	141,000
Repayment of short-term borrowings	—	(341,000)	—	—	(341,000)
Changes in affiliate advances	—	1,129	(3,083)	1,954	—
Proceeds from affiliate short-term borrowings	—	20,000	3,700	(23,700)	—
Repayment of affiliates long-term borrowings	—	—	(1,224)	1,224	—
Issuance of long-term debt, net of expenses	—	299,383	—	—	299,383
Repayment of long-term debt	—	(12,299)	(200)	—	(12,499)
Advances and contributions in aid of construction	—	13,288	342	—	13,630
Refunds of advances for construction	—	(5,452)	(10)	—	(5,462)
Repurchase of common stock	(1,496)	—	—	—	(1,496)
Dividends paid to non-affiliates	(27,029)	—	—	—	(27,029)
Dividends paid to affiliates	—	(25,959)	(1,070)	27,029	—
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(8,525)	70,090	(1,545)	6,507	66,527
Change in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(2,283)	(25,737)	(240)	—	(28,260)
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	4,728	81,453	9,171	—	95,352
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$2,445	\$55,716	\$ 8,931	—	\$ 67,092

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the nine months ended September 30, 2017

(In thousands)

	Parent Company	Cal Water	All Other Subsidiaries	Consolidating Adjustments	Consolidated
Operating activities:					
Net income	\$53,512	\$50,650	\$ 2,471	\$ (53,121)	\$ 53,512
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Equity earnings of subsidiaries	(53,161)	—	—	53,161	—
Dividends received from affiliates	25,920	—	—	(25,920)	—
Depreciation and amortization	70	55,623	3,392	(69)	59,016
Changes in value of life insurance contracts	—	(1,871)	—	—	(1,871)
Allowance for equity funds used during construction	—	(2,763)	—	—	(2,763)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(38)	(40,941)	1,036	—	(39,943)
Other changes in noncurrent assets and liabilities	2,420	37,125	2,263	29	41,837
Net cash provided by operating activities	28,723	97,823	9,162	(25,920)	109,788
Investing activities:					
Utility plant expenditures	(4)	(175,234)	(5,204)	—	(180,442)
Changes in affiliate advances	(334)	2,905	(287)	(2,284)	—
Issuance of affiliate short-term borrowings	(2,610)	—	—	2,610	—
Reduction of affiliates long-term debt	1,010	—	—	(1,010)	—
Life insurance proceeds	—	1,558	—	—	1,558
Purchase of life insurance contracts	—	(3,948)	—	—	(3,948)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,938)	(174,719)	(5,491)	(684)	(182,832)
Financing Activities:					
Short-term borrowings	—	185,000	—	—	185,000
Repayment of short-term borrowings	(2,000)	(85,000)	—	—	(87,000)
Changes in affiliate advances	—	718	(3,002)	2,284	—
Proceeds from affiliate short-term borrowings	—	—	2,610	(2,610)	—
Repayment of affiliates long-term borrowings	—	—	(1,010)	1,010	—
Repayment of long-term debt	—	(2,336)	(461)	—	(2,797)
Advances and contributions in aid for construction	—	14,900	64	—	14,964
Refunds of advances for construction	—	(6,311)	(5)	—	(6,316)
Repurchase of common stock	(1,359)	—	—	—	(1,359)
Dividends paid to non-affiliates	(25,920)	—	—	—	(25,920)
Dividends paid to affiliates	—	(24,760)	(1,160)	25,920	—
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(29,279)	82,211	(2,964)	26,604	76,572
Change in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(2,494)	5,315	707	—	3,528
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	5,216	13,595	7,124	—	25,935
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	\$2,722	\$ 18,910	\$ 7,831	—	\$ 29,463

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Item 2

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise stated

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This quarterly report, including all documents incorporated by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements in this quarterly 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 intended 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;
- consequences of eminent domain actions relation to our water systems;
- changes in regulatory commissions' policies and procedures;
- the timeliness of regulatory commissions' actions concerning rate relief;
- inability to renew leases to operate city water systems on beneficial terms;
- changes in California State Water Resources Control Board water quality standards;
- changes in environmental compliance and water quality requirements;
- electric power interruptions;
- housing and customer growth trends;
- the impact of opposition to rate increases;
- our ability to recover costs;
- availability of water supplies;
- issues with the implementation, maintenance or security of our information technology systems;
- civil disturbances or terrorist threats or acts, or apprehension about the possible future occurrences of acts of this type;
- 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;
- changes in customer water use patterns and the effects of conservation;
- the impact of weather, climate, natural disasters, and diseases on water quality, water availability, water sales and operating results;
- the risks set forth in "Risk Factors" included in the Company's annual report on 2017 Form 10-K.

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 quarterly 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 quarterly 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.

Table of Contents**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

We maintain our accounting records in accordance with GAAP and as directed by the Commissions to which our operations are subject. The process of preparing financial statements in accordance with GAAP 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. Management believes that the following accounting policies are critical because they involve a higher degree of complexity and judgment, and can have a material impact on our results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows of the business. These policies and their key characteristics are discussed in detail in the 2017 Form 10-K. They include:

- revenue recognition;
- regulated utility accounting;
- income taxes;
- pension and postretirement health care benefits;

For the nine month period ended September 30, 2018, except for changes to revenue recognition from the adoption of ASC 606 (see Note 2), there were no changes in the methodology for computing critical accounting estimates, no additional accounting estimates met the standards for critical accounting policies, and there were no material changes to the important assumptions underlying the critical accounting estimates.

**RESULTS OF THIRD QUARTER 2018 OPERATIONS
COMPARED TO THIRD QUARTER 2017 OPERATIONS**

Dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise stated

Overview

Net income for the three month period ended September 30, 2018, was \$34.4 million or \$0.72 earnings per diluted common share compared to net income of \$33.8 million or \$0.70 earnings per diluted common share for the three month period ended September 30, 2017. The \$0.6 million increase in net income was driven primarily by aggregate rate increases of \$4.4 million, reflecting general rate increases net of the cost of capital decision for Cal Water. Other factors increasing net income included a \$1.1 million reduction in write-offs of unrecoverable capital costs and an increase in tax benefits of \$0.9 million. The increases to net income were partially offset by increases of \$1.8 million in depreciation and amortization, \$1.5 million in employee wages, \$1.3 million in new business expenses, and \$1.7 million in interest expense.

Operating Revenue

Operating revenue increased \$7.3 million, or 3.4%, to \$219.0 million in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017. The factors that impacted the operating revenue for the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017 are as follows:

Net change due to rate changes, usage, and other (1)	\$4,282
MCBA Revenue (2)	1,161
Other balancing account revenue (3)	342
Deferral of revenue (4)	1,467
Net operating revenue increase	\$7,252

The net change due to rate changes, usage, and other in the above table was mainly driven by rate increases of \$3.4 million and a \$0.5 million increase in accrued unbilled revenue. The components of the rate increases are as follows:

General rate case	34
Escalation rate increases	5,196
Purchased water and pump tax offsets	1,891
Rate base offsets	1,038
Tax cuts jobs act	(2,969)
Cost of capital	(1,823)
Total increase in rates	\$3,367

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The MCBA revenue increase resulted from an increase in actual water production costs relative to adopted water production costs in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017. The actual water production costs increased as a result of an increase in customer consumption in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017. As required by the MCBA mechanism, the increase in actual water production costs relative to adopted water production costs in California also increased operating revenue for the same amount.

The other balancing account revenue consists of the pension, conservation and health care balancing account revenues. Pension and conservation balancing account revenues are the differences between actual expenses and adopted rate recovery. Health care balancing account revenue is 85% of the difference between actual health care expenses and adopted rate recovery. The increase in revenue was mainly due to an increase in actual pension and health care expenses relative to adopted in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017, which was partially offset by a decrease in actual conservation expenses relative to adopted in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017.

The deferral of revenue consists of amounts that are expected to be collected from customers beyond 24 months following the end of the accounting period in which these revenues were recorded. The deferral decreased in the third quarter of 2018 as compared to the third quarter of 2017 due to a decrease in the balancing account revenue expected to be collected beyond 24 months, which increases revenue.

Total Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses increased \$4.1 million, or 2.5%, to \$173.4 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$169.3 million in the third quarter of 2017.

Water production costs consists of purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes. It represents the largest component of total operating expenses, accounting for approximately 45.4% of total operating expenses in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to 44.5% of total operating expenses in the third quarter of 2017. Water production costs increased 4.7% as compared to the same period last year mainly due to an increase in water production and higher wholesaler water rates.

Sources of water as a percent of total water production are listed in the following table:

	Three Months Ended September 30 2018		2017	
Well production	47 %	48 %		
Purchased	49 %	48 %		
Surface	4 %	4 %		
Total	100 %	100 %		

The components of water production costs are shown in the table below:

	Three Months Ended September 30		
	2018	2017	Change
Purchased water	\$64,578	\$62,041	\$2,537
Purchased power	10,488	9,658	830
Pump taxes	3,752	3,562	190
Total	\$78,818	\$75,261	\$3,557

Administrative and general and other operations expenses increased \$4.4 million to \$48.4 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$44.0 million in the third quarter of 2017. The increase was due primarily to a \$1.2 million increase in the recognition of previously deferred costs associated with the deferred operating revenue, health care cost increase of \$1.2 million, employee wage cost increase of \$1.0 million, and an increase in outside consulting service costs of \$1.0 million, which was partially offset by a \$1.1 million reduction in write-offs of unrecoverable capital costs. Employee and retiree medical expenses are recovered in rates through a balancing account authorized in the 2015 GRC, such that revenues are recovered up to 85% of the variance between adopted and recorded expenses. At September 30, 2018, there were 1,176 employees and at September 30, 2017, there were 1,157 employees.

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Maintenance expense increased \$0.7 million, or 11.7%, to \$6.8 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$6.1 million in the third quarter of 2017, mostly due to increases in transmission and distribution mains and services repairs.

Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$1.8 million, or 9.2%, to \$21.0 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$19.2 million in the third quarter of 2017, due to capital additions.

Income taxes decreased \$6.9 million, to \$11.3 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$18.2 million in the third quarter of 2017. The decrease was mainly due to the federal income tax rate reduction from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018, an increase in tax benefits of \$0.9 million, and a decrease in pre-tax income.

Property and other taxes increased \$0.6 million, or 9.1%, to \$7.1 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$6.5 million in the third quarter of 2017, mostly due to an increase in assessed property values and increased local franchise taxes.

Other Income and Expenses

Net other loss increased \$0.8 million as compared to the same quarter of 2017, principally due to a \$1.3 million increase in new business expenses.

Interest Expense

Net interest expense increased \$1.7 million, or 20.3%, to \$10.3 million in the third quarter of 2018, as compared to \$8.6 million in the third quarter of 2017. The increase was due primarily to an increase in financing for capital investments as well as increased short-term interest rates.

**RESULTS OF THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 OPERATIONS
COMPARED TO THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 OPERATIONS**

Dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise stated

Overview

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, was \$44.9 million or \$0.93 per diluted common share compared to a net income of \$53.5 million or \$1.11 per diluted common share for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, a decrease of \$8.6 million. The decrease in net income was primarily the result of \$5.1 million increase in new business expenses, increase of \$5.0 million in depreciation and amortization, employee wage increases of \$4.0 million and an increase of \$3.5 million interest expense. In addition, there were other changes driven primarily by factors outside the Company's immediate control that decreased net income, including a \$2.7 million reduction in unbilled revenue accrual and a net \$0.5 million decrease in the valuation of our benefit plan investments due to changes in market valuation offset by life insurance proceeds. These decreases to net income were partially offset by aggregate rate increases of \$10.8 million, reflecting general rate increases net of the cost of capital decision for Cal Water.

Operating Revenue

Operating revenue increased \$19.0 million, or 3.8%, to \$523.9 million in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017. The factors that impacted the operating revenue for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to 2017 are as follows:

Net change due to rate changes, usage, and other (1)	\$6,440
MCBA Revenue (2)	4,836
Other balancing account revenue (3)	2,566
Deferral of revenue (4)	5,121
Net operating revenue increase	\$18,963

The net change due to rate changes, usage, and other in the above table was mainly driven by rate increases, which 1. was partially offset by a \$2.7 million decrease in accrued unbilled revenue. The components of the rate increases are as follows:

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General rate case	\$1,805
Escalation rate increases	11,567
Purchased water and pump tax offsets	4,306
Rate base offsets	2,128
Tax cuts jobs act *	(7,967)
Cost of capital *	(4,657)
Total increase in rates	\$7,182

* Customer rates were reduced beginning July 1, 2018. Includes revenue reduction recorded as regulatory liability for the first six months of the year.

The MCBA revenue increase resulted from an increase in actual water production costs relative to adopted water production costs in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017. The actual water production costs increased as a result of an increase in customer consumption in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017. As required by the MCBA mechanism, the increase in actual water production costs relative to adopted water production costs in California also increased operating revenue for the same amount.

The other balancing account revenue consists of the pension, conservation and health care balancing account revenues. Pension and conservation balancing account revenues are the differences between actual expenses and adopted rate recovery. Health care balancing account revenue is 85% of the difference between actual health care expenses and adopted rate recovery. The increase in revenue was mainly due to an increase in actual health care and pension expenses relative to adopted in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017, which was partially offset by a decrease in actual conservation expenses relative to adopted in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017.

The deferral of revenue consists of amounts that are expected to be collected from customers beyond 24 months following the end of the accounting period in which these revenues were recorded. The deferral decreased in the first nine months of 2018 as compared to the first nine months of 2017 due to decrease in the balancing account revenue expected to be collected beyond 24 months, which increases revenue.

Total Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses increased \$20.0 million, or 4.7%, to \$445.2 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$425.2 million in the first nine months of 2017.

Water production costs consists of purchased water, purchased power, and pump taxes. It represents the largest component of total operating expenses, accounting for approximately 43.1% of total operating expenses in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to 42.7% of total operating expenses in the first nine months of 2017. Water production costs increased 5.7% as compared to the same period last year mainly due to an increase in wholesaler rates and an increase of 5.7% in purchased water production.

Sources of water as a percent of total water production are listed in the following table:

	Nine Months	
	Ended	
	September	
	30	
	2018	2017
Well production	47 %	48 %
Purchased	49 %	48 %
Surface	4 %	4 %
Total	100 %	100 %

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The components of water production costs are shown in the table below:

	Nine Months Ended		
	September 30		
	2018	2017	Change
Purchased water	\$ 157,062	\$ 149,731	\$ 7,331
Purchased power	23,830	22,168	1,662
Pump taxes	10,905	9,561	1,344
Total	\$ 191,797	\$ 181,460	\$ 10,337

Administrative and general and other operations expenses increased \$14.9 million, or 12.2%, to \$137.5 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$122.6 million in the first nine months of 2017. The increase was due primarily to a \$4.6 million increase in the recognition of previously deferred costs associated with the deferred operating revenue, pension benefit cost increase of \$2.8 million, employee wage cost increase of \$3.2 million, employee health care cost increase of \$1.9 million, additional uninsured loss expenses of \$1.5 million, and outside consulting service cost increase of \$1.3 million. Employee pension benefit expenses are fully recovered in rates and are tracked in a balancing account, such that revenues are recovered on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to the amounts authorized in the 2015 GRC. Employee and retiree medical expenses are recovered in rates through a balancing account authorized in the 2015 GRC, such that revenues are recovered up to 85% of the variance between adopted and recorded expenses.

Maintenance expense increased \$0.7 million, or 4.3%, to \$17.6 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$16.9 million in the first nine months of 2017, mostly due to increases in transmission and distribution mains and services repairs.

Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$5.0 million, or 8.7%, to \$62.7 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$57.7 million in the first nine months of 2017, mostly due to capital additions.

Income taxes decreased \$12.5 million, or 45.0%, to \$15.4 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$27.9 million in the first nine months of 2017. The decrease was mainly due to the federal income tax rate reduction from 35% to 21%, effective January 1, 2018, an increase in tax benefits of \$0.9 million, and a decrease in pre-tax income. The Company's estimated combined effective income tax rate for 2018 is in the range from 22% to 25%. Property and other taxes increased \$1.6 million, or 8.2%, to \$20.3 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$18.7 million in the first nine months of 2017, due primarily to an increase in assessed property values and increased local franchise taxes.

Other Income and Expenses

Net other loss increased \$4.0 million to \$4.9 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to net other loss of \$0.9 million in the first nine months of 2017, due primarily to a \$5.1 million increase of new business expenses, a \$2.0 million reduction in unrealized income from certain benefit plan investments due to market conditions, and a \$0.6 million decrease in gain on sale of property that was partially offset by a \$1.0 million benefit from Company-owned life insurance.

Interest Expense

Net interest expense increased \$3.5 million, or 14.0%, to \$28.8 million in the first nine months of 2018, as compared to \$25.3 million in the first nine months of 2017. The increase was due primarily to an increase in financing for capital investments as well as increased short-term interest rates.

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REGULATORY MATTERS

2018 California Regulatory Activity

California GRC filing

On July 2, 2018, Cal Water filed a GRC requesting new water infrastructure investments of \$828.5 million in accordance with the rate case plan for all of its regulated operating districts for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The CPUC will evaluate the new water infrastructure improvement investments along with operating budgets to establish water rates that reflect the actual cost of service. The required filing begins an approximately 18-month review process, with any changes in customer rates expected to become effective in 2020. Cal Water has proposed to the CPUC to increase revenues by \$50.7 million, or 7.6%, in 2020; \$31.5 million, or 4.4%, in 2021; and \$33.0 million, or 4.4%, in 2022 as compared to the last authorized revenue. In 75% of Cal Water's service areas, the utility is proposing infrastructure improvements that will cost the typical residential customer less than \$5 per month, and in 90% of service areas, the proposed increase is less than \$6 per month. More than half of Cal Water's proposed \$828.5 million of new infrastructure improvements relate to its transmission and distribution pipeline replacement program, and all are necessary to enhance reliability, augment water supply, and upgrade aging water system infrastructure. The plans also reflect Cal Water's aggressive cost-control measures to reduce operating and administrative costs.

Cost of Capital Application

In April of 2017, Cal Water, along with three other water utilities, filed an application to adopt a new cost of capital and capital structure for 2018. On March 22, 2018, the CPUC adopted a revised decision in the cost of capital proceeding for Cal Water and three other water utilities for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020, establishing for Cal Water a 9.20% return on equity and a 5.51% cost of debt, with a capital structure of 46.60% long-term debt and 53.40% common equity, and an authorized return on rate base of 7.48%, compared with Cal Water's prior return on equity of 9.43%, cost of debt of 6.24%, and authorized return on rate base of 7.94%. The adopted capital structure did not change. The adopted returns on debt and equity will reduce Cal Water's 2018 adopted revenue by approximately \$6.9 million. The CPUC also authorized continuation of the water cost of capital adjustment mechanism, which provides for an adjustment in the return on equity if the cost of long-term debt as defined by an index of utility debt rates varies from the most recent index by 100 basis points or more in 2019 and 2020.

On March 30, 2018, Cal Water submitted an advice letter that established the Cost of Capital Memorandum Account (CoC MA) to track the difference between current rates and rates based upon the new cost of capital adopted by the CPUC as if the new cost of capital had been in effect beginning January 1, 2018.

In May of 2018, Cal Water submitted an advice letter to adopt the new cost of capital and capital structure for 2018 in customer rates. The annual adopted gross revenue reduction associated with the May 2018 filing was \$6.9 million.

The new rates became effective on July 1, 2018.

As of September 30, 2018, Cal Water recorded a \$2.8 million reduction to revenue with a corresponding regulatory liability due to the CoC MA.

2018 Tax Accounting Memorandum Account (TAMA)

On December 22, 2017, the CPUC sent a letter to All Class A and B Water and Sewer Utilities on the subject of "Changes in Federal Tax Rates for 2018." The CPUC required Cal Water to establish a memo account to track the impact of the TCJA on Cal Water. The TAMA will track the revenue requirement impact of the TCJA not otherwise reflected in rates from January 1, 2018 until current rates are modified to reflect all impacts of the TCJA. The Hawaii Water, Washington Water, and New Mexico Water Commissions have similar requirements to track the impact of the changes to the federal tax law. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018, the Company recorded a \$0.2 million and \$5.0 million reduction to revenue, respectively, with a corresponding regulatory liability due to the changes required by the TCJA.

In May of 2018, Cal Water submitted an advice letter to adopt the new federal corporate income tax rate in customer rates. The annual adopted gross revenue reduction associated with the May 2018 filing was \$11.1 million. The new rates became effective on July 1, 2018.

Escalation increase requests

As a part of the decision on the 2015 GRC, Cal Water was authorized to request annual escalation rate increases for 2018 for those districts that passed the earnings test. In November of 2017, Cal Water requested escalation rate

increases in all of its regulated districts. The annual adopted gross revenue associated with the November 2017 filing was \$15.9 million. The new rates became effective on January 1, 2018.

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WRAM and MCBA filings

In April of 2018, Cal Water submitted an advice letter to true up the revenue under-collections in the 2017 annual WRAMs/MCBAs of its regulated districts. A net under-collection of \$50.1 million is being recovered from customers in the form of 12, 18, and greater-than-18-month surcharges. The new rates became effective April 15, 2018. This surcharge is in addition to surcharges/surcredits authorized in prior years which have not yet expired.

Expense Offset filings

Expense offsets are dollar-for-dollar increases in revenue to match increased expenses, and therefore do not affect net operating income. In October of 2017, Cal Water submitted advice letters to request offsets for increases in purchased water costs and pump taxes in five of its regulated districts totaling \$2.2 million. The new rates became effective on January 1, 2018.

In May and June of 2018, Cal Water submitted advice letters to request offsets for increases in purchased water costs and pump taxes in five of its regulated districts totaling \$3.8 million. The new rates became effective on July 1, 2018.

Rate base Offset filings

For construction projects that are authorized in GRCs as advice letter projects, companies are allowed to file rate base offsets to increase revenues after the plant is placed into service. In November of 2017, Cal Water submitted an advice letter to recover \$1.4 million of annual revenue increase for a rate base offset in one of its regulated districts. The new rates became effective on January 1, 2018.

During the first six months of 2018, Cal Water submitted advice letters to recover \$2.1 million of annual revenue increases for rate base offsets in all of its regulated districts. The new rates became effective on July 1, 2018.

California Drought Memorandum Account

In March of 2018, Cal Water submitted an advice letter to request recovery of 2016 and 2017 incremental drought expenses of \$3.2 million. The advice letter requires a Commission resolution and Cal Water may recover less than the requested amount. Cal Water anticipates a decision on the matter by the end of 2018.

Travis Air Force Base

On September 29, 2016, Cal Water entered into a 50-year agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to acquire the water distribution assets of and distribute water to most of Travis Air Force Base beginning in 2018. On May 31, 2017, Cal Water submitted an application to the CPUC seeking approval to distribute water service to most of the base and to establish rates for its service.

The water system utilizes surface water treated at a water treatment plant and groundwater from five wells, and includes distribution piping, storage tanks, hydrants, and other appurtenances to serve about 15,280 active and reserve personnel and civilians on the 6,400-acre base. If approved, Cal Water will make initial capital improvements of about \$12.7 million, with an anticipated capital investment of about \$52.0 million over the 50-year term of the utility service contract. Cal Water included an infrastructure improvement plan for the proposed regulated Travis district in Cal Water's July 2, 2018 GRC filing, proposing a revenue increase of \$4.7 million over the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

2018 Regulatory Activity—Other States

2017 Waikoloa (Hawaii Water) GRC Filings

In December of 2017, Hawaii Water filed GRC applications requesting an additional \$3.8 million in annual revenues for its Waikoloa Village and Resort Systems with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. The GRCs seek recovery of capital investments in the Waikoloa Village and Waikoloa Resort Systems as well as increases in operating expenses since the previous rate case. If approved, the Company anticipates rates would become effective in the fourth quarter of 2018 for the Waikoloa Village systems and the first quarter of 2019 for the Resort systems.

2018 Washington Water GRC Filing

On July 2, 2018, Washington Water submitted a GRC application to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to increase revenues to cover the higher costs of providing a reliable, high-quality water supply. The application requests an increase of \$1.6 million in annual revenue, which is an increase of 13.8% over 2017 revenue. Washington Water is requesting recovery for numerous water system upgrades and additions that Washington Water has made since its last GRC, which include new pumping equipment, water treatment facilities, wells, water mains, and new

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storage. Increases in operating costs are also a factor in the proposed increase. The application reflects increases in materials, equipment, depreciation expense due to the addition of new facilities, and increases in employee wages and health care costs. The Company anticipates new rates to become effective during the fourth quarter of 2018.

LIQUIDITY

Cash flow from Operations

Cash flow from operations for the first nine months of 2018 was \$119.5 million compared to \$109.8 million for the same period in 2017. Cash generated by operations varies during the year due to customer billings, and timing of collections and contributions to our benefit plans.

During the first nine months of 2018, we made contributions of \$42.3 million to our employee pension plan compared to contributions of \$22.2 million made during the first nine months of 2017. During the first nine months of 2018, we made contributions of \$8.0 million to the other postretirement benefit plans compared to contributions of \$2.3 million during the first nine months of 2017. The total 2018 estimated cash contribution to the pension plans is \$42.3 million and to the other postretirement benefit plans is \$9.7 million.

The water business is seasonal. Billed 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 to cover operating and utility plant costs during the winter period. The increase in cash flows during the summer allows short-term borrowings to be paid down. Customer water usage can be lower than normal in drought years and when more than normal precipitation falls in our service areas or temperatures are lower than normal, especially in the summer months.

Investing Activities

During the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, we used \$212.9 million and \$180.4 million, respectively, of cash for company-funded and developer-funded utility plant expenditures. The 2018 budget estimates utility plant expenditures to be between \$240.0 to \$260.0 million. Annual expenditures fluctuate each year due to the availability of construction resources and our ability to obtain construction permits in a timely manner.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$66.5 million during the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$76.6 million of net cash provided by financing activities for the same period in 2017.

During the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, we borrowed \$141.0 million and \$185.0 million, respectively, on our unsecured revolving credit facilities. Repayments of unsecured revolving credit facilities borrowings during the first nine months of 2018 were \$341.0 million and \$87.0 million for the same period in 2017. We issued \$300.0 million of floating rate First Mortgage Bonds on September 13, 2018 (see note 7) in a private placement and the proceeds were mainly used to pay down Cal Water's unsecured revolving credit facility. We also repaid \$11.8 million of First Mortgage Bonds that matured in the first nine months of 2018.

The undercollected net WRAM and MCBA receivable balances were \$60.0 million and \$61.6 million as of September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The undercollected balances were primarily financed by Cal Water using short-term and long-term financing arrangements to meet operational cash requirements. Interest on the undercollected balances, the interest recoverable from customers, is limited to the current 90-day commercial paper rates which is significantly lower than Cal Water's short and long-term financing rates.

Short-term and Long-Term Financing

During the first nine months of 2018, we utilized cash generated from operations and borrowings on the unsecured revolving credit facilities to fund operations and capital investments. We did not sell Company common stock during the first nine months of 2018 and 2017. In future periods, management anticipates funding our utility plant needs through a relatively balanced approach between debt and equity.

Short-term liquidity is provided by our unsecured revolving credit facilities and internally generated funds. Long-term financing is accomplished through the use of both debt and equity. The Company and subsidiaries that it designates may borrow up to \$150.0 million under the Company's revolving credit facility. Cal Water may borrow up to \$300.0 million under its revolving credit facility; however, all borrowings need to be repaid within 24 months unless otherwise authorized by the CPUC. The proceeds from the revolving credit facilities may be used for working capital purposes, including the short-term financing of utility plant projects. The base loan rate may vary from LIBOR plus

72.5 basis points to LIBOR

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plus 95 basis points, depending on the Company's total capitalization ratio. Likewise, the unused commitment fee may vary from 8 basis points to 12.5 basis points based on the same ratio.

As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, there were short-term borrowings of \$75.1 million and \$275.1 million, respectively, outstanding on the unsecured revolving credit facilities.

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

Both short-term credit agreements contain affirmative and negative covenants and events of default customary for credit facilities of this type including, among other things, limitations and prohibitions relating to additional indebtedness, liens, mergers, and asset sales. Also, these unsecured credit agreements contain financial covenants governing the Company and its subsidiaries' consolidated total capitalization ratio not to exceed 66.7% and an interest coverage ratio of three or more. As of September 30, 2018, we are in compliance with all of the covenant requirements and are eligible to use the full amount of our credit facilities.

Bond principal and other long-term debt payments were \$12.5 million during the first nine months of 2018 and \$2.8 million during the first nine months of 2017.

Long-term financing, which includes senior notes, other debt securities, and common stock, has typically been used to replace short-term borrowings and fund utility plant expenditures. On September 13, 2018, we issued \$300.0 million of floating rate First Mortgage Bonds (see note 7) in a private placement to pay down Cal Water's unsecured revolving credit facility. Internally generated funds, after making dividend payments, provide positive cash flow, but have not been at a level to meet the needs of our utility plant expenditure requirements. Management expects this trend to continue given our utility plant expenditures plan for the next five years. Some utility plant 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 generally refundable over 40 years. Management believes long-term financing is available to meet our cash flow needs through issuances in both debt and equity instruments.

Dividends

During the first nine months of 2018, our quarterly common stock dividend payments were \$0.56250 per share compared to \$0.5400 during the first nine months of 2017. For the full year 2017, the payout ratio was 51% of net income. On a long-term basis, our goal is to achieve a dividend payout ratio of 60% of net income accomplished through future earnings growth.

At the October 31, 2018 meeting, the Company's Board of Directors declared the fourth quarter dividend of \$0.1875 per share payable on November 23, 2018, to stockholders of record on November 12, 2018. This was our 295th consecutive quarterly dividend.

2018 Financing Plan

We intend to fund our utility plant needs in future periods through a relatively balanced approach between long-term debt and equity. The Company and Cal Water have a syndicated unsecured revolving line of credit of \$150.0 million and \$300.0 million, respectively, for short-term borrowings. As of September 30, 2018, the Company's and Cal Water's availability on these unsecured revolving lines of credit was \$74.9 million and \$300.0 million, respectively.

Book Value and Stockholders of Record

Book value per common share was \$14.81 at September 30, 2018 compared to \$14.44 at December 31, 2017. There were approximately 1,910 stockholders of record for our common stock as of August 6, 2018.

Utility Plant Expenditures

During the first nine months of 2018, utility plant expenditures totaled \$212.9 million for company-funded and developer-funded projects. The 2018 budget estimates company-funded utility plant expenditures to be between \$240.0 and \$260.0 million. The actual amount may vary from the budget number due to timing of actual payments related to current year and prior year projects. We do not control third-party-funded utility plant expenditures and therefore are unable to estimate the amount of such projects for 2018.

As of September 30, 2018, construction work in progress was \$234.1 million compared to \$195.3 million as of September 30, 2017. Work in progress includes projects that are under construction but not yet complete and placed in

service.

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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.

Historically, approximately 46.5% of our annual water supply is pumped from wells. State groundwater management agencies operate differently in each state. Some of our wells extract ground water from water basins under state ordinances. These are adjudicated groundwater basins, in which a court has settled the dispute between landowners or other parties over how much annual groundwater can be extracted by each party. All of our adjudicated groundwater basins are located in the State of California. Our annual groundwater extraction from adjudicated groundwater basins approximates 6.8 billion gallons or 14.4% of our total annual water supply pumped from wells. Historically, we have extracted less than 100% of our annual adjudicated groundwater rights and have the right to carry forward up to 20% of the unused amount to the next annual period. All of our remaining wells extract ground water from managed or unmanaged water basins. There are no set limits for the ground water extracted from these water basins. Our annual groundwater extraction from managed groundwater basins approximates 28.0 billion gallons or 58.9% of our total annual water supply pumped from wells. Our annual groundwater extraction from unmanaged groundwater basins approximates 12.7 billion gallons or 26.7% of our total annual water supply pumped from wells. Most of the managed groundwater basins we extract water from have groundwater recharge facilities. We are required to pay well pump taxes to financially support these groundwater recharge facilities. Well pump taxes were \$3.8 million and \$3.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, well pump taxes were \$10.9 million and \$9.6 million, respectively. In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The law and its implementing regulations required most basins to select a sustainability agency by 2017, develop a sustainability plan by 2022, and show progress toward sustainability by 2027. We expect that in the future, groundwater will be produced mainly from managed and adjudicated basins.

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 in California replenish underground water aquifers and fill reservoirs, providing the water supply for subsequent delivery to customers. As of September 30, 2018, the State of California snowpack water content during the 2017-2018 water year is 79% of long-term averages (per the California Department of Water Resources, Northern Sierra Precipitation Accumulation report). In January of 2014, California's Governor Brown proclaimed a drought emergency and directed State officials to take all necessary actions to make water immediately available. On April 7, 2017, the Governor declared an end to the drought emergency in 54 of California's 58 counties. Two of Cal Water's districts remain under a declared drought; these were areas where groundwater was impacted by five years of drought conditions. Management believes that supply pumped from underground aquifers and purchased from wholesale suppliers will be adequate to meet customer demand during 2018 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.

On May 31, 2018, California's Governor Brown signed two bills (Assembly Bill 1668 and Senate Bill 606) into law that will establish long-term standards for water use efficiency. The bills revise and expand the existing urban water management plan requirements to include five year drought risk assessments, water shortage contingency plans, and annual water supply/demand assessments. By June 30, 2022, the California State Water Resources Control Board, in conjunction with the California Department of Water Resources, will establish long-term water use standards for indoor residential use, outdoor residential use, water losses and other uses. Cal Water will also be required to calculate

and report on urban water use target by November 1, 2023 and each November 1 thereafter that compares actual urban water use to the target. Management believes that Cal Water is well-positioned to comply with all regulations required of utilities.

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CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Effective April 3, 2018, the City of Commerce has renewed a lease agreement for Cal Water to operate the City of Commerce's water system for the next 15 years. Cal Water has operated the City of Commerce water system since 1985 and is responsible for all operations, maintenance, water quality assurance, and customer service programs to provide a reliable supply of water that meets federal and state standards to customers served by the City of Commerce system. The City of Commerce will remain responsible for financing infrastructure improvements and setting its customers' water rates.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, there were no other material changes in contractual obligations outside the normal course of business.

Item 3.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

We do not hold, trade in or issue derivative financial instruments and therefore are not exposed to risks these instruments present. Our market risk to interest rate exposure is limited because the cost of long-term financing and short-term bank borrowings, including interest costs, is covered in consumer water rates as approved by the Commissions. We do not have foreign operations; therefore, we do not have a foreign currency exchange risk. Our business is sensitive to commodity prices and is most affected by changes in purchased water and purchased power costs.

Historically, the CPUC's balancing account or offsettable expense procedures allowed for increases in purchased water, pump tax, and purchased power costs to be flowed through to consumers. Traditionally, a significant percentage of our net income and cash flows come from California regulated operations; therefore the CPUC's actions have a significant impact on our business. See Item 2, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Regulatory Matters."

Item 4.

CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(c) under the Exchange Act) that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Accordingly, our disclosure controls and procedures have been designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives.

Our management, with the participation of our CEO and our CFO, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2018. Based on that evaluation, we concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

(b) Changes to Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2018, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

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PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time, the Company is involved in various disputes and litigation matters that arise in the ordinary course of business. The status of each significant matter is reviewed and assessed for potential financial exposure. If the potential loss from any claim or legal proceeding is considered probable and the amount of the range of loss can be estimated, a liability is accrued for the estimated loss in accordance with the accounting standards for contingencies. Legal proceedings are subject to uncertainties, and the outcomes are difficult to predict. Because of such uncertainties, accruals are based on the best information available at the time. While the outcome of these disputes and litigation matters cannot be predicted with any certainty, management does not believe when taking into account existing reserves the ultimate resolution of these matters will materially affect the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. In the future, we may be involved in disputes and litigation related to a wide range of matters, including employment, construction, environmental issues and operations. Litigation can be time-consuming and expensive and could divert management's time and attention from our business. In addition, if we are subject to additional lawsuits or disputes, we might incur significant legal costs and it is uncertain whether we would be able to recover the legal costs from customers or other third parties. For more information refer to note 10.

Item 1A.

RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes to the Company's risk factors set forth in Part I, Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year-ended December 31, 2017 filed with the SEC on March 1, 2018.

Item 5.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Company confirmed in a Form 8K filing on April 26, 2018 that it made a proposal to acquire San Jose Water Group (SJW) for \$68.25 per share in an all-cash transaction valued at approximately \$1.9 billion including the assumption of debt. The proposal represented a 20% premium to SJW's closing stock price on April 25, 2018 and was rejected by the SJW Board of Directors.

During the second quarter of 2018, the Company began soliciting proxies in opposition to resolutions related to the pending merger between SJW and Connecticut Water Service, Inc. The Company also commenced a tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares of SJW for \$68.25 per share in cash. The offer was scheduled to expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on September 28, 2018.

After the close of business on Friday, August 10, 2018, the Company submitted a written all-cash proposal to the SJW Board of Directors to acquire 100% of the issued and outstanding SJW Shares for \$70.00 per share in cash. The proposal was rejected by the SJW Board of Directors.

On August 17, 2018, the Company terminated its tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares of SJW for \$68.25 per share in cash.

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Item 6.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit Description

4.0 The Company agrees to furnish upon request to the Securities and Exchange Commission a copy of each instrument defining the rights of holders of long-term debt of the Company

4.1 Sixty-First Supplemental Indenture dated as of September 13, 2018, between California Water Service Company and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, covering Floating Rate First Mortgage Bonds due 2020, Series UUU.

10.1 Credit Agreement dated as of March 10, 2015 among California Water Service Group and certain of its subsidiaries from time to time party thereto, as borrowers, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, swing line lender and letter of credit issuer, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith incorporated, as sole lead arranger and sole bookrunner, CoBank, ACB and U.S. Bank National Association, as co-syndication agents, and Bank of China, Los Angeles Branch, as documentation agent, and the other lender parties thereto (Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 11, 2015)

10.2 Credit Agreement dated as of March 10, 2015 among California Water Service Company, as borrower, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent, swing line lender and letter of credit issuer, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, as sole lead arranger and sole bookrunner, CoBank, ACB and U.S. Bank National Association, as co-syndication agents, and Bank of China, Los Angeles Branch, as documentation agent, and the other lender parties thereto (Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 11, 2015)

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

101.INS XBRL Instance Document

101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document

101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document

101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document

101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirement 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
Registrant

November 1, 2018 By: /s/ Thomas F. Smegal III
Thomas F. Smegal III
Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer