

AMERICAN STATES WATER CO

Form 8-K

July 14, 2009

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

Form 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) July 13, 2009

AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>California</b>   | <b>001-14431</b>         | <b>95-4676679</b>                       |
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization) | (Commission File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer Identification<br>No.) |

**630 East Foothill Blvd.**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>San Dimas, California</b>                | <b>91773</b> |
| (Address of principal executive<br>offices) | (Zip Code)   |

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

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GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>California</b>   | <b>001-12008</b>         | <b>95-1243678</b>                       |
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization) | (Commission File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer Identification<br>No.) |

**630 East Foothill Blvd.**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>San Dimas, California</b>                | <b>91773</b> |
| (Address of principal executive<br>offices) | (Zip Code)   |

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

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

**Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)**

**Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 14a-12)**

**Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))**

**Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))**

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**Section 8-Other Events**

**Item 8.01. Other Events**

On July 14, 2009, American States Water Company (“AWR”) announced that Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services has improved its outlook on AWR and its main utility subsidiary, Golden State Water Co. (“GSWC”) to positive from stable. At the same time, S&P affirmed the 'A' corporate credit rating on AWR and GSWC.

S&P debt ratings range from AAA (highest rating possible) to D (obligation is in default). Securities ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold a security and are subject to change or withdrawal at any time by the rating agency.

A copy of the Company’s press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

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

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**SIGNATURES**

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

Date: July 14, 2009 AMERICAN STATES WATER COMPANY

/s/ Eva G. Tang  
Eva G. Tang  
Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial  
Officer, Corporate Secretary and Treasurer

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY

/s/ Eva G. Tang  
Eva G. Tang  
Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial  
Officer and Secretary

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**Exhibit No.   Description**

99.1            Press Release dated July 14, 2009