



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Education
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**Golden State Water Company Customers in Orange County
to Receive Conservation Refund Credits in Next Two Bills**

Customers awarded nearly \$2.1 million for overall efforts to use less water

San Dimas, CA – Golden State Water Company this month begins providing approximately \$2.1 million in refunds in the form of credits to all 42,000 of its current Orange County customers as a result of overall efforts in the area to reduce water usage in 2009 and 2010.

The money for the credits comes from premium charge penalties Golden State collected from customers who exceeded individual water allocation targets during that period.

Orange County customers overall reduced their water usage by 14 percent compared to average usage established from 2004 to 2006. This result was well above a mandatory 6-percent goal established by Golden State.

Residential customers in Orange County with a 5/8 by 3/4-inch meter will receive a credit of approximately \$14 in each of their next two bills. Customers with larger meters will receive larger refunds. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which regulates Golden State and has a Division of Ratepayer Advocates to work on behalf of all customers, asked the company to credit customers according to the size of their water meters, based on a pre-established rule.

“We are happy to announce our Orange County customers are getting more than just a pat on the back for their efforts to use less water,” said Golden State District Manager Robert Hanford. “While this is a great achievement, we encourage customers to continue to use less water. This will help customers save money on their bills and help the state meet its goal to reduce per capita water consumption by 20 percent by the year 2020.”

As a result of water supply constraints placed on Golden State in 2009 by a major wholesale water provider, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the company introduced a CPUC-approved plan where high water users would pay a premium penalty if they exceeded individual monthly water allocation targets. The premium penalties were held in an account. If the company did not meet its own water allocation goal established by MWD, the penalties collected from customers would be used to pay a penalty imposed by MWD. Since Golden State’s conservation goal with MWD was reached, the money collected from the premium charges are being refunded to all customers in a way that benefits those who conserved.

As a result of improved water supply conditions, the water supply allocation plan is currently not in effect.

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American States Water Company is the parent of Golden State Water Company and American States Utility Services, Inc. Through its utility subsidiary, Golden State Water Company, AWR provides water service to approximately 1 out of every 36 Californians located within 75 communities throughout 10 counties in Northern, Coastal and Southern California (approximately 256,000 customers). The Company also distributes electricity to over 23,000 customers in the Big Bear recreational area of California. Through its contracted services subsidiary, American States Utility Services, Inc., the Company provides operations, maintenance and construction management services for water and wastewater systems located on military bases throughout the country.