

City of Claremont Water Acquisition Timeline

Year	Significant Events
1928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern California Water Company acquires Claremont Domestic Water Company, a small water company serving Claremont.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2004, Claremont officials and Southern California Water Company discuss the possibility of the City buying the water system.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern California Water Company changes its name to “Golden State Water Company.” • In 2005, the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area forms a Task Force to study water services and issues in Claremont. The Task Force concludes: <i>"Support for public acquisition of the local water system, converting the privately owned company to a city-owned water company by the use of public financing, believing that public control is worth the cost, even if high, and has long-range advantages to rate-payers and to the community."</i>
2005-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City continues to discuss the possibility of purchasing the water system with Golden State Water until 2007. City officials abandon efforts to acquire the system after negotiations stall and citizen support wanes.

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<h2>2010</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City protests Golden State Water Company's request for water rate increases every three years with no success on lowering rates. The California Public Utilities Commission grants rate increases that nearly double residents water bills.
<h2>2011</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In March 2011, Golden State Water conducts a survey of surrounding water provider rates. The survey shows Golden State Water rates are higher than all local providers and four times higher than lowest rate.• In July 2011, Golden State Water announces it will request a combined 29.4% rate increase for the years 2012-2014. Through letters, emails, and calls to City Hall, Claremont residents implore the City Council to take action.
<h2>2012</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On January 5, 2012, the City Council holds a special meeting to discuss the proposed rate increases and potential acquisition of the Claremont water system. <p>The City Council directs Best, Best, & Krieger (BB&K) to compile a team of experts to conduct an appraisal and feasibility study to determine the fair market value of the Claremont water system and evaluate the financial and practical feasibility of acquiring the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In November 2012, the City offers Golden State Water \$54 million for the water system. Golden State Water refuses the offer, stating the system is "not for sale."

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2013

- In October 2013, the City revises its purchase offer after receiving an updated appraisal of the water system. The City offers to purchase the system from Golden State for its fair market value of \$55 million. Golden State summarily rejects the City's offer, stating the water system is "not for sale."
- On November 6, 2013, the City's legal team presents the findings of the Feasibility Report at a community meeting. The meeting is attended by over 200 residents and watched live on the internet by another 300 residents. The City Council votes unanimously to move forward in the acquisition process. The Council directs staff to prepare an Environmental Impact Report.
- On December 20, 2013, Golden State Water files a Public Records Request (PRA) lawsuit against the City. The lawsuit requests the release of all documents and information related to the Feasibility Study and appraisal.

2014

- On March 8, 2014, the Council approves the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- On May 19, 2014, Golden State Water files a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuit against the City. The lawsuit alleges the City's Environmental Impact Report is incorrect.
- On June 10, 2014, the Council votes to place a revenue bond measure on the November 4, 2014 General Election Ballot. Revenue bonds are municipal bonds secured against the revenue generated by the water system. Proceeds from

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	<p>the bond would finance the acquisition of the water system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On July 22, 2014, the City Council reviews a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between a citizens group, Claremont Affordable Water Advocates (CAWA) and Golden State Water. The City rejects the agreement.• On July 31, 2014, the City signs an agreement with Golden State Water to drop the CEQA and PRA lawsuits in exchange for the City changing the ballot language and releasing the feasibility study with redactions.• On November 4, 2014, Claremont voters approve the revenue bond, Measure W, by 71.99%.• On November 25, 2014, the City Council unanimously adopts the Resolutions of Necessity. Resolutions of Necessity outline the reasons it is in the public's best interest for the water system to be owned by the City.• On December 9, 2014, the City files an eminent domain lawsuit in the Los Angeles County Superior Court against Golden State Water Company.
<h1>2015</h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golden State Water Company files a challenge to the City's Eminent Domain lawsuit on January 15, 2015.• In April 2015, Golden State Water files a motion to dismiss the case.• On April 30, 2015, the Judge denies motion to

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	<p>dismiss the case and gives the City 60 days to amend the project description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On May 19, 2015, the City offers Golden State Water \$56.3 million for the water system. Golden State Water rejects the City's offer.• On June 23, 2015, the City amends the project description and holds a public hearing to adopt the revised Resolutions of Necessity.• In June 2015, the City files a new project description with the court.
<h1>2016</h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On June 14, 2016, the trial begins on the City's eminent domain case in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Judge Fruin presides.• On August 11, 2016, the trial ends.• On November 10, 2016, Judge Fruin issues tentative decision against the City.• On November 28, 2016, the City files an objection to the Judge Fruin's decision and offers an alternative decision.• On December 6, 2016, the Judge grants judgment, finding the City does not have the right to take Golden State Water's system by eminent domain, dismissing the City's eminent domain action, and orders the City to pay \$7.6 million in litigation expenses to Golden State Water.

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2017

- On January 31, 2017, the City holds a public meeting to gather input on whether to move forward with an appeal. The City hires the law firm, Horvitz & Levy LLP, to analyze the City's case and file a Notice of Appeal.
- February 2, 2017 City files Notice of Appeal with 2nd District Court of Appeals.
- From February to October 2017, Horvitz & Levy LLP reviews the City's case. The attorney advises Council that the City's chance of reversing the court's decision is slim and the best outcome is a partial re-trial.
- In June 2017, the City hires law firm Rutan & Tucker LLP to negotiate with Golden State Water.
- On October 10, 2017, the City Council finalizes a settlement agreement with Golden State Water. Golden State Water agrees to reduce the legal fees owed by the City in exchange for the City dropping the appeal. Should the City file Resolutions of Necessity within 12 years, the City owes Golden State Water the entire judgement amount and loses any interest paid.