

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

February 25, 1997

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Sierra Snow Survey is This Thursday, February 27

Now that Highway 50 is reopened, it should be much easier getting to the Department of Water Resources snow survey site west of Lake Tahoe.

This Thursday's measurement will be the third of five monthly surveys.

Reporters, photographers, and camera crews should gather at the survey site off Highway 50 near Echo Summit **by 11 a.m.** Take Highway 50 east of Sacramento to Sierra-at-Tahoe turnoff. Park about 100 yards down the road. Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis.

If you can't be there, try the cell phone or information officer number listed above.

BACKGROUND: Surveyors from many agencies visit hundreds of snow measurement courses in the Sierra each month to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack. Snow water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide the recreation industry with much needed data. Measurements will continue monthly through May.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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