

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

December 23, 1998

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First Snow Survey for Sierra Nevada on December 29

California Department of Water Resources snow surveyors invite reporters to join them for their first snow-water measurement of the winter on Tuesday, December 29.

Reporters, photographers, and camera crews should be at the "Phillips Station" survey site off Highway 50 near Echo Summit by 11 a.m.

To get there, take Highway 50 east of Sacramento to Sierra-at-Tahoe turnoff and park about 100 yards down the road. Bring cross-country skis or snowshoes.

If you can't be there, you can call the cell phone number shortly before noon for the water measurement and interviews.

Surveyors from various agencies and utilities 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 at Echo Summit through April.

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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. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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