



Advisory
February 24, 2005

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DWR Announces Snow Survey

SACRAMENTO - The next snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, near Lake Tahoe.

The location for the manual survey is the historic Phillips Station site, Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, about 90 miles east of Sacramento. Media representatives are advised to bring snowshoes or cross-country skis. Complete snow course measurements should be available by noon.

Please park only in the permitted area along Highway 50.

Four monthly measurements are made through April to help determine spring runoff into reservoirs.

Two more surveys are scheduled following Tuesday's event, one near the end of March, and the final assessment of the season late in April.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide water content posted on the Internet in date order (newest at the bottom) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/lrreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Importance of Snow Surveying

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 others, such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and

utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses in the Sierra each month to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack.

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.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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