



Advisory
January 4, 2006

Contacts:

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712
- [Frank Gehrke](#), Snow Surveys Office, (916) 574-2635

DWR Announces January 4 Snow Survey Results

SACRAMENTO – Results of the January 4, 2006, snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 near Echo Summit are as follows:

Location	Elevation	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Long Term Average
Echo Summit	7,450 feet	45.3 inches	12.1 inches	98
Lake Audrain	7,300 feet	61.5 inches	19.5 inches	141
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	41.0 inches	11 inches	92
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	45.1 inches	11 inches	95

Today's survey was the first of the 2005-2006 snowfall season. It is not particularly significant in judging how much spring snowmelt runoff may occur because Sierra conditions may change dramatically before spring arrives. Today's data, however, shows that the snowpack is close to normal for this date.

The next survey will take place in approximately one month's time. DWR's Public Affairs Office will issue a news advisory when the February date is confirmed.

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>.

Electronic sensor readings posted today show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 101% of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 148%, and, Southern Sierra at 195%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 145%.

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 California's mountains 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.

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