



Advisory
February 1, 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 February Snow Survey Results

SACRAMENTO – Results of the February 1, 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
Alpha	7,600 feet	61.6 inches	20.3 inches	96
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	56 inches	20.2 inches	103
Lyons Creek	6,700 feet	58.5 inches	17.7 inches	90
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	57.5 inches	18.6 inches	98

Today’s survey was the second of the 2005-2006 snowfall season. DWR Snow Survey Section Chief Frank Gehrke remarked that “it looks like we’re having a normal year so far and there’s nothing on the immediate horizon that indicates we’ll see any major changes.” Today’s findings, however, are not particularly significant in judging how much spring snowmelt runoff may occur because Sierra conditions may change dramatically before spring arrives.

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/lreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Electronic sensor readings posted today show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 111% of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 121%, and, Southern Sierra at 133%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 121%.

The next survey is scheduled for March 1, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. DWR’s Public Affairs Office

will issue a news advisory before the event.

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.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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