



Advisory  
March 1, 2006

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**DWR Announces March Snow Survey Results**

SACRAMENTO – Results of the March 1, 2006, snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 near Echo Summit are as follows:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Elevation</b>	<b>Snow Depth</b>	<b>Water Content</b>	<b>% of Long Term Average</b>
Alpha	7,600 feet	49.7 inches	22.8 inches	81
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	49.9 inches	17.2 inches	70
Lyons Creek	6,700 feet	54.5 inches	21.5 inches	84
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	52.3 inches	18.5 inches	80

Electronic sensor readings posted today show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 96% of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 99%, and, Southern Sierra at 106%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 100%.

Today’s survey was the third of the 2005-2006 snowfall season. DWR Snow Survey Section Chief Frank Gehrke remarked that “The high southern Sierra figure makes the statewide average look pretty good but, actually, the northern and central Sierra are slightly below normal. Fortunately, reservoir storage is good right now but we’d still like to see a few more cold storms come through the mountains before the spring thaw begins.”

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>.

The next survey is scheduled for March 29, 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.

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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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