



Advisory  
January 4, 2007

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**DWR Announces January 4 Snow Survey Results**

SACRAMENTO – Results of the January 4, 2007, 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	29.3 inches	9.3 inches	71
Echo Summit	7,450 feet	22.5 inches	6.8 inches	55
Lake Audrain	7,300 feet	28.3 inches	7.8 inches	57
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	28.6 inches	8.3 inches	69
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	25.4 inches	7.2 inches	62

Today’s survey was the first of the 2006-2007 snowfall season. Although readings show the snowpack at below normal levels for the date, the survey is not particularly significant in judging how much spring snowmelt runoff may occur because mountain conditions could change dramatically before spring arrives.

According to DWR Chief Hydrologist Maury Roos, “we really don’t start worrying about drought conditions unless we’ve had the misfortune of multiple dry years strung together coupled with below average storage conditions. Despite a slow start to this rainy season, we’re coming off several good years in terms of runoff and reservoir storage is still around 120%. We’re only a third of the way through the rainy season for California and one or two good storms can catch us up fairly quickly.”

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/lreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Electronic sensor readings posted today show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 68% of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 55%, and, Southern Sierra at 52%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 59%.

### **Importance of Snow Surveying**

Snow-water content is important in determining the 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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