



News for Immediate Release
 March 2, 2007

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DWR Announces Third 2007 Snow Survey Results

SACRAMENTO – Results of the March 2, 2007 snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 show Sierra snowpack conditions much improved from the previous survey one month ago.

Location	Elevation	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Long Term Average
Alpha	7,600 feet	77.8 inches (e)	22.5 inches (e)	80 (e)
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	63.8 inches	18.2 inches	78
Lyons Creek	6,700 feet	86.6 inches	21.8 inches	85
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	74.7 inches	18.4 inches	79

(e) stands for “estimated.”

Today’s survey was the third of the 2006-2007 snowfall season and DWR Hydrology Branch Chief Arthur Hinojosa says the results are encouraging: “Above average precipitation in February has certainly improved our water supply outlook. Although not enough to offset a very dry January, the latest survey shows statewide average snow pack water content is nearly 65% of average to date compared with only 40% four weeks ago.

DWR Snow Surveys Chief Frank Gehrke says the current readings “put us about where we were at this time last year.”

The most recent electronic sensor readings show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 71% of normal for this date, the Central Sierra at 66%, and, Southern Sierra at 55%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 64%.

Reservoir storage remains above normal and groundwater storage for most areas is good. Information on reservoir levels can be found at

http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/current_conditions.pdf.

In addition to the snow survey results issued today, 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>.

The next survey is tentatively scheduled for March 27. DWR's Public Affairs Office will issue a news advisory confirming the date.

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 snow pack.

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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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