



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Schedules First Snow Survey of 2007-2008 Season

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct its first snow survey of the new winter season at 11 a.m., Thursday, January 3, 2008, near Lake Tahoe.

Phillips Station at Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, about 90 miles east of Sacramento, is the manual survey location. Reporters and photographers should take snowshoes or cross-country skis and park vehicles along Highway 50.

Snow depth and water content figures should be available by noon. The survey will be the first of five monthly measurements that help water supply planners estimate the amount of spring snowmelt runoff into reservoirs.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find the latest real-time estimations of statewide water content posted on the Internet at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

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.

The surveys are particularly significant this year because last year's snowpack yielded only 30 percent of the normal water content. Reservoirs are low, as well, with Lake Oroville holding only 36 percent of its 3.5 million acre foot capacity, 59 percent of average for this time of year. Because less-than-normal water supply conditions exist, the initial State Water Project allocation for 2008 was placed at 25 percent of water contractors' requested amounts.

Snow monitoring is coordinated by DWR 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 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.

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.