



## News for Immediate Release

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### **DWR Schedules Third Snow Survey of 2008 Season**

SACRAMENTO—The season's third manual snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 28, 2008, near South Lake Tahoe.

Historic Phillips Station, Highway 50 and Sierra-at-Tahoe Road (about 90 miles east of Sacramento) is the survey location. Media representatives are advised to bring snowshoes or cross-country skis. Although the course is a short distance from the parking area, snow and ice conditions can make the footing treacherous -- even with snowshoes or skis.

Parking is permitted only along Highway 50...not along Sierra-at-Tahoe Road. The survey area is on private property and the only access permitted is across the porch of the cabin facing Highway 50.

Complete snow course measurements should be available by noon.

Monthly measurements are made through April to help determine spring runoff into reservoirs. In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find real-time readings 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.

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 each month to gauge the amount of water in the State's 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.