



News Advisory

March 17, 2008

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DWR Snow Survey March 26

SACRAMENTO--The fourth 2008 winter snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2008, near Lake Tahoe.

Monthly measurements are made through May to help forecast the amount of spring runoff into reservoirs. The fourth survey, normally conducted during the last week of March or the first week of April, is generally considered to be the most important in gauging how much water is being held in the Sierra snow pack.

The latest posting of electronic sensor readings put the statewide percentage of normal for this date at 103 percent.

Reporters can find the statewide water content figures posted on the Internet at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>.

Historic Phillips Station, Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road (about 90 miles east of Sacramento) is the site of the March 26 manual survey. Complete snow course measurements should be available by noon.

Media representatives are advised to bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and to park only in the permitted area along Highway 50...not along Sierra at Tahoe Road.

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 monitor the amount of water in the State's snowpack.

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.

