



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **DWR Schedules Final Snow Survey of 2009-2010 Season**

SACRAMENTO -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct its final snow survey of the 2009-2010 season at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 30, near Lake Tahoe.

#### **Survey Location and Results**

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 bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and park vehicles along Highway 50.

Snow depth and water content figures should be available by 1 p.m. This survey is the last of five measurements that help water supply planners estimate the amount of spring snowmelt runoff into reservoirs.

#### **Water Supply Threats**

Even though spring storms allowed an April 23 increase in the State Water Project (SWP) water delivery allocation to 30 percent of requested amounts, storage in the Project's main reservoir (Lake Oroville in Butte County) remains below average.

Electronic sensors currently measure statewide Sierra Nevada snow water content at 132 percent of normal for this time of year. The snowpack water content was at just 66 percent of average at this time last year. Despite the major improvement in snowpack conditions, conservation remains a necessity to maximize use of 2010 water supplies.

Restrictions on Delta pumping to protect native fish species continue to have a significant impact on SWP deliveries.

DWR is working toward a comprehensive solution that must include additional water storage and an alternate Delta conveyance. These measures would increase water supply reliability for farms, businesses and homes and benefit fisheries. An alternate Delta conveyance would allow water deliveries while avoiding pumping hazards to the most vulnerable fish species.

### **Importance of Snow Surveying**

Snow water content is important in determining 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 needed data.

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 in California's mountains 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.*