



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 26, 2017

Contacts:

Doug Carlson, Information Officer – (916) 653-5114

Doug.Carlson@water.ca.gov

Ted Thomas, Information Officer – (916) 653-9712

Ted.Thomas@water.ca.gov

Elizabeth Scott, Information Officer – (916) 712-3904 (mobile at survey site)

Elizabeth.Scott@water.ca.gov

The Year's Second Snow Survey on February 2 Water Year 2017 Shaping Up as One of the Wettest Ever

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will host the news media on February 2 for the second manual snow survey at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada. Frank Gehrke, chief of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program, will begin the survey at 11 a.m. just off Highway 50 near Sierra-at-Tahoe Road about 90 miles east of Sacramento. The survey will determine the water content of the snow at Phillips.

The first months of Water Year 2017 (October 1 to today) have been exceptionally wet in California due to atmospheric river storms and rainfall from lesser storms that drenched the state. All three regions DWR monitors continuously for rainfall had recorded more by January 23 than their annual averages for the entire water year, which runs from October 1 through September 30.

The Phillips snow course has been [measured each winter](#) since 1941 and is one of hundreds that will be traversed during a 10-day period around February 1 to determine the water content of the snowpack, which normally contributes about 30 percent of California's water when it melts. Manual readings supplement DWR's electronic data.

Resources:

Electronic snowpack readings from approximately 100 "snow pillows" in the Sierra Nevada are available at the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC), [Snow Water Equivalents](#). For earlier readings, click the calendar icon below the map, select a date, then Refresh Data.

Water Year 2017 rainfall can be found at CDEC [Precipitation](#); look in the right-hand column for the Northern Sierra 8-station index for updated rainfall readings in the critical northern portion of the state. The San Joaquin 5-station and Tulare Basin 6-station links are also on this page.

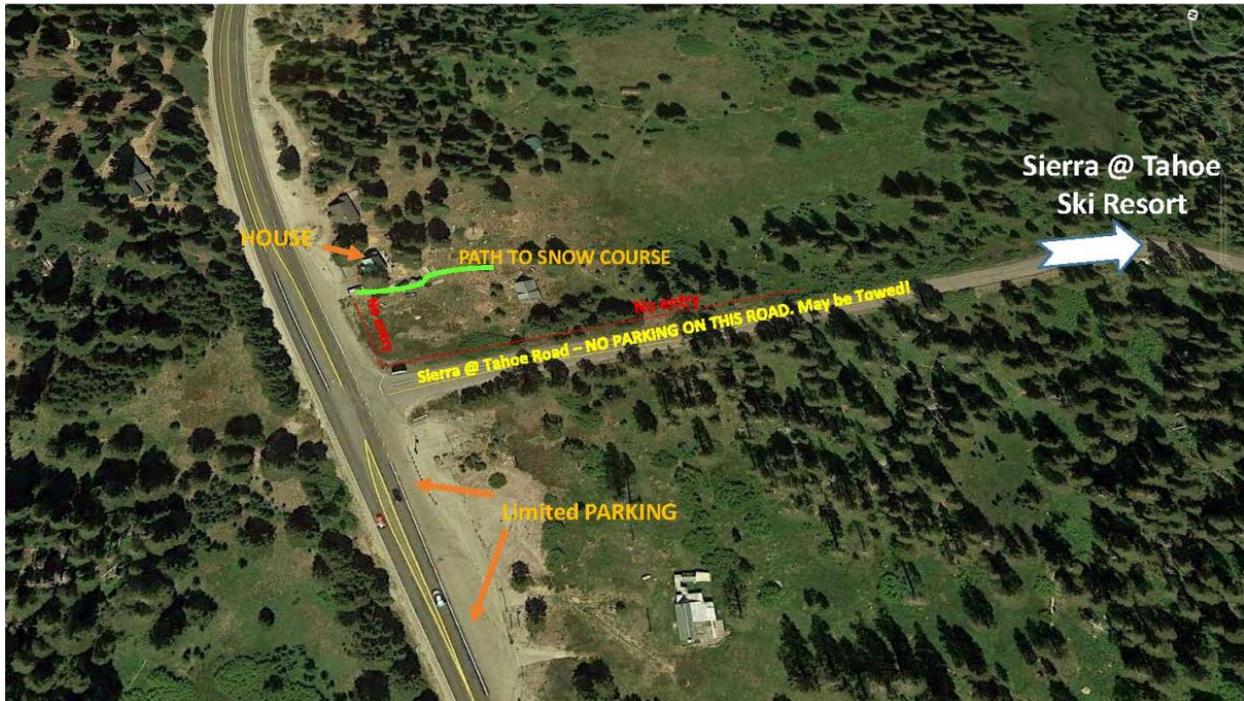
For current electronic storage readings, go to CDEC [Reservoirs](#).

Media seeing video of the survey should allow time for processing and then visit DWR's [File Transfer System](#). Still photography will be found at DWR's photo library, [Pixel](#).

Media Driving and Parking:

Media should stay aware of road conditions and be prepared to equip vehicles with chains. Arrival at Phillips by 10:30 a.m. at the latest will allow time for parking in designated locations on Highway 50 or, if all parking spaces are filled, for shuttle service from Lot E at Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort. Media should not arrive before 10 a.m. due to

the landowner's concerns; early arrivals may be towed. Avoid blocking the driveway at the landowner's home. Parking zones are indicated in the graphic below. Note that no parking is allowed along Sierra-at-Tahoe Road. The survey will begin at 11 a.m., with results distributed in a press release by early afternoon. Snowshoes are recommended for walking in deep snow.



See map below for location of Lot E at Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort, where spillover parking will be sent if space along Highway 50 is not available:



Statewide Snowpack Water Content – February 1 Average (17.75 inches)

Year	Percent of February 1 Average
2002	110
2003	101
2004	111
2005	163
2006	122
2007	42
2008	116
2009	58
2010	111
2011	129
2012	37
2013	87
2014	14
2015	23
2016	116

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared a state of drought emergency on January 17, 2014. Visit [the State's drought page](#) to learn how California is dealing with the effects of the drought. For water conservation information, visit [Save Our Water](#).

