



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 24, 2017

Contacts:

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

Ted.Thomas@water.ca.gov

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

Doug.Carlson@water.ca.gov

Maggie Macias, Information Officer – 916-835-2016 (On-Site Mobile)

Next Manual Snow Survey at Phillips Set for March 30

Sierra Nevada Snowpack Usually Peaks around April 1

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will host the news media on March 30 for this winter's fourth 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.

Water Year 2017, which runs from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, has recorded extraordinary rainfall and snowfall in the Sierra Nevada range. The three regions DWR monitors continuously for rainfall have had nearly twice their average rainfall so far this year.

The statewide snowpack's water content as determined by electronic readings also has been far above since early January. The statewide water content today is 44.7 inches, which is 160 percent of this date's historical average.

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 April 1 to determine the water content of the snowpack, which normally contributes about 30 percent of California's water. 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](#).

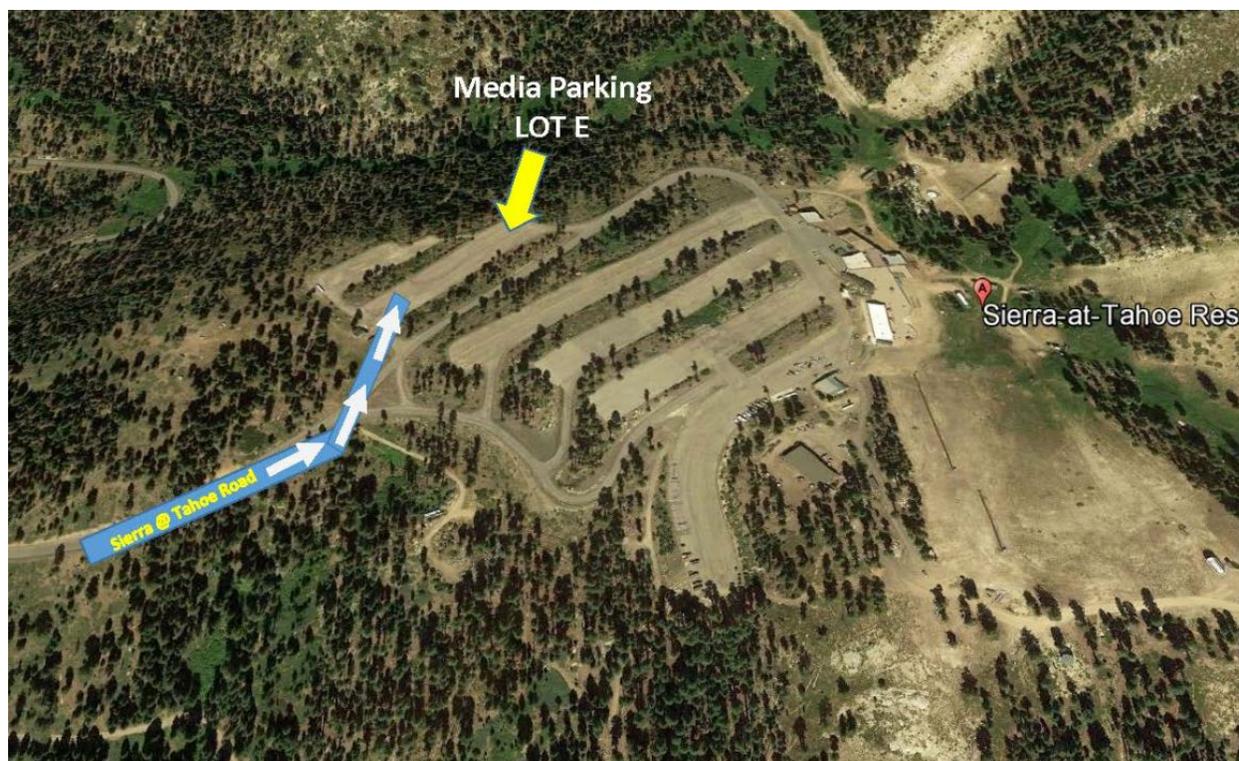
Media seeing video of the survey should allow time for processing and then visit DWR's [File Transfer System](#). Still photography will be found at DWR's photo library, [Pixel](#).

Media Driving and Parking:

Media should stay aware of road conditions, including washouts and landslides, 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:



For water conservation information, visit [Save Our Water](#).

