NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DWR Schedules Next Manual Snow Survey on April 1; Snowpack Likely To Set Record for Meager Water Content
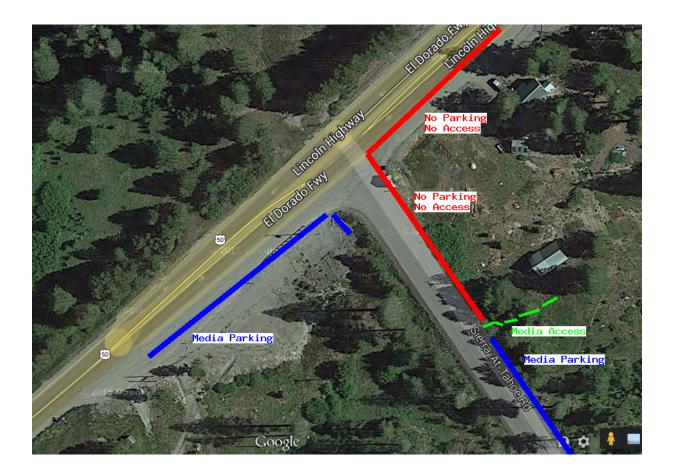
SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct this year's fourth manual snow survey for the media on April 1 just off Highway 50 near Sierra-at-Tahoe Road approximately 90 miles east of Sacramento.

Electronic readings show that the Sierra Nevada snowpack's water content is lower than any year in records going back to 1950 – just 8 percent of the historical average in late March. (A list of the statewide snow water equivalents on April 1 from 1950 through 2014 can be found at the end of this advisory.)

The snowpack has been in decline since the first manual survey was taken on December 30, when electronic readings found the statewide snow water equivalent at 50 percent of that date's historical average. The statewide readings on the second and third survey dates were 25 percent of the January 29 average and 19 percent of the March 3 average.

The media survey at Phillips Station is one of more than 230 snow courses that will be measured during a 10-day window around April 1 to determine the statewide snowpack, which normally contributes about 30 percent of California's water when it melts. Below-normal precipitation, combined with unusually warm weather, has produced meager snowfall during the traditional wet season. The snowpack normally is at its peak on April 1, which historically is the seasonal total.

Barring an unexpected change in the weather, chains will not be required for vehicles, but media should be attentive to conditions. The survey will begin at 11 a.m., with results available by early afternoon. **Media should not arrive before 10 a.m. due to the landowner's concerns. Early arrivals may be towed. Parking zones are indicated in this graphic:**

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared a state of drought emergency on January 17, 2014. Visit Drought.CA.Gov to learn how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

Electronic snowpack readings are available on the Internet at:
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action

Water Year 2015 precipitation is available here:
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow_rain.html

Electronic reservoir readings may be found at:
http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action

For a broader snapshot of current and historical weather conditions, see DWR's Drought and Water Conditions pages:
California's Most Significant Droughts--Comparing Historical and Recent Conditions:
http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/docs/California_Signficant_Droughts_2015_small.pdf
Drought Breaking News Page:
http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/

Water Conditions Page:
http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/waterconditions.cfm
For water conservation tips, visit Save Our Water: http://saveourwater.com

California Snowpack --
Percent of Statewide April 1 Average (30 inches)

Year	Percent of Average
1950	107
1951	63
1952	237
1953	97
1954	105
1955	66
1956	135
1957	70
1958	171
1959	62
1960	63
1961	60
1962	152
1963	45
1964	66
1965	97
1966	83
1967	134
1968	70
1969	224
1970	67
1971	114
1972	54
1973	148
1974	117
1975	149
1976	37
1977	25
1978	152
1979	104
1980	127
1981	69
1982	130
1983	227
1984	79
1985	98
1986	122
1987	59
1988	29
1989	80
1990	45
1991	83
1992	60
1993	157
1994	52
1995	182
1996	99
1997	82
1998	158
1999	109
2000	100
2001	62
2002	93
2003	66
2004	83
2005	137
2006	125
2007	39
2008	102
2009	83

2010	104
2011	171
2012	52
2013	42
2014	25

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.