



## News for Immediate Release

January 3, 2008

**Contacts:** Don Strickland, Information Officer (916) 653-9515  
 Elissa Lynn, Senior Meteorologist (916) 574-2221  
 Ted Thomas, Information Officer (916) 653-9712  
 Frank Gehrke, Snow Surveys Office (916) 574-2635

SACRAMENTO – Results of the January 3, 2008, snow survey by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 near Echo Summit are as follow:

Location	Elevation	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Long Term Average
Echo Summit	7,450 feet	26 inches	7.8 inches	63
Lake Audrain	7,300 feet	30.3 inches	9.7 inches	70
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	29.2 inches	7.3 inches	60
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	28.9 inches	7.1 inches	61

Today's survey was the first of the 2007-2008 snowfall season. Although readings show the snowpack at below normal levels for the date...rain, snow and wind are predicted for Northern California starting late today, with precipitation expected all day Friday. The Central Valley forecast calls for several inches of rain, while at least five feet of snow is expected in high Sierra elevations.

Arthur Hinojosa, Chief of DWR's Hydrology Branch, says Sierra snow levels are expected to begin at 6000 feet and drop to below 4000 feet through the weekend with another weaker system forecast across Northern California early next week. "The pending storms should provide the State with a much needed helping of snow," said Hinojosa. "We hope to get close to the January average precipitation for the Northern Sierra over the next week."

The next survey will take place in approximately one month's time. DWR's Public Affairs Office will issue a news advisory when the February date is confirmed.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide water content posted on the Internet at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>.

Electronic sensor readings show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 64% of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 53%, and Southern Sierra at 69%. Statewide, the percentage of normal is 60.

### Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the 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.

The surveys are particularly significant this year because last year's snowpack yielded only 40 percent of the

normal water content. Reservoirs are low, as well, with Lake Oroville holding only 35 percent of its 3.5 million acre foot capacity, 55 percent of average for this time of year. Because less-than-normal water supply conditions exist, the initial State Water Project allocation for 2008 was placed at 25 percent of water contractors' requested amounts.

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 in California's mountains each month 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.*

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.