



News Advisory

April 15, 2008

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DWR Sets Final Snow Survey of 2008 Season

SACRAMENTO--The fifth and final snow survey of the 2008 winter season by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 1, 2008, at Phillips Station, Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road (about 90 miles east of Sacramento) near Lake Tahoe.

Monthly measurements are made from January to May to help forecast the amount of spring runoff into reservoirs.

On April 15, electronic sensors indicated that water content in the snow pack was 82 percent of normal for the date.

Snow depth and water content have declined since the April survey, when water content statewide was just under 100 percent of normal despite a dry March. Continuing dry conditions and court-imposed restrictions on water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are limiting State Water Project deliveries to farms and cities. Federal Judge Oliver Wanger imposed restrictions in December to protect the threatened Delta smelt from Delta pumping operations of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project. The State Water Project this year is projected to deliver only 35 percent of requested amounts to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California.

In addition to the winter's monthly, manual water content measurements, reporters and others can find real-time electronic readings posted on the Internet at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>.

Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming 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.

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 each month to monitor the amount of water in the state's snow pack.

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.