5 KEY FACTS!

About the April 1st Snowpack Measurement

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Snowpack is vital to California's water supply, naturally replenishing the state's reservoirs in advance of the dry summer and fall months. Snowpack normally provides one-third of the water used by California's cities and farms each year. However, this year's April snowpack measurements are well below average, indicating a continuation of the ongoing drought. The reduced snowpack points to decreased water supply allocations and increased conservation measures implemented throughout California.

1 **PRECIPITATION IS AN ESSENTIAL NATURAL RESOURCE FOR CALIFORNIA**

The state receives most of its precipitation during the winter months. From October to March, snow accumulates at high elevations in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades.

2 **CALIFORNIA SNOWPACK SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT NATURAL STORAGE RESERVOIR**

During the warmer months from April to July, snowmelt feeds tributaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, providing necessary water for the State Water Project, Central Valley Project, and northern California water users.

3 **SNOWPACK MEASUREMENT IS A COLLABORTIVE EFFORT BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) coordinates the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program, which gathers data and funding from over 50 federal, state, and private agencies.

4 **THE SNOW SURVEY IS USED TO FORECAST THE VOLUME OF SEASONAL RUNOFF**

Four times a year the DWR issues Bulletin 120, which contains forecasts of the volume of seasonal runoff from major watersheds and summaries of precipitation, snowpack, reservoir storage, and runoff.

5 **THE APRIL 1ST SNOW SURVEY IS GENERALLY WHEN CALIFORNIA SNOWPACK IS AT ITS PEAK**

California's abysmal snowpack measurements indicate a third straight year of the drought. Worsening conditions, as the state heads into the summer and fall, suggest reduced water supply allocations and new conservation mandates may soon follow.