

Soda Springs gives new meaning to yellow snow

By Ryan Sabalow, Sacramento Bee

Should El Niño not live up to the hype and dump heavy snow on the Sierra, skiers and sledders at one resort could be gliding downhill this winter on snow that comes from an unusual source: purified water from the local sewage-treatment plant.

In a testament to how water-dependent industries are adapting amid California's four-year drought, Soda Springs Mountain Resort this winter will be the first in California to use recycled wastewater for its snow-making system. The water will come from a nearby Donner Summit Public Utility District treatment plant that just received a \$24 million upgrade.

Managers at the resort and water district officials assured customers Monday that the snow will be made from "pathogen-free, crystal clear," highly treated water and that the recycled product actually will be safer than man-made snow transformed from surface water.

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