



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • www.mwdh2o.com

Contacts: Tim Skrove, (951) 313-6617, cell
Bob Muir, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, cell

Feb. 29, 2008

WILDFLOWERS RETURN TO DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE

Spectacular displays of wildflowers are returning to Diamond Valley Lake near Hemet and should continue to bloom for the next several weeks, Metropolitan Water District officials announced today.

“California poppies are once again highlighting the wide palette of flowers now blooming along the northeast shoulders of the lake,” said Metropolitan General Manager Jeff Kightlinger. “After a two-year hiatus, this year’s display promises to be among the finest wildflower viewing opportunities in Southern California, offering beautiful vistas of hillsides ablaze in the blues, yellows, reds and oranges of various native wildflowers.

“Several years ago, wildflowers virtually carpeted the hills along these trails,” said Kightlinger, “and we are hopeful this year’s offering will do the same. Better still, the visual feast is readily accessible through several miles of easy-to-moderate trails that begin in the lake’s marina.”

Visitors can reach the Diamond Valley Lake marina and trailhead via the lake’s east entrance at Searl and Domenigoni parkways. There is a \$7 entrance/parking fee, which includes a trail map and wildflower identification booklet. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the marina.

The trail system includes a two-mile portion of the Lakeview Trail (four miles round trip), which is relatively flat and provides tremendous views of hillside flowers as well as the 4,500-surface-acre lake, Southern California’s largest freshwater reservoir. Several more strenuous loop trails, which are only open during wildflower season, break off from the Lakeview Trail into the surrounding hills.

In addition to the wildflower area, the Lakeview Trail continues for more than 21 miles around the lake, and has proven to be popular for longer walks and with mountain bike enthusiasts.

more

The lake also offers the 5.9-mile North Hills Trail, which is outside of the reservoir's watershed and is open to hikers and equestrians. This trail can be entered from either Searl Parkway or the lake's west entrance off Winchester Road.

All trails are open from sunrise to one half hour before sunset. For more information, contact (800) 590-LAKE or visit dvlake.com.

###

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.