



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE TO REOPEN
TO PRIVATE BOATING IN MID-DECEMBER
**Early completion of boat launch ramp clears way to reopen
premier Southland fishing lake to private boat launches**

The holiday celebration will come a little earlier for boaters and anglers this year at one of the premier fishing destinations in Southern California, as the Metropolitan Water District today announced plans to reopen Diamond Valley Lake to private boat launches in mid-December.

Following completion of the lake's boat launch ramp more than two months ahead of schedule, Diamond Valley Lake near Hemet in southwest Riverside County will reopen to private boating Sunday, Dec. 20. The lake will reopen Sunday, Dec. 13 for current annual pass holders.

"We've been waiting for this day from the moment we had to close the lake to public boating in October 2008," said Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger. "We can't wait for people throughout the West to get their boats back on the water and sample the world-class fishing Diamond Valley Lake offers."

Metropolitan suspended private boat launches as record low water levels dropped below the lake's previous launch ramp. Nearly doubling the region's surface water storage capacity when it was dedicated in 2000, the lake has a storage capacity of 810,000 acre-feet of water, with a surface water elevation of 1,756 feet above sea level. Soon after Diamond Valley reached its capacity in June 2006, Metropolitan began drawing on its stored supplies to meet member agency needs at the onset of the drought, dropping lake levels by more than 100 feet.

Since October, the district has seized the opportunity provided by the low lake levels to complete the boat launch ramp. In the meantime, Metropolitan also has taken advantage of the completion of the Inland Feeder project to increase water deliveries and raise the lake levels by 10 feet over the past month to 384,153 acre-feet. An acre-foot of water is nearly 326,000 gallons, about the amount used by five to seven people in a year.

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Kightlinger cautioned that the region still faces water supply challenges due to drought and environmental restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in Northern California.

“If the state experiences another dry year or water deliveries from Northern California continue to be reduced because of pumping restrictions in the Delta, we might have to suspend private boat launches sometime next year if the lake falls to unsafe levels,” Kightlinger said.

Under today’s announcement, some lake user fees will be adjusted to help offset the costs of extending three lanes of Diamond Valley’s 11-lane boat launch ramp by 228 feet. While visitors will continue to pay a \$7 entrance fee per vehicle and a \$3 per person fishing access fee, the boat launch fee has been doubled to \$12. In addition, annual passes have increased to \$450 per person.

As was the case prior to the suspension, all boats—power boats, fishing boats, sailboats, rowboats, kayaks, canoes and certain types of catamarans—and respective engines must pass inspection and be registered to be allowed on the lake once it reopens. All boats also must be inspected for quagga mussels.

Beginning this Saturday, Dec. 5, boat owners can have their crafts inspected and registered at Diamond Valley Lake and at the nearby Lake Skinner Recreation Area, 37701 Warren Road, Temecula. However, quagga inspections for Diamond Valley Lake can only be done at the lake. Inspections will be available daily from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both locations.

For more information on Diamond Valley Lake, the reopening of the launch lanes or to make a reservation, visit www.dvlake.com or call the marina office at (951) 926-7201 or (800) 590-LAKE.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 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.