



- **Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly SUPPLEMENTAL Activity Report – September 2023**

## **Late Activity in September – the Passing of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**

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On September 29<sup>th</sup>, immediately after Senator Dianne Feinstein's death the night before, I convened our Board's Facilities Naming Ad Hoc Committee to consider naming a facility honoring the Senator, in time to announce their recommendation beginning our naming process in a statement by the General Manager Hagekhalil and myself. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed to recommend Diamond Valley Lake. We later received communications from Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), and I have had conversations with others suggesting consideration of the Colorado River Aqueduct and state facilities that Metropolitan and other large water purveyors support.

Earlier in the week, I had a conversation with General Manager Hagekhalil, who had visited the Senator's office during the prior week of September 17<sup>th</sup>. The General Manager shared that during his visit with the Senator's staff, there was a discussion about naming a Metropolitan Facility after the Senator, anticipating that she might be available to attend. We both discussed Diamond Valley Lake as a potential site before her death, and I intended to announce at October's Board Meeting that he and I would like to jointly nominate it for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee. With the Senator's passing, I decided to convene the Ad Hoc Committee to symbolize the depth of our institutional respect for Senator Feinstein.

In light of the creative responses from EMWD and others for consideration of naming larger facilities honoring the late Senator, and after consultation with Ad Hoc Committee Chair Camacho, we are referring those recommendations back to the Ad Hoc Committee. Senator Feinstein left a legacy impacting Metropolitan and water suppliers throughout the state and deserves the highest honor we may be able to accord.

Water is a complex issue, and the State's water suppliers were very fortunate to have had a champion such as Senator Feinstein. It is important to demonstrate that such efforts on behalf of water stewardship can be legacy-building, which Senator Feinstein's efforts will inspire as an example to other leaders and the public.