



- **Board of Directors**
Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Naming

6/11/2024 Board Meeting

7-10

Subject

Approve the nomination and naming of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Metropolitan Board Vice Chair, Judy Abdo; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan's Facilities Naming Policy Principle establishes approved standard criteria and procedures to submit a naming request for consideration by Metropolitan's Board. The Board has received a nomination by Board Vice Chair, Nancy Sutley and the Facilities Naming Ad Hoc Committee to make a recommendation to name the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Board Vice Chair, Judy Abdo, in recognition of her legacy of service to Metropolitan and civic organizations within Metropolitan's service area.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Approve the nomination and naming of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Metropolitan Board Vice Chair, Judy Abdo

Fiscal Impact: Minimal costs consisting of the estimated cost to provide signage for the facility. Staff work would be required to update the name of the project/facility on documents and information materials.

Business Analysis: Approval of nomination and naming of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Ms. Abdo will demonstrate her substantial, important and positive impact upon Metropolitan as a member of its Board for 28 years and her civic achievements of the highest distinction in a public service role, while maintaining close ties with and providing significant support to Metropolitan.

Option #2

Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: If the nomination and naming are not approved, Metropolitan would forgo the opportunity to acknowledge the positive impact and civic achievements of Ms. Abdo and her significant support to Metropolitan.

Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 51324, dated September 11, 2018, the Board adopted the proposed Metropolitan Facilities Naming Policy Principle as a Board-Adopted Policy Principle.

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Not applicable

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities; personnel-related actions; and/or general policy and procedure making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is responsible for its facilities, including construction of new facilities, and operations and maintenance of existing facilities. A Metropolitan facility may be named or renamed after an individual, group of individuals, or an organization. The primary criteria for naming or renaming a Metropolitan facility is to honor an individual, group of individuals, or organization that has or have had a substantial, important, and positive impact upon Metropolitan as a member of its Board or as an employee, and/or demonstrated personal achievements of the highest distinction in a public service role, while maintaining close ties with and providing significant support to Metropolitan.

Judy Abdo Nomination

Judy Abdo has served on the Metropolitan Board of Directors representing the City of Santa Monica for 28 years, making her the longest-serving female board member in Metropolitan's history.

She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board for Organizational Integrity and Accountability and is a member of the Executive Committee. She also sits on the Legislation and Communications Committee and Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities.

Ms. Abdo is a staunch advocate for securing clean, reliable, and sustainable water supplies in Southern California. With unwavering dedication, she has championed causes such as enhanced water conservation and the safeguarding of our precious sources of drinking water. Her passion for conservation was literally put on display when she occasionally donned a cape during committee and board meetings as a crusader for conservation during consideration of key water-saving actions and discussions. Ms. Abdo was also an early board supporter of establishing the "California Friendly®" registered trademark in the early 2000s to identify and highlight the beauty and water-saving attributes of native plants and landscaping-

A Santa Monica council member from 1988 to 1996, Ms. Abdo served two terms as the city's mayor (1990 to 1991 and 1992 to 1994). She is a vice chair of the First 5 LA Commission and co-chairs Santa Monica Forward. She is a member of the Electric Vehicle Subcommittee of the Santa Monica Environmental Task Force and serves on the board of the Ocean Park Association.

Ms. Abdo retired as the director of child development services for the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District. She was the assistant director of the Norton Family Office and Peter Norton Family Foundation, and she also served four years as council deputy for the City of West Hollywood, and as director of the nonprofit Ocean Park Community Organization. Ms. Abdo was an elementary school teacher for 13 years and the administrator of the Church in Ocean Park.

Ms. Abdo was a long-time member of the steering committee of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights; she served as chair of the Urban Forest Task Force and the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, which she founded.

Ms. Abdo is a member of the Santa Monica Early Education and Childcare Task Force and has been a member of the Lifelong Learning Steering Committee for the Committee for Excellent Public Schools, and the Ocean Park Community Center. She was a founder of Sojourn, a shelter for battered women and children and a former board member of the Neighborhood Support Center and Santa Monica AIDS Project.

Ms. Abdo has served as liaison to Santa Monica's Planning Commission, Environmental Task Force, Airport Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Older Americans, Arts Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission. She has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of California, Santa Barbara and completed graduate work in human development at Pacific Oaks College.


The Board received a nomination by Board Vice Chair, Nancy Sutley, to name a facility in honor of Vice Chair Abdo in recognition of her legacy of service to Metropolitan and civic organizations within Metropolitan’s service area. (**Attachment 1**)

On May 16, 2024, the Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Naming considered the nomination and recommended to rename the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake as the Judy Abdo Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake (**Attachment 2**). Letters of support for this honor have been submitted by Phil Brock, Mayor of the City of Santa Monica and former LA County Supervisor and Board Chair Sheila Kuehl. (**Attachment 3**)



 Susan B. Sims
 Group Manager – External Affairs

6/6/2024
Date



 Adel Hagekhalil
 General Manager

6/6/2024
Date

Attachment 1 – Nomination Submittal

Attachment 2 – Diamond Valley Lake Trail System Map

Attachment 3 – Letters Supporting Nomination



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Metropolitan Facilities Naming Request Form

It is the policy of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (“Metropolitan”) acting through its Board of Directors to name and rename facilities. The naming and renaming criteria and procedures are available in the **Metropolitan Facilities Naming Policy Principle**. This form shall be used by an individual, groups of individuals or organization proposing names for new Metropolitan facilities or the renaming of existing Metropolitan facilities.

1. Name for consideration: Judy Abdo

- Board to select appropriate Metropolitan facility
- Facility proposed for naming or renaming: Diamond Valley Lake Trails System

2. The criteria which the proposed name meets or satisfies: (check all that apply)

- Substantial, important and positive impact upon Metropolitan as a member of its Board or staff
- Personal achievements of highest distinction in a public service role, while maintaining close ties with and providing significant support to Metropolitan
- Names that have historical or regional significance to the facility or location, ordinarily not for living persons
- Other: _____

3. Provide supporting documentation, as available:

- A memorandum giving the particulars of the naming request that includes the rationale for the naming, referring to relevant criteria;
- Background and information about the individual, group of individuals, or organization for which the facility is to be named or renamed;
- Letters of support for this request;
- Other information that may be relevant to the potential implementation of the request such as historical photographs and articles;
- A list of other facilities named, or being proposed to be named or renamed after the same individual, group of individuals or organizations, including location and date.

You may be contacted by Metropolitan staff for additional information, if needed.

Name of Requestor: Metropolitan Vice-Chair Nancy Sutley

Mailing Address: 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles

Telephone: Contact via Board Executive Officer **Email:** NSutley@mwdh2o.com

Signature: APPROVED BY DIR. SUTLEY 5/13/2024

Please mail this application and supporting documents to: Metropolitan Board of Directors, P.O. 54153, Los Angeles, CA 90054-053 or ssims@mwdh2o.com

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Facilities Naming Request Form

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Diamond
Valley Lake

The jewel of California Lakes

trails

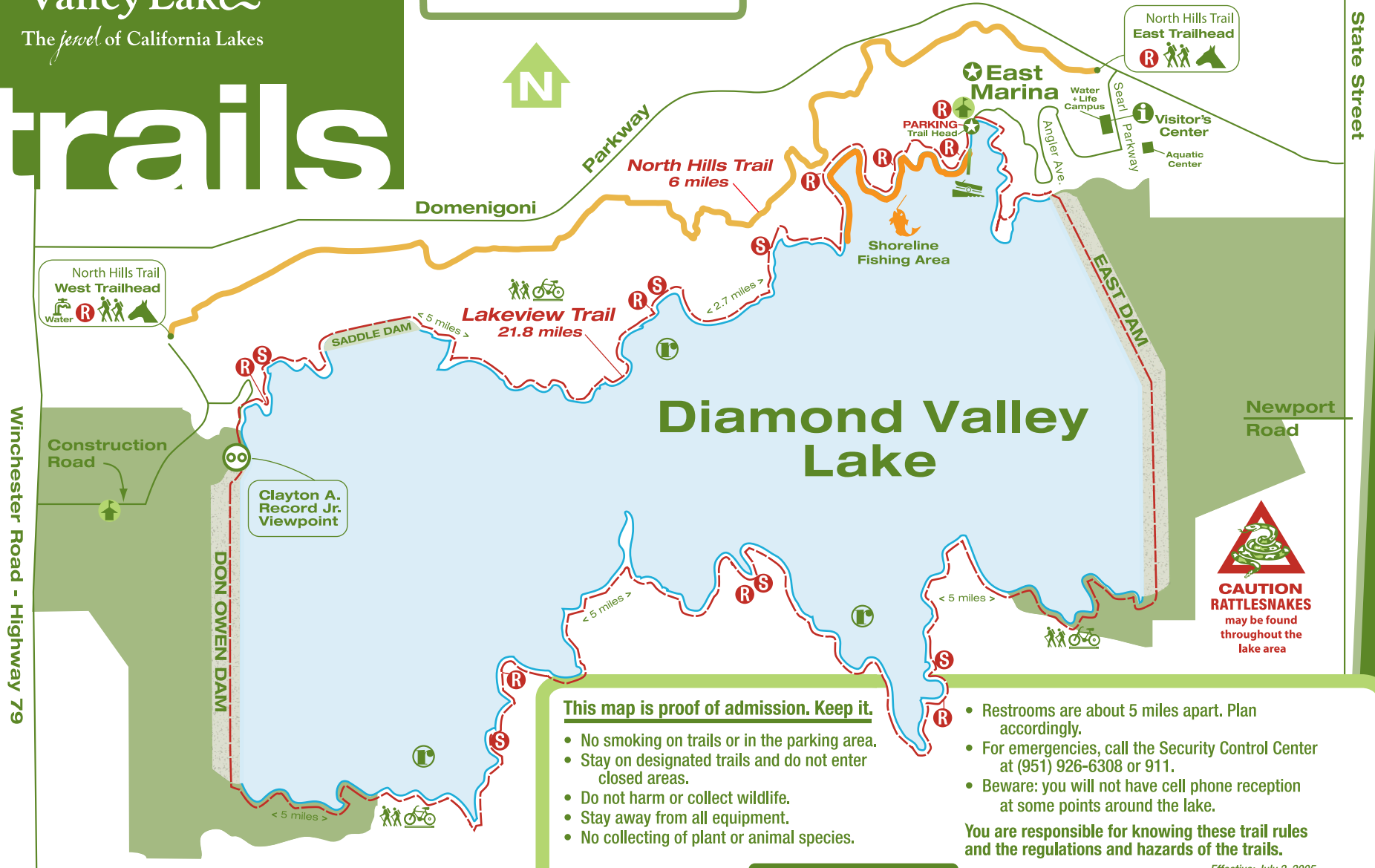
Portions of these trails are within an ecological reserve, which has been established for the protection of sensitive biological resources native to western Riverside County. The trail rules below are provided to ensure the protection of these resources and the enjoyment of all trail users. Please remember that Diamond Valley Lake is a domestic water supply source. Body contact with the water is prohibited. Shoreline fishing is allowed in designated areas only.

- trails**
- pedestrian/equestrian trail
 - pedestrian/bicycle trail
 - viewpoint
 - guard shack
 - shoreline fishing area

- facilities**
- restrooms
 - floating restrooms
 - boat ramp
 - shade
 - <miles between restrooms>

- rules**
- 25 boat speed limit
 - boat inspections required
 - no smoking
 - no alcohol
 - no pets
 - information

Legend



This map is proof of admission. Keep it.

- No smoking on trails or in the parking area.
- Stay on designated trails and do not enter closed areas.
- Do not harm or collect wildlife.
- Stay away from all equipment.
- No collecting of plant or animal species.

- Restrooms are about 5 miles apart. Plan accordingly.
- For emergencies, call the Security Control Center at (951) 926-6308 or 911.
- Beware: you will not have cell phone reception at some points around the lake.

You are responsible for knowing these trail rules and the regulations and hazards of the trails.

Effective: July 2, 2005

TRAIL RULES



Diamond Valley Lake trails

The jewel of California Lakes

First and foremost, Diamond Valley Lake is a lifeline for Southern California in times of drought. The lake holds enough water to meet the area's emergency and drought needs for six months and is an important component in Metropolitan's plan to provide a reliable supply of water to the 18 million people in Southern California who count on us.

Diamond Valley Lake continues to improve its trail system so visitors can hike and ride through the hills surrounding the reservoir. One of the first multi-use trails was developed along the north hills overlooking the San Jacinto Valley. That trail is open for hikers and horses. The newest trail, the Lakeview trail, offers hikers and bicyclists a 21.8-mile trek around the lake, including the three dams, with breathtaking views of the lake and the quarry where the rock used in the dams was mined.



Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

Surrounding the lake you'll find more than 13,500 acres of open space called the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve. With the creation of the reserve, Metropolitan forged California's first agreement for multi-species protection and proved that progress need not come at the expense of the environment. The reserve is home to at least 16 sensitive, endangered or threatened native California plants and animals. Because of the sensitivity of these species, you must stay on the hiking trail. Collection of plants, insects and animals is prohibited.

Notable species on the reserve include: coyotes, bobcats, mule deer, mountain lions, and golden eagles, which roam the breadth of the reserve.

**METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

mwdh2o.com

dvlake.com

RECEIPT



May 29, 2024

Board Executive Secretary
Attn: Rickita Hudson
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the nomination to rename the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Judy Abdo, current Vice Chair and dedicated and influential member of your Board and former Santa Monica Mayor.

Judy Abdo's contributions to the Metropolitan Water District have been substantial. Throughout her tenure on the Board, she has been a fervent advocate for water conservation, native and sustainable landscaping, and the protection of drinking water sources. These causes resonate deeply with the values and experiences the Wildflower Trail and Diamond Valley Lake offers its visitors.

Diamond Valley Lake, a vital drinking water reservoir built and operated by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, serves 18 million residents and is a critical lifeline during droughts. Renaming the Wildflower Trail in her honor would be a fitting tribute to her service and commitment.

Judy Abdo's role as Vice Chair has been marked by her dedication to public welfare and environmental stewardship. Her efforts have had a lasting impact on our community, making her an exemplary candidate for this recognition. As Mayor, I have witnessed the positive changes and initiatives Judy has helped implement, benefiting not only our city but also the broader Southern California region. Renaming the Wildflower Trail in her honor would serve as a lasting reminder of her dedication and contributions to environmental conservation and public service.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination submitted by Board Vice Chair Nancy Sutley and encourage the Board of Directors to approve the renaming of the Wildflower Trail to honor Judy Abdo. Her legacy of service and commitment to conservation and sustainability make her a most deserving individual for this recognition.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Brock', is written over a white background.

Phil Brock
Mayor

Sheila James Kuehl
3201 Pearl Street, Santa Monica CA 90405
sjkuehl@aol.com

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the nomination to name the Wildflower Trail in recognition of the longtime and distinguished service of Vice Chair Judy Abdo to the Met. Her contributions, over many years of service on the Metropolitan Water District Board, as well as her tenure as Mayor and Councilmember in the city of Santa Monica, make this honor appropriate.

Over decades, Judy Abdo has advocated for the interests of water users and ratepayers within the Metropolitan System, always using her voice to remind that rules and decisions must be clear, fair and easily understood. In addition, she has championed conservation even earlier than the years in which the notion gained popularity and urgency, given climate change impacts. She has also been a strong champion for the use of native and sustainable landscaping and has strongly supported the protection of the sources of California's water supply.

Each and all of these long-standing areas of work have contributed to an impressive history of commitment and dedication. She is a true, though quiet, hero in so many ways, and I wanted to be counted among those who strongly support this honor.

Respectfully,

Sheila James Kuehl

LA County Supervisor, ret.
California State Senate and Assembly, ret.