



June 7, 2024

To: MWD Board of Directors

Re: Naming the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Board Member Judy Abdo

I've had the privilege to work with Board Member Judy Abdo on water, sustainability and environmental issues for over thirty years. She has served with distinction on the MWD Board for most of that time. In particular, her work on water conservation has been exemplary and has helped MWD and its member agencies save hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water over the years. I was fortunate enough to serve three years as a fellow MWD board member with Judy where we chaired the then newly formed conservation and local water committee (now the One Water Committee). Also, she has been a champion for MWD taking on the climate crisis head on by integrating the latest climate science into MWD management and policy.

I am thrilled to support MWD naming the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Board Member Abdo. Former Santa Monica Mayor Abdo has been a sustainability leader at MWD and in Santa Monica for over three decades. Santa Monica was the first city in the nation with a comprehensive sustainability plan and it happened under then Mayor Abdo's leadership. She has maintained that strong environmental ethic while serving on the MWD Board. Also, I'd be remiss in not mentioning her leadership on equity issues in the city of Santa Monica, the region, and at MWD.

I strongly urge the MWD Board to bestow the thoughtful and appropriate honor of naming the Wildflower Tail at Diamon Lake in honor of Board Member Abdo.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold, D.Env.
Director of Water Scarcity Solutions
Natural Resources Defense Council