



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Action

- **Board of Directors**

Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee

7/14/2026 Board Meeting

7-3

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for up to twenty-five years to allow for the storage of boats, law enforcement vehicles, and related equipment for the continuation of enforcement of state conservation, environmental laws, and fishery protection at Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Skinner, and surrounding lakes. The subject property is located in the County of Riverside, in the Winchester area, and is identified as the County of Riverside Assessor Parcel Number 465-190-078; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This action authorizes the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the continued use of Metropolitan's fee property for the storage of boats and equipment used in managing and regulating recreational fishing, enforcing natural resource laws, and maintaining healthy fish stock at Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Skinner, and surrounding lakes. **Attachment 1** depicts the location of the storage area in relation to DVL. Staff originally authorized a five-year mutual benefit license agreement, which expires in August of 2026. Staff consider this arrangement mutually beneficial and supportive of recreational activities at both lakes. Board authorization to execute a new license agreement with an initial five-year term with four five-year options to extend is required since CDFW's interest will exceed five years.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for up to twenty-five years to allow for the storage of boats, law enforcement vehicles, and related equipment for the continuation of enforcement of state conservation, environmental laws, and fishery protection at Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Skinner, and surrounding lakes. The subject property is located in the County of Riverside, in the Winchester area, and is identified as the County of Riverside Assessor Parcel Number 465-190-078.

Fiscal Impact: This will be a mutual benefit agreement under which fees will be waived, and Metropolitan will receive no revenue

Business Analysis: The benefits derived from a healthy fish stock and law enforcement activities provided by the CDFW exceed the corresponding license fees. CDFW's presence and patrolling activities protect not just the environment and wildlife resources but also guests, invitees, and Metropolitan's employees at the two lakes.

Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to enter into the license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fiscal Impact: May expose Metropolitan to higher future costs for patrolling and enforcement activities.

Business Analysis: Increases the risk of damage to the established fishing and recreational value of DVL and Lake Skinner, which Metropolitan has strategically invested in over many years.

Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8201: Authorization to General Manager

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8230: Grants of Real Property Interests

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8231: Appraisals of Real Property Interests

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8232: Terms and Conditions of Management Documents

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 45394, dated June 10, 2003, the Board adopted the Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner Recreation Area Rules and Regulations.

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

Not applicable

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action to execute a license agreement with CDFW is exempt from CEQA because it involves the licensing, operation, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

In 2021, Metropolitan entered into a short-term license agreement with CDFW for the storage of boats and equipment used to manage and regulate recreational fishing, enforce natural resource laws, and maintain a healthy fish stock at DVL, Lake Skinner, and surrounding lakes. The existing, short-term agreement will expire on August 31, 2026, and CDFW has requested that this arrangement be extended for up to 25 years to allow them to continue their current operations. Metropolitan has been engaged with CDFW in the development of boating and fishing activities at DVL since the construction of the lake. Staff has determined that the benefits continue to exceed the fees, and a new, longer-term license should be established as a mutual benefit agreement with all fees waived. Authorization of the proposed license agreement aligns with Metropolitan's commitment to the recreational activities at both Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner to help provide a positive presence in the local communities.

The proposed license terms are:

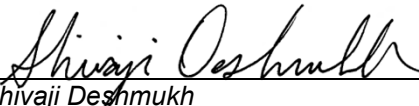
- Base term of five years with four five-year options to extend for a total of up to 25 years
- All fees to be waived
- Right to early termination by either party with 30 days' notice
- Licensed area totals approximately 7,400 square feet



Elizabeth Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and
Innovation Officer

6/25/2026

Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

6/25/2026

Date

Attachment 1 – Site Map

Ref# sri12715518

EXHIBIT B
PORTION OF SEC. 34, T.5 S., R.2 W., S.B.M
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RL4279
(Area = +/- 7,400 SQFT)

Sta.429+00

Darlene Ln

E Newport Rd



RL4279



MWD Fee Property



Eastside Pipeline



Feet

0 25 50 100

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Engineering Services Group

DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE - EASTSIDE PIPELINE

License
RL 4279

MWD
to

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Law Enforcement Division

MWD ROW: 144-1-311 (S000)
RIV APN: 465-190-078