



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

Contact: Bob Muir, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

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## RAINS EXPECTED TO BRING SPECTACULAR WILDFLOWERS TO DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE; SEASONAL WILDFLOWER TRAIL OPENS SATURDAY, MARCH 6

The hills around Diamond Valley Lake will be alive with wildflowers, as the recent rains are expected to bring a carpet of color to the area.

The seasonal wildflower trail that adjoins the lake's East Marina will open to the public this Saturday, March 6, and remain open daily until the blooms fade in the spring.

"The rains haven't ended the need for water conservation, but they are almost certainly going to bring us a wildflower show at Diamond Valley Lake," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which owns and operates the lake—the region's largest reservoir.

The wildflower trail—part of the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve—is a 1.3-mile loop extending from the Lakeview Trail. Rated as an easy-to-moderate hike, with some rugged terrain, the trail will be open from sunrise to sunset.

Parking is \$7 and there is a \$2-per-person Lakeview Trail fee that includes a map of the wildflower trail and a wildflower guide. The lake's East Marina is entered at Domenigoni and Searl parkways in Hemet.

"Visitors can expect to see extensive swaths of orange California poppies, the state flower, deep blue Arroyo Lupine, yellow brittlebrush, and crimson owl's clover, among many others," said reserve naturalist Bill Wagner.

"The blooms should last about a month or longer, and are most spectacular during mid-morning, when they have fully opened to the day's sun."

Two other Diamond Valley Lake trails are open to the public year-round and also afford good views of the blooming flowers: the 26.1-mile Lakeview hiking and bicycling trail that circles the 4,500-acre lake, and the 5.9-mile North Hills trail for equestrians and hikers.

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Another viewing option is to rent one of the lake's bass or pontoon boats, bring fishing poles and lunch, and enjoy the 360-degree views from the lake itself. Boat rental and fishing information is at **dvlake.com**.

In addition, Diamond Valley Lake features a Visitor Center and the Western Science Center, both on Searl Parkway near the Domenigoni parkway entrance.

Information on California native plants and water-saving tips are at the Web site **bewaterwise.com**. For more information about the seasonal wildflower trail, call 1-800-590-LAKE or 961-926-7201.

Pets are not allowed on the trails or in the marina.

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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.*