BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE AND LAKE SKINNER

While the primary purpose of Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) and Lake Skinner is to ensure reliable supplies of high-quality water for southern California, recreation opportunities for the public can be made compatible with operation of these lakes. However, Metropolitan reserves the right to suspend any and all boating and other recreational activities for water quality, operational or any other reason. To protect water quality and guard the health and safety of the boating public, Metropolitan has established the following non-body-contact boating rules for all watercraft at both DVL and Lake Skinner as shown below. Within this document the term “lake personnel” refers to the entity responsible for the day to day management of recreational facilities.

1. DVL and Lake Skinner are drinking water reservoirs and, therefore, body-contact within the lake water is prohibited. Watercraft that may allow routine body-contact with the water are not permitted on the lakes. To comply with the no body-contact requirements, personal watercraft of any type is prohibited. "Personal watercraft" means a vessel less than 13 feet in length, propelled by machinery that is designed to be operated by one or more persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel. Boats shall not pull individuals or any recreational equipment (e.g., inner tubes, skis, boards, etc.). Individuals are prohibited from riding on the bow, gunwale, or transom of a boat under way when such position is not protected by railing or other reasonable deterrent to falling overboard. These provisions shall not apply to boaters in the act of fishing while trolling at minimum speed or at a standstill, anchoring, mooring or making fast to a dock or trailer on the boat launch, or in the necessary management of a sail, provided that the boaters make reasonable efforts to avoid contacting the water.

2. Boaters must comply with all applicable federal (including U.S. Coast Guard), state and local licensing and safety laws, rules and regulations governing boats and boating operations. Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including those herein, may result in removal of individuals and their boats from the lake and/or citation by the appropriate enforcement agency.

3. Only qualified boats powered by humans, sail or electric motor shall be allowed on the lakes. Combustion-engine watercraft shall be allowed, provided:

   (a) Engines use MTBE-free fuel (this determination will be made upon entry to the lake); and

   (b) Engines that are 4-stroke, 2-stroke equipped with direct fuel injection, or 2-stroke engines that comply with the California Air Resources Control Board 2001 or later model year spark-ignition marine engine standard (or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2006 equivalent).

4. All engines shall be stock (unmodified, standard manufacturer equipment). No glasspacks, cut-outs or open headers are permitted.

5. All boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length, minimum of 42 inches wide and must have at least 12 inches of freeboard at idle speed. All boats of standard class design and exceeding minimum specifications shall be allowed on the lakes; however, multi-hulled boats without solid and fixed decking shall not be allowed on the lakes.

6. Only sea kayaks shall be allowed on the lakes and shall be launched only from authorized launch ramps or areas. Sea kayaks must be at least 10 feet in length and provide seating for all passengers inside the craft. Kayaks must be identified as stable by lake personnel prior to being allowed on the lakes. Rolling over of kayaks in the water is prohibited.
7. Boats equipped with sink drains or flush toilets are barred from the lakes unless said drains and toilets are sealed or otherwise rendered inoperable, or are designed so that no waste can be discharged into the lakes. Lake personnel may add a dye marker to each boat containing such facilities to test for leaks. Portable toilets shall not be allowed in boats on the lakes.

8. Prior to being launched, each boat shall be inspected by authorized lake personnel and deemed in a safe, seaworthy, clean condition, meeting all standards as specified herein. All recreational boats must carry one wearable approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person aboard. The PFDs must be Coast Guard approved, in good and serviceable condition, and the appropriate size for the intended user. Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers (Type B) are required on boats where a fire hazard could be expected from the motors or the fuel system.

9. Boats shall be launched at designated launching areas only.

10. Boat landings shall be made only at designated docks, ramps and other areas as designated.

11. Boats shall not be left on shore or in the water overnight except in dry storage or designated slips in the Marina Areas.

12. The maximum speed limit for all watercraft is:

   (a) Diamond Valley Lake
       (i) Twenty-five (25) miles per hour (mph)
       (ii) Boats within 200 feet of the shore, dams, other operational structures and in marina areas must operate at a speed that creates no wake. The speed limit in no-wake areas is idle engine speed, but shall not exceed 5 mph.

   (b) Lake Skinner
       (i) Ten (10) miles per hour.
       (ii) Boats within 100 feet of the shore, dams, other operational structures and in marina areas must operate at a speed that creates no wake. The speed limit in no-wake areas is idle engine speed, but shall not exceed 5 mph.

13. Boat maximum engine noise level shall be no greater than 75 decibels (dBa scale) at a distance of 50 feet with the engine running at 80 percent of redline RPM.

14. Boat operators will be responsible for assessing safe boating conditions and take the appropriate precautions to protect their boat and occupancy. In the interest of public safety, boat operation guidelines shall be indicated by the use of colored flags and/or lights as follows:

   (a) Operation – Green: Wind speed less than 15 mph. All boats may operate.
   (b) Operation – Amber: Wind speeds between 15 and 25 mph. All boats operate with due caution.
   (c) Operation – Red: Wind speed in excess of 25 mph. Operation of all boats prohibited, immediately remove all boats from the water or return to marina boat slips, if applicable.

15. No boat repairs of any kind (except emergency repairs necessary to return to the dock or boat launch ramp) may be made while the boat is in the water. No refueling will be allowed on the water except in designated fueling areas.

16. No cleaning of the boat in any manner is allowed while the boat is in the water. Boats may be washed only in the designated boat-wash area near the launch ramp.
17. Operating hours:

(a) The lakes open at sunrise and close at sunset as determined by the chart posted at various locations at the lakes. Boats cannot be launched before sunrise and must be retrieved before sunset. Marina areas will be closed to public access one hour after sunset.

(b) Metropolitan may, at its sole discretion, adjust opening and closing time for special events or for any other reason (including adverse weather conditions).

18. No overnight stays aboard any boat, at any location are permitted.

19. The maximum number of boats allowed on the lakes may vary to meet water quality objectives, depending on lake elevation and public safety considerations, and shall be determined solely by Metropolitan.

20. Waste material, including animal and human water, bilge water, trash, refuse, litter, oil, gas, etc. shall not be discharged into the lakes.

21. Miscellaneous:

(a) No person shall moor or fasten any boat to or willfully damage, tamper, remove, obstruct, destroy or interfere with any dam, operational facility, buoy, buoy line waterway marker or regulatory markers.

(b) No boats shall be tied or fastened together except in an emergency, when launching or retrieving a boat, or when necessary as part of an approved boating instructional class.

(c) No pets shall be allowed on boats at DVL and Lake Skinner.

(d) No alcoholic beverages of any type shall be allowed on boats (or in any areas at DVL except at a facility authorized to sell alcoholic beverages).

(e) Fish shall be cleaned in designated areas only and the remains shall be placed within a watertight plastic bag and deposited in a trash receptacle.

22. Authorized lake personnel will patrol the lakes during open hours to enforce these regulations.

23. Metropolitan reserves the right to change or amend these boating rules at any time, including but not limited to the restriction of fuel additives deemed in Metropolitan’s sole discretion to present a potential threat to water quality. Further, exemptions to these boating rules and regulations for special events may be made by the Chief Executive Officer.

24. Recreational users shall be informed through posting or other appropriate means that their use of all the facilities shall be at their own risk and that Metropolitan shall not assume liability for any loss or injury.