



Fact Sheet: Diamond Valley Lake —

A Reservoir of Resilience

# Safeguarding Southern California's Water Reliability



In the heart of Southern California's arid landscape lies a testament to human ingenuity and environmental stewardship—Diamond Valley Lake. Nestled against the backdrop of the San Jacinto mountains in southwest Riverside County, this sprawling reservoir, holding up to 264 billion gallons of water, isn't just a picturesque expanse of water, it's the guardian of Southern California's water reliability and home to protected reserves.

The story of the lake began with planning in the mid-1980s with a vision born in the face of growing water challenges. With the region's population and economy increasing, leaders recognized the need for storage and emergency reserves. In response, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California embarked on an extensive project to create a reservoir that increased the region's storage capacity and helped carry Southern California through droughts and emergencies.



## Diamond Valley Lake Statistics

**4.5K**

acre surface  
area

**4.5**

miles long

**2.0**

miles wide

**250**

feet deep

**810K**

acre-foot  
capacity

**264B**

gallon  
capacity

### About Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

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## Safeguarding Our Water Supply for the Future

Diamond Valley Lake is more than just a reservoir; it's a lifeline to safeguard our water reliability against the effects of a changing climate and weather whiplash. Fed by water from Northern California through the State Water Project and its 444-mile California Aqueduct, water is stored when available, ready to be released in times when we need it – including during severe dry conditions and during emergency situations.

During periods of drought, the stored water in the reservoir can be released to supplement local water supplies and alleviate the strain on other water sources. This can help to ensure a more reliable water supply for the surrounding communities and ecosystems, reducing the potential for water shortages and related environmental and economic challenges. It's a reservoir of resilience, ensuring the region's needs continue to be met in the face of extraordinary challenges.



## Environmental Stewardship

Metropolitan's dedication to sustainable water management and environmental conservation is woven into the very fabric of this landscape. South of the reservoir lies the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve, a vital sanctuary for rare bird, mammal, and plant species, which was established during the lake's construction to address potential environmental impacts. And connecting the reservoir with Lake Skinner is also the 2,500 acre Dr. Roy Shipley Reserve.

Working alongside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District, and Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, Metropolitan is committed to safeguarding and restoring local ecosystems in the area. These reserves illustrate the balance that can be achieved between nature and the demands of a growing population.

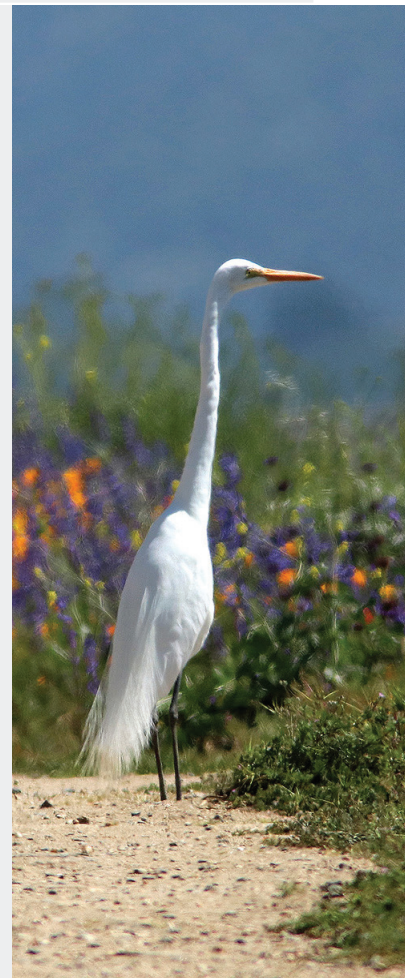


## Recreation Destination

The lake's benefits are not limited to its water supply benefits. The reservoir has become a popular recreational destination for outdoor enthusiasts, offering boating and wildlife-viewing opportunities.

The extensive trail system that surrounds the reservoir offers a range of options for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The lake is renowned as a fishing destination, hosting tournaments that draw enthusiasts from across the region for the opportunity to catch species such as bass, trout, striper, catfish, and panfish.

More information about the lake and its recreational opportunities can be found at [dvmarina.com](http://dvmarina.com) or by calling (951) 926-7201.



## Fun Facts

- The reservoir was a massive project that broke ground in 1995, involving more than 5,000 workers. It was the largest earthworks project in the U.S. at the time, using 40 million cubic yards of excavation and 100 million cubic yards of embankment. The shovels, loaders, and trucks used to build the dams at that time were so colossal that they set the industry standard for handling massive projects.
- While the reservoir uses gravity to distribute its water, it also generates clean, renewable energy through Metropolitan's Hiram W. Wadsworth Pumping/hydro-generating facility. The plant produces 12 million kilowatt-hours annually, roughly the amount of electricity needed to power about 1,000 homes.
- On the eastern side of the reservoir, you'll discover the Western Science Center—a museum and research hub that delves into paleontology, archaeology, and the natural history of the region. Inside, it's a treasure trove of paleontological finds discovered during the reservoir's construction, including fossils of prehistoric creatures that once roamed the area.