

● **Board of Directors**
Engineering and Operations Committee

February 12, 2002 Board Meeting

8-5

Subject

Approve initial trail system phases and authorize \$1 million for trail development at Diamond Valley Lake (Approp. 15387)

Description

In November 1997, Metropolitan’s Board approved a Draft Recreation Plan (Draft Plan) for Diamond Valley Lake (DVL). The scope of the Draft Plan evolved from the conceptual plan described in the lake project Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) certified by the Board in October 1991. While neither action created a legal obligation to provide any recreation facilities, including trails at DVL, in furtherance of the earlier board action, staff has continued the planning effort with the intent of recommending a recreational trail system for board consideration. As proposed, the trails will provide public access to the reserve for nature observation and interpretive programs and recreational opportunities.

In April 2000, the Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to pursue \$14 million in federal grant funding for facilities at DVL, including \$4.5 million for trails. Accordingly, Metropolitan supported H.R. 4187, introduced by U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Corona) in April 2000 and Senate Bill 2977 introduced in July 2000 by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California). In November 2000, the President signed legislation that authorized the federal funds. The funds, when appropriated by Congress, will be used to match other funds to establish trails designed to provide public access to the reserve. The sources of other funds have not been identified, but might include state, county and Metropolitan funds. It is estimated that planning, designing and implementing a comprehensive trail program of 60 to 70 miles could cost between approximately \$7 million and \$9 million including the \$1 million requested herein for the initial phases. **Attachment 1** is the DVL trails program financial statement showing projected expenditures.

Special events like hiking and trail rides have been successfully hosted at DVL using existing facilities such as reserve patrol roads and the high-water road. More special events are anticipated and would benefit from minor capital expenditures for improvements to existing facilities. Further, staff is recommending construction of new trails and trail heads to provide between 28 and 32 miles of permanent multi-use trails, including a loop trail around DVL that utilizes a portion of the north high-water road, for ongoing use. Currently, staff has identified four recommended phases as follows:

Phase	I	II	III	IV
Description	Special Events	North Hills Trails	South Hills Trail	Interpretive Trail at Lake Skinner
Length	Not Applicable	12 to 14 miles	15 to 17 miles	1 mile
Capital Cost	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
Annual O&M Cost	\$ 80,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 80,000
Fiscal Year(s)	Ongoing	2001/02-2002/03	2001/02-2003/04	2001/02-2004/05

Most of the proposed special event improvements will also assist in the completion of the planned North Hills trails. The North Hills trail alignment will take advantage of existing construction roads in the hills north of the lake for multi-use trails. These trails will connect the east recreation area with the west recreation area. Like the North Hills trails, the South Hills trail utilizes existing roads, including the patrol road along the San Diego Canal, and fire breaks to the greatest extent possible. However, the alignment of this trail may require some acquisition of easements and right-of-way. The Interpretive Trail at Lake Skinner will utilize little existing roadway and requires construction of new trail segments. The trail will be accessible to all levels of hikers and fully compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act for access by the handicapped. The accessibility requirements make this trail relatively expensive to design, construct and maintain.

While much of the trail construction will take place in out years, funding is needed this fiscal year for planning and possible right-of-way and easement acquisition. The special event-phase requires minor construction, primarily for trailhead improvements such as signage, parking areas, and sanitation facilities. Trailheads on the other trails may need similar improvements as well as benches, gates and water troughs for equestrian use. Potential improvements to trails include grading, cutting, importing cover such as gravel, drainage structures like pipe and box culverts, fencing and, for the Interpretive Trail at Lake Skinner trail, a concrete/asphalt surface, a boardwalk and railing.

Metropolitan has partnered with the Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District on special events and the trails program. Additionally, Metropolitan is working with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, which has been especially helpful in providing on-site technical expertise on trail alignments. Since much of the trail system will be developed in the reserve, Metropolitan will coordinate trail planning, design and implementation as well as operations and maintenance with the Reserve Management Committee, the agency that manages the reserve. The annual operations and maintenance (O&M) cost for Phases I through IV is estimated at \$265,000. The sanitation requirements for the trails will be included in the sanitation plan being developed for DVL.

Attachment 2 is a location map showing the approximate alignments of the initial phases of the trail system.

Policy

Prior Board action (March 10, 2001: M.I. 44423) approving in concept, a multi-phase trail program resulting in a comprehensive system providing 60 to 70 miles of multi-use trails. Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 5108: Capital Project Appropriation

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

Metropolitan's Board of Directors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the DVL project (formerly the Eastside Reservoir Project) in October 1991, and, subsequently, the Supplemental EIR (SEIR), and Addendum Nos. 1 through 6 to the FEIR. The Board also approved at that time the Findings of Fact, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the DVL project. In January 2002, Addendum No. 7 to the FEIR for the DVL project was prepared to evaluate the planning and development of the proposed initial trail system. A copy of Addendum No. 7 is available in the Executive Secretary's Office for review.

CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines require the preparation of an addendum to a previously certified EIR if changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for the preparation of a Subsequent EIR have occurred (Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines). The proposed modifications to the DVL project also do not meet any of the conditions requiring the preparation of a Supplement to an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15163). Instead, the proposed modifications require only minor changes or additions to the evaluation in the certified FEIR to make it adequate under CEQA. None of the proposed modifications are anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts beyond those impacts already disclosed in the original FEIR.

The CEQA determination is

1. Consider the information contained in Addendum No. 7 with the FEIR, the SEIR, and Addendum Nos. 1 through 6 to the FEIR and find that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed modifications to the DVL project will create any new significant impacts; and
2. Certify Addendum No. 7.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Approve an initial trail system at DVL and Lake Skinner providing 28 to 32 miles of multi-use trails, including a loop trail around DVL.
- b. Appropriate \$1 million in non-budgeted funds for planning, designing and implementing the early phases of the trails program.
- c. Delegate to the CEO the authority to award contracts exceeding \$250,000, but not to exceed \$500,000 for planning, designing and implementing the early phases of the trails program.

Fiscal Impact: \$1 million of non-budgeted CIP funds under new Appropriation 15387, with an annual O&M cost of \$265,000. If the board approves this recommendation, the FY 2001/02 CIP expenditure plan will be adjusted as required. Public Law No. 106-500 (S. 2977-Feinstein) authorized \$14 million matching funds for DVL, of which \$4.5 million was identified for trails. To date, no funds have been appropriated by Congress.

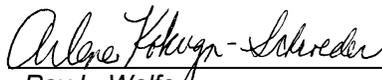
Option #2

Defer action

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

<i>for</i>	 Roy L. Wolfe Manager, Corporate Resources	1/28/2002 Date
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 Ronald R. Gastelum Chief Executive Officer	1/29/2002 Date
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Attachment 1—Financial Statement

Attachment 2—Location Map

Financial Statement for Diamond Valley Lake Trails Program

A breakdown of Board Action No. 1 for Approp. No. 15387 for planning, designing, and implementing the initial phases of the trails program is as follows:

	Board Action No. 1 (Feb. 2002)
Labor	
Design and Specifications	20,000
Owner Costs (Program Management, Bidding Process)	100,000
Metropolitan Forces Trail and Trail-Head Construction	180,000
Materials and Supplies	185,000
Incidental Expenses	5,000
Equipment Use	10,000
Contracts (Handicap-Accessible Trail at Lake Skinner)	400,000
Remaining Budget	100,000
Total	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>

Funding Request

Program Name:	Diamond Valley Lake Trails Program		
Source of Funds:	Construction Funds (possibly General Obligation, Revenue Bonds, Pay-As-You-Go Fund)		
Appropriation No.:	15387	Board Action No.:	1
Requested Amount:(for Phases I through IV)	\$1,000,000	Capital Program No.:	N/A
Total Appropriated Amount:	\$1,000,000	Capital Program Page No.:	N/A
Total Program Estimate:	\$7,000,000 - \$9,000,000	Program Goal:	C – Customer Service

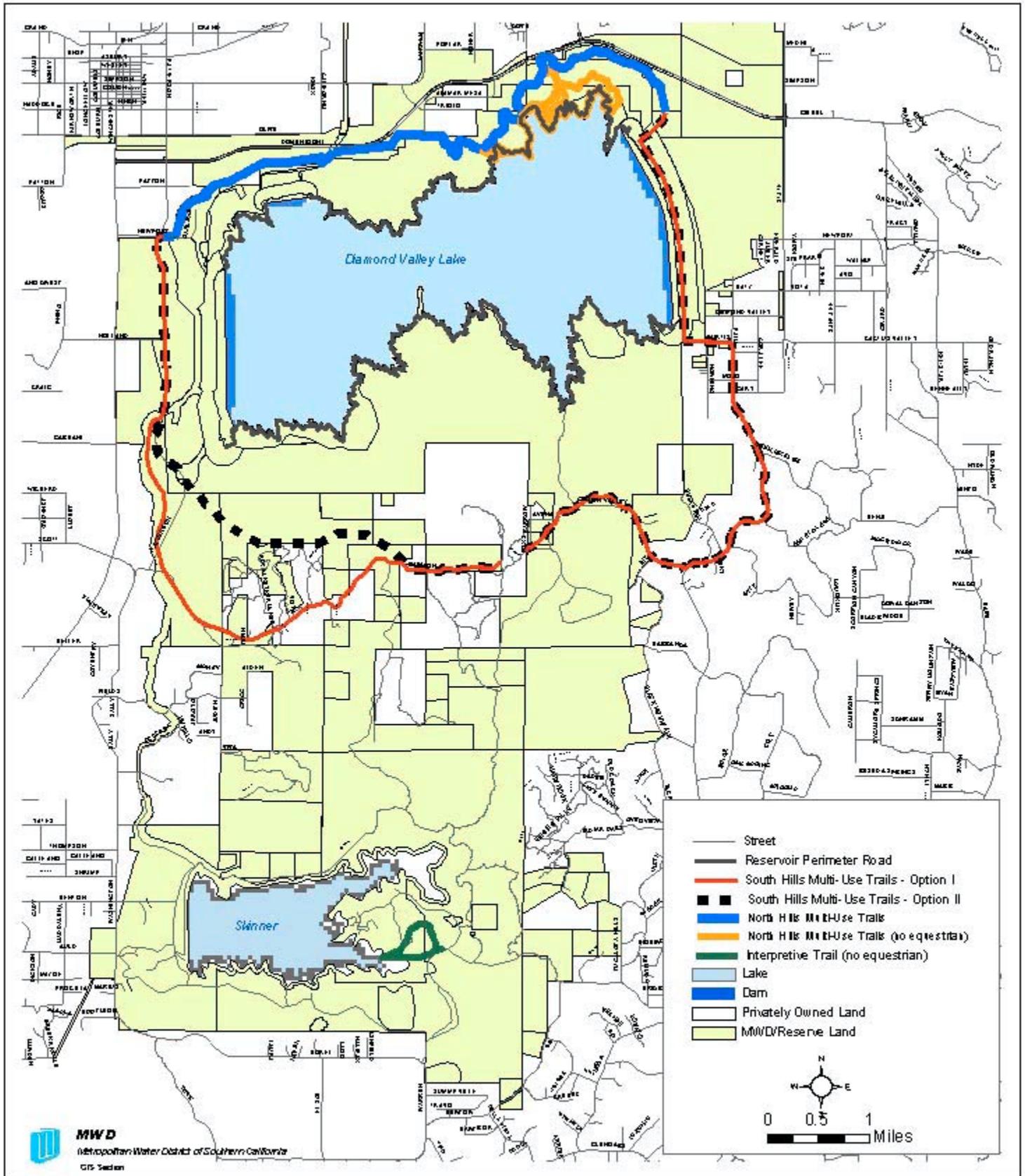


FIGURE 3: Proposed Initial Phase Trail Development