



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN'S 16TH ANNUAL SOLAR CUP™ LAUNCHES WITH BOAT-BUILDING SESSIONS THIS WEEKEND

Field includes 39 teams of high school students for 2018 event, the nation's largest solar-powered boat competition

The nation's largest solar-powered boat competition takes shape this weekend (Nov. 4-5) as teams of high school students from five Southern California counties assemble the 16-foot hulls they will equip and race next spring as part of Metropolitan Water District's 16th annual Solar Cup™ competition.

What began in 2002 with eight teams and about 80 students is now the largest solar-powered boat competition in the United States, showcasing technical ingenuity, scientific skills, creativity and collaboration. This year, about 800 students are expected to participate on 39 Solar Cup™ teams in the three-day competition next spring at Lake Skinner in Riverside County (see attached participant list).

Beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday (Nov. 4) and Sunday (Nov. 5), teams will gather at Three Valleys Municipal Water District headquarters—at 1021 E. Miramar Ave in Claremont—to build identical, canoe-like hulls from kits of pre-cut, marine-grade plywood. Once the hulls are formed, teams return to their schools to equip them over the next seven months with motors, batteries, solar-collection panels, rudders and steering systems.

The Solar Cup™ program is a team-based educational competition that allows students to apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communications, while learning about Southern California's water resources, resource management, conservation and alternative energy development.

The Solar Cup™ competition is May 18-20, 2018 at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner near Temecula, where the teams will compete in endurance and sprint races. The event is open to the public.

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As part of the program, Metropolitan provides the hull kits and tool boxes and sponsors technical workshops for the teams and their teachers/advisors that represent schools in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. In most cases, Metropolitan's member water agencies and, in some cases, local water retailers, sponsor the teams to help equip the boats.

The 2018 Solar Cup™ program includes five first-time rookie teams that will compete against each other. Another 34 returning or veteran teams must build a new hull but may re-use motors, batteries, solar panels and other equipment.

Teams also are required to submit technical reports and create conservation-themed content for social media. Winners in the rookie and veteran divisions will have the highest number of points from the competition, plus points awarded for attendance at workshops, technical reports and producing social media content.

The 2017 Solar Cup™ program featured teams from 43 high schools. Riverside Poly High School in Riverside, won first place in the veteran's division, followed by Oxford Academy and Calabasas High School in second and third place overall. Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach took the top prize in the rookie division.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 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.

Member Agency Sponsor	Team/School Name	City
Anaheim Public Utilities	Anaheim High School	Anaheim
Burbank Water & Power	Burbank High School	Burbank
Long Beach Water Department	Cabrillo High School	Long Beach
Las Virgenes MWD	Calabasas High School	Calabasas
Las Virgenes MWD	Campus Kilpatrick	Malibu
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Chino High School	Chino
Municipal Water District of Orange County*	Coast High School	Huntington Beach
City of Compton	Compton High School	Compton
Municipal Water District of Orange County*	Costa Mesa High School	Costa Mesa
San Diego County Water Authority	Del Lago Academy	Escondido
Central Basin MWD	Downey High School	Downey
Western MWD*	Elsinore HS / Lakeside HS	Wildomar
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Franklin High School	Los Angeles
Three Valleys MWD*	Fremont Academy of Engineering & Design	Pomona
Three Valleys MWD*	Ganesha High School	Pomona
Eastern MWD	Hemet USD Team	Hemet
San Diego County Water Authority	High Tech High North County	San Marcos
Pasadena Water & Power	John Muir High School	Pasadena
San Diego County Water Authority	Kearny High School (School of Engineering, Innovation & Design)	San Diego
Foothill MWD*	La Cañada High School	La Cañada Flintridge
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Los Altos High School	Hacienda Heights
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga
Long Beach Water Department	McBride High School	Long Beach
West Basin MWD	Mira Costa High School	Manhattan Beach
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Mountain View High School	El Monte
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Narbonne High School	Harbor City
Western MWD*	Norte Vista High School	Riverside
Eastern MWD	Nuview Bridge Early College HS	Nuevo
Municipal Water District of Orange County*	Oxford Academy	Cypress
West Basin MWD	Palos Verdes Peninsula High School	Rolling Hills Estates
Central Basin MWD	Paramount High School West	Paramount
Eastern MWD	Perris Union High SD Team (Heritage HS; Paloma Valley HS; Perris HS)	Romoland
Western MWD*	Riverside Poly High School	Riverside
Three Valleys MWD	San Dimas High School	San Dimas
Long Beach Water Department	Sato High School	Long Beach
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Upland High School	Upland
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Venice HS STEM Magnet	Los Angeles
West Basin MWD	Waterfront Education	Redondo Beach
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	West Covina High School	West Covina

* = has co-sponsor(s)

■ = Rookie