



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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**LONG BEACH'S MCBRIDE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TO BEAT AS
THREE-DAY SOLAR CUP™ KICKS OFF AT LAKE SKINNER
Metropolitan Water District's 15th annual boat race—nation's
largest solar-powered boat competition—hits the water today**

TEMECULA VALLEY, Calif. – Long Beach's McBride High School has taken an early lead in Metropolitan Water District's 15th annual [Solar Cup™](#), which launches today at Lake Skinner in southwest Riverside County.

Heading into racing competition, McBride has the top preliminary score among the 43 teams from across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties that are competing in the three-day solar-powered boat competition. Teams will qualify on the water today before racing competition begins Saturday (May 20) and culminates Sunday (May 21).

McBride's early lead is based on preliminary scores earned in the months leading up to this weekend, with the team notching a perfect 360 points out of 360. Many of those points came from McBride's public service message, which encouraged lifelong water conservation in Long Beach.

Under Solar Cup's public service message component, teams produce a short video or social media campaign encouraging people to conserve water, based on this year's theme "Changing Climate, Lifelong Conservation." In addition to the 250 points earned for its PSA, McBride earned perfect scores for two technical progress reports and meeting various deadlines.

Closely trailing McBride is Cypress's Oxford Academy in second place, with 353 points. Downey High School and last year's Solar Cup winner, Riverside Poly High School, are tied for third place, each with 345 points.

"These teams have been working hard afternoons, nights and weekends to make their boats as fast and reliable as possible, putting to use what they've learned in their math and science classes and in Metropolitan engineering and boat-building workshops," said Solar Cup coordinator Julie Kalbacher, a state-certified teacher with Metropolitan's education programs. "Now all of that hard work will be put to the test over the next few days."

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“While it does get competitive, the best part is, everyone has a great time. The spirit of teamwork really carries the day, even between teams, especially when they are forced to troubleshoot unexpected problems that come up. And all of these kids walk away with a greater understanding of alternative energy development and the value of our water resources,” Kalbacher continued.

More than 700 participating students will first be put through a series of qualifying events today to ensure their boats meet rules and are safe and seaworthy. The competition heats up Saturday when the single-seat, 16-foot boats outfitted with solar-collection panels compete in endurance races around a 1.6-kilometer course in the morning and afternoon.

Sunday the boats’ solar panels are removed and their energy-storing capabilities are put to the test as they compete in 200-meter sprint races powered by solar energy stored in batteries.

The races will be followed by an awards ceremony, with trophies awarded in veteran and rookie divisions for teams with the highest points, as well as to teams honored for “Hottest-Looking Boat,” teamwork and sportsmanship.

The races are easily visible from the shore, and the event is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free admission and parking. Lake Skinner is at 37701 Warren Road, Winchester, in the Temecula Valley of southwest Riverside County—about 10 miles northeast of the Rancho California Road exit off Interstate 15.

Over the past 15 years, more than 10,000 students have participated in Solar Cup. The program began in 2002 with eight teams and about 80 students. In the years since, it has grown into the nation’s largest solar-powered boat competition.

The educational competition allows students to apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communications and learn more about about Southern California’s water sources, conservation and alternative energy development. It has inspired future engineers, water resource managers and conservationists, and helped the region build the workforce needed to produce smart solutions to its environmental and water supply problems.

Teams are divided into four regions—the Foothill, Central & Bay, Inland Empire and South Counties regions. Solar Cup also includes a rookie division for first-time teams.

Learn more about Solar Cup at mwdh2o.com and [here](#). Longer videos are also available for use [here](#). Photos and video of this year’s event will be available upon request.

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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.

2017 Solar Cup School List

City, State, ZIP	School Name	Member Agency Sponsor	Co-Sponsor Agencies
Los Angeles	Academia Avance	Los Angeles DWP	
Huntington Park	Alliance Collins Family College Ready High School	Central Basin MWD	
Anaheim	Anaheim High School	Anaheim Public Utilities	
Arcadia	Arcadia High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Los Angeles	Banning Academies of Creative And Innovative Sciences (BACIS)	Los Angeles DWP	
Burbank	Burbank High School	Burbank Water & Power	
Calabasas	Calabasas High School	Las Virgenes MWD	
Chino	Chino High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	City of Chino
Chino Hills	Chino Hills High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	City of Chino Hills
Huntington Beach	Coast High School	Municipal Water District of OC	City of Huntington Beach
Compton	Compton High School	City of Compton	
Escondido	Del Lago Academy	San Diego County Water Authority	
Pomona	Diamond Ranch High School	Three Valleys MWD	Walnut Valley Water District, City of Pomona
Downey	Downey High School	Central Basin MWD	
Wildomar	Elsinore HS / Lakeside HS	Western MWD	Elsinore Valley MWD
Lawndale	Environmental Charter High School	West Basin MWD	
Los Angeles	Franklin High School	Los Angeles DWP	
Pomona	Fremont Academy of Engineering & Design	Three Valleys MWD	City of Pomona
San Marcos	High Tech High North County	San Diego County Water Authority	
Norwalk	John Glenn High School	Central Basin MWD	
Pasadena	John Muir High School	Pasadena Water & Power	
Fontana	Kaiser High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Fontana Water Company
La Cañada Flintridge	La Cañada High School	Foothill MWD	La Cañada Irrigation District, Valley Water Co.
La Puente	La Puente High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Lennox	Lennox Academy	West Basin MWD	
Rancho Cucamonga	Los Osos High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Cucamonga Valley Water
Long Beach	McBride High School	Long Beach Water Department	
Manhattan Beach	Mira Costa High School	West Basin MWD	
El Monte	Mountain View High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Murrieta	Murrieta Mesa High School	Eastern MWD	Rancho California Water District
Riverside	Norte Vista High School	Western MWD	Riverside Public Utilities
Nuevo	Nuview Bridge Early College HS	Eastern MWD	Rancho California Water District
Cypress	Oxford Academy	Municipal Water District of OC	Golden State Water
Palos Verdes Estates	Palos Verdes High School	West Basin MWD	
Paramount	Paramount High School West	Central Basin MWD	
Romoland	Perris Union High SD Team (Heritage HS; Paloma Valley HS; Perris HS)	Eastern MWD	Rancho California Water District
Burbank	Providence High School	Burbank Water & Power	
Riverside	Riverside Poly High School	Western MWD	Riverside Public Utilities
San Dimas	San Dimas High School	Three Valleys MWD	Golden State Water
La Puente	Santana High School	Three Valleys MWD	Rowland Water District
Temecula	Temecula Valley Team (Chaparral HS/ Great Oak HS /Temecula Valley HS)	Eastern MWD	Rancho California Water District
Los Angeles	Venice HS STEMM Magnet	Los Angeles DWP	
West Covina	West Covina High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	