



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 8, 2007

FORTY-SIX SOUTHLAND HIGH SCHOOLS ON BOARD FOR METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S SOLAR BOAT PROGRAM Nearly 900 students to participate in seven-month program

Teams from 46 Southern California high schools have launched Metropolitan Water District's 2008 Solar Cup™ program in which students build, equip and race solar-powered boats, learning hands-on lessons in engineering and natural resources management on the way to the May 18 finish line.

Now in its sixth year and the world's largest solar boat competition, Solar Cup involves nearly 900 students from schools in Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura, Orange and San Bernardino counties. Teams are sponsored by Metropolitan's member water agencies; Metropolitan sponsors the seven-month education program and the three-day Solar Cup competition.

Solar Cup has been widely hailed as a creative, innovative way to impart practical application of textbook lessons. Over the years, students have credited Solar Cup with helping them determine their career path and their decision to go to college. In addition to teaching future leaders about California's water supplies and protecting natural resources, Metropolitan hopes the program will lead Solar Cup alumni to the possibility of working in Southern California's water industry.

"This year, our state's and region's serious water-supply shortage has been incorporated into Solar Cup by requiring that each team produce a public service water-conservation message," said Metropolitan's General Manager Jeff Kightlinger.

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Solar Cup culminates with a three-day competition, featuring endurance and sprint races, at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner reservoir near Temecula May 16-18. The event is open to the public at no cost.

The 2008 program is five teams larger than last year's. The lineup includes 15 teams that are new to the program, as well as returning champions Diamond Bar High School, which won the 2007 veteran class, and Pamela Park (Duarte High), which won the newcomer class. Also returning is the three-time champion Canyon High School of Anaheim.

"This is just a great lineup, and promises to be the best year yet," said Solar Cup coordinator Julie Miller, a certified teacher in Metropolitan's Education Programs section. "We've started a month earlier, which will give the teams more time to equip and test their boats before they race in May. In fact, one of the new rules is that boats must actually be water-tested before the event, the lack of which had caused some disappointments in the past."

Boat-building events will be held on two Saturdays, Nov. 10 and 17 at Three Valleys Municipal Water District in Claremont. Teams are given a kit of pre-cut marine-grade wood and a chest of power- and hand tools with which to assemble their boats. Once the boat shell is constructed, the teams return to their schools—or occasionally to a parent's or teacher's garage—to equip the hulls with motors, solar panels, batteries and steering systems using their sponsoring water agency's grant money.

New this year, sponsoring agencies provide newcomer teams with grants of \$3,500 and veteran teams with \$2,500. Previously, all teams received \$3,000. Veteran teams are required to build a new hull, but are allowed to remove equipment from last year's entry and re-install it in their new hull.

During the seven-month program, teams also are required to attend two Saturday morning technical workshops at Metropolitan headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, and to submit three technical reports on such subjects as nautical drivetrains and electrical systems.

Video, photos and results of the 2007 Solar Cup competition are at **mwdh2o.com**.

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2008 Solar Cup Participants and Sponsors

HS=high school

MWD=municipal water district

*=new

TBD=To Be Determined

Adolfo Camarillo HS, Camarillo, Calleguas MWD

Anaheim HS, Anaheim, City of Anaheim

Ayala HS, Chino Hills, Inland Empire Utilities Agency/City of Chino Hills

Banning Alternative Education, Banning, TBD

Blair HS, Pasadena, Pasadena Water and Power*

Buena HS, Ventura, TBD*

Canyon HS, Anaheim, City of Anaheim

Canyon Springs HS, Moreno Valley, Eastern MWD

Charter Oak HS, Covina, Three Valleys MWD/Golden State Water Co.

Chino Hills HS, Chino Hills, Inland Empire Utilities Agency/City of Chino Hills

Citrus Hill HS, Perris, Western MWD*

City Honors HS, Inglewood, West Basin MWD*

Coachella Valley HS, Thermal, Rahu Institute and Solar Schoolhouse*

Desert Mirage HS, Thermal, Rahu Institute and Solar Schoolhouse*

Diamond Bar HS, Diamond Bar, Three Valleys MWD/Walnut Valley Water District

Duarte HS/Pamela Park, Valinda, Upper San Gabriel MWD

El Monte HS, El Monte, Upper San Gabriel MWD

El Toro HS, Lake Forest, Municipal Water District of Orange County/Irvine Ranch Water District

Elsinore HS, Lake Elsinore, Western MWD*

Gabrielino HS, San Gabriel, Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD

Garey HS, Pomona, Three Valleys MWD/City of Pomona

Great Oak HS, Temecula, Eastern MWD

Hemet Academy for Applied Arts and Technology/San Jacinto HS, Hemet, Eastern MWD

John Muir HS, Pasadena, Pasadena Water and Power*

John North HS, Riverside, Western MWD/Riverside Public Utilities*

Jurupa Valley HS, Mira Loma, Western MWD

La Puente HS, La Puente, Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD

Los Altos HS, Hacienda Heights, Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD

Lynwood High School, Lynwood, Central Basin MWD*

Manual Arts HS, Los Angeles, MWH Global

Millikan HS, Long Beach, Long Beach Water Department

Murrieta Valley HS, Murrieta, Western MWD/Rancho California Water District

Nogales HS, La Puente, Three Valleys MWD/Rowland Water District

Paloma Valley HS, Menifee, Eastern MWD

Palos Verdes Peninsula HS, Rolling Hills, West Basin MWD*

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Providence HS, Burbank, City of Burbank Water and Power*
Rancho Cucamonga HS, Alta Loma, Inland Empire Utilities Agency/Cucamonga Valley Water
District
Rancho Verde HS, Moreno Valley, Eastern MWD
San Dimas HS, San Dimas, Three Valleys MWD/Golden State Water Co.
San Fernando HS, San Fernando, City of San Fernando
Santa Ana HS, Santa Ana, City of Santa Ana*
Sunny Hills HS, Fullerton, City of Fullerton
Theodore Roosevelt HS, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power*
Upland HS, Upland, Inland Empire Utilities Agency/City of Upland
Valley HS, Santa Ana, City of Santa Ana*
Warren HS, Downey, Central Basin MWD

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 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.