



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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ENGINEERING MEETS ENVIRONMENT IN SEVENTH ANNUAL SOLAR CUP

Eight-hundred students from 40 Southland schools to build, race solar-powered boats in seven-month program sponsored by Metropolitan, local water agencies

Melding engineering and environmental lessons, the seventh annual Solar Cup™ has been launched by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California with 40 schools and about 800 students from four counties.

The seven-month-long program begins Saturday Nov. 8 at Three Valleys Municipal Water District headquarters in Claremont where about 20 teams will build identical, 16-foot one-person hulls from pre-cut kits of marine-grade plywood provided by Metropolitan. A second boat-building event for the remaining teams will be Nov. 15.

In coming months, teams from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties will equip the hulls with solar-collection panels, motors, batteries and steering, and over the weekend of May 15-17, 2009 they will use solar energy to race the boats at the Solar Cup event at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner reservoir near Temecula in southwest Riverside County.

During the three-day competition, the boats compete in 90-minute endurance races around a 1.4-kilometer course, and in 200-yard sprint races.

"In this year of drought, Solar Cup extends the messages of water conservation and renewable resources to hundreds of future leaders," said Timothy F. Brick, chairman of Metropolitan's board of directors. "In addition, we encourage participants to return to Southern California's water agencies after they've graduated from college and are looking for a job."

"In fact," Brick added, "we are always pleased to hear that Solar Cup has been a deciding factor in students' decisions to go on to college, and to pursue majors and careers in engineering, communications, math and science-related fields."

(More)

Local water agencies throughout the region sponsor the teams with \$4,000 for newcomers, \$2,500 for returning teams. Returning teams must build a new hull, but may reinstall equipment from previous boats. Veterans and newcomers compete in separate categories.

In addition to building and equipping their boats, teams are required to attend two Saturday-morning technical workshops at Metropolitan's Los Angeles headquarters; submit three technical reports; and produce a conservation-promoting video or brochure. Points for attendance at the workshops, the technical papers, and for the water conservation project are added to scores earned at the Solar Cup competition.

“Solar Cup gives students hands-on application of textbook lessons in engineering, math and physics, and gives them experience in problem-solving and team-building,” said Julie Miller, Solar Cup team manager and a certified teacher in Metropolitan's Education Programs section. “Many past-participants have told us that Solar Cup was the highpoint of their high school years.”

Eight high school teams are newcomers to Solar Cup: Savanna High School, Anaheim; La Mirada High School; Firebaugh High School, Lynwood; La Salle High School, Pasadena; Santa Monica High School; Francis Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley; Franklin High School, Los Angeles; and Walnut High School.

Returning in this year's program are the champions of the 2008 Solar Cup, Nogales High School of La Puente, which won the veteran class, and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School of Rolling Hills Estates, which won the newcomer competition.

A video of the 2008 Solar Cup competition and other information about the program is at Metropolitan's Web site, **mwdh2o.com**.

The roster of Solar Cup high schools, cities and sponsoring agencies for 2009 is attached.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a 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

2009 SOLAR CUP SCHOOLS, SPONSORS

Alta Loma	Rancho Cucamonga High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Cucamonga Valley WD **
Anaheim	Anaheim High School	Anaheim Public Utilities
Anaheim	Canyon High School	Anaheim Public Utilities
Anaheim	Savanna High School	Anaheim Public Utilities
Chino Hills	Ayala High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency; City of Chino Hills
Downey	Warren High School	Central Basin MWD *
Duarte	Duarte High School & Pamela County Park	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD
Fullerton	Sunny Hills High School	City of Fullerton
Hacienda Heights	Los Altos High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD
Inglewood	City Honors High School	West Basin MWD
La Mirada	La Mirada High School	Central Basin MWD
La Puente	Nogales High School	Three Valleys MWD; Rowland Water District
La Verne	Damien High School	Three Valleys MWD; City of La Verne
Lake Forest	El Toro High School	MWD of Orange County; Irvine Ranch Water District
Long Beach	Long Beach Poly High School	Long Beach Water Dept
Los Angeles	Franklin High School	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Los Angeles	Roosevelt High School	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Lynwood	Firebaugh High School	Central Basin MWD
Menifee	Paloma Valley High School	Eastern MWD
Moreno Valley	Rancho Verde High School	Eastern MWD
Murrieta	Murrieta Valley High School	Western MWD
Pasadena	John Muir High School	City of Pasadena
Pasadena	La Salle High School	City of Pasadena
Perris	Citrus Hill High School	Western MWD
Riverside	Patriot High School	Western MWD
Rolling Hills Estates	Palos Verdes Peninsula High School	West Basin MWD
San Dimas	San Dimas High School	Three Valleys MWD; Golden State Water Company
San Fernando	San Fernando High School	City of San Fernando
Santa Ana	Santa Ana High School	City of Santa Ana
Santa Ana	Valley High School	City of Santa Ana
Santa Monica	Santa Monica High School	City of Santa Monica
Sun Valley	Francis Poly High School	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Temecula	Great Oak HS and River Springs Charter HS	Eastern MWD ♦
Upland	Upland High School	Inland Empire Utilities Agency; City of Upland
Walnut	Walnut High School	Three Valleys MWD; Walnut Valley Water District
El Monte	El Monte High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD ●
San Gabriel	Gabrielino High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD ●

*Municipal Water District

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