



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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May 14, 2009

NATION'S LARGEST SOLAR BOAT COMPETITION CULMINATES  
WITH THREE-DAY RACE EVENT, BEGINNING THIS FRIDAY

**Solar Cup to bring nearly 600 high school students on 33 teams  
to Lake Skinner for three days of qualifying, racing May 15-17**

Beginning this Friday, May 15, nearly 600 Southland students representing 33 high school teams will showcase seven months of work during three days of solar-powered boat qualifying and racing at Lake Skinner in southwest Riverside County's Temecula Valley.

The seventh annual Solar Cup competition, sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its member agencies, features student teams who build and equip boats that are powered by direct and stored solar energy. After Friday's inspections and qualifying, the competition culminates this Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 with solar-powered endurance and sprint races. Sunlight is the only power source that can be used for propulsion.

"Solar Cup is a great project and an event that increases the students' understanding of science, mathematics and awareness of water conservation and water quality issues that face Southern California and the entire state," said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick.

"Many Solar Cup participants go on to colleges and universities where they apply this knowledge in science, math, engineering and communications, and possibly investigate careers in the water industry," Brick said.

In addition to points scored during the qualifying and racing part of the competition, teams also are scored on other activities leading up to race day, including attendance at workshops, technical reports, and production of a public water conservation message in audio, video or print format, based on the theme, "Water conservation is a necessity, a way of life."

Friday's activities center around comprehensive visual and technical inspections of the boats on land and water by professors and students from Occidental College. Racing begins Saturday at 10 a.m. with the 1.4 kilometer solar endurance competition, split between veteran and

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rookie divisions. Sunday's 200-yard sprint races also start at 10 a.m. with veteran and rookie divisions.

Of the 33 teams competing in the 2009 Solar Cup, five are newcomers—Walnut High School, Anaheim's Savanna High School, Firebaugh High School in Lynwood, Francis Poly High School in Sun Valley and La Cañada High School.

The Solar Cup program begins in November with teams building their 16-foot hulls from kits of marine-grade wood provided by Metropolitan. Over the following months, teams equip the hulls with solar-collection panels, motors, batteries, steering systems, drive-trains, seats and dashboards using funds provided by their sponsoring water agency.

First-time teams receive \$4,000 and returning teams are given \$2,500. While all teams must build and equip a new hull, returning teams may use equipment from previous boats.

The Solar Cup event is open to the public and runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake Skinner, about 10 miles northeast of Interstate 15 at the Rancho California Road exit in Temecula. For more Solar Cup information, visit [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

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