



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

Contact: Rob Hallwachs, (213) 217-6450; (213) 324-1255, cell  
Bob Muir, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213 mobile

May 17, 2009

**SUN-POWERED BOATS FROM SAVANNA HIGH SCHOOL, ANAHEIM, AND CANYON HIGH SCHOOL, ANAHEIM, WIN FIRST-PLACE SOLAR CUP™ TROPHIES**

**Nearly 600 students on 33 teams compete in solar boat competition, nation's largest**

LAKE SKINNER, Calif.—Solar-powered boats built and raced by teams of high school students from Canyon High School, Anaheim, and Savanna High School, Anaheim, today won the veteran and newcomer divisions in the seventh-annual Solar Cup competition sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and local water agencies.

Sprint races, during which teams use solar energy stored in batteries to power their boats in a 200-meter dash, culminated the three-day event—the nation's largest solar boat competition at high school or college level—at Lake Skinner reservoir near Temecula.

Teams qualified their boats Friday through inspections and testing by engineering professors and students from Occidental College. Saturday, the teams attached solar-collection panels to the 16-foot single-seat canoe-like boats for two, 90-minute 1.4-kilometer endurance races.

“All the students are winners in something like this, where skill, imagination, determination and hard work are necessary to put a boat in the water,” said Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger, who spoke at today's awards ceremony and presented gold medals to all participants. He was assisted by Metropolitan Director S.R. “Al” Lopez of Western Municipal Water District, and by Brian Bowcock, a director of Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

“These bright students are tomorrow's leaders,” Kightlinger said, “and in addition to providing them with practical application and textbook lessons in electrical and mechanical engineering, Solar Cup introduces them to California's water-supply system and the correlation between conserving water and saving energy.”

The seven-month Solar Cup program began last November when the teams built identical, single-seat hulls from kits of marine-grade plywood supplied by Metropolitan. Teams are sponsored by their local water agencies, cities and others with \$4,000 grants for new teams and

\$2,500 for returning teams to equip each craft with solar panels, batteries, steering and related systems. While all teams must build a new boat and equip it, returning teams may use equipment from previous boats. Five of the 33 teams in this year's event were newcomers and 28 were veterans of previous Solar Cups.

Following are the trophies and awards presented today. Complete Solar Cup scores will be posted as soon as possible at Metropolitan's Web site, **[mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com)**.

**Newcomer Teams, Cities, Sponsors and Points:**

First Place—Savanna HS, Anaheim; Anaheim Public Utilities, 894.35

Second Place—Walnut HS, Walnut, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, 833.90

Third Place—Firebaugh HS, Lynwood, Central Basin Municipal Water District, 779.76

Hottest-Looking Boat—Walnut HS, Walnut, Three Valleys Municipal Water District

**Veteran Teams, Cities, Sponsors and Points:**

First Place—Canyon HS, Anaheim, Anaheim Public Utilities, 984.00

Second Place—Long Beach Poly HS, Long Beach, Long Beach Water Department, 906.61

Third Place—Gabrielino HS/El Monte HS (combined team), Upper San Gabriel Valley  
Municipal Water District, 904.73

Hottest-Looking Boat—Patriot HS, Riverside, Western Municipal Water District

**Bart Beziak Memorial Spirit of Solar Cup Trophy** [sportsmanship]—Anaheim HS, Anaheim  
Public Utilities

**Teamwork Award**—Citrus Hill HS, Perris, Western Municipal Water District

###

*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.*