



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN WATER LAUNCHES EIGHTH ANNUAL SOLAR CUP;
TEAMS FROM 36 SOUTHLAND HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING

***Students build, race solar-powered boats in seven-month program
highlighting natural and renewable resources***

Students from 36 Southland high schools will begin building solar-powered boats this Saturday (Nov. 7) that they will race in Metropolitan Water District's eighth-annual Solar Cup next May.

The Solar Cup program combines hands-on engineering lessons with environmental awareness, teaching students practical application of mechanical and electrical engineering with tutorials in renewable resources and water-conservation.

"Solar Cup started in 2002 with eight teams," said Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger, "and eight years later, the program has 36 teams participating and is the largest solar-powered boat program in the nation, if not the world.

"Students who have participated in Solar Cup have told us it was the high-point of their high school years," Kightlinger said, "and that it convinced them to go to college and to pursue careers in engineering, science or environmental protection.

"A special benefit," Kightlinger added, "is that these bright young leaders get an overview of California's water-supply system and renewable energy. Learning about water and green power will prepare these students to contribute for the future."

The seven-month program kicks off Saturday at Three Valleys Municipal Water District headquarters in Claremont, where about 20 teams will build their identical, 16-foot one-person hulls. A second boat-building session for the remaining teams will be at TVMWD Nov. 21.

Julie A. Miller, a credentialed teacher with Metropolitan's Education Programs and eight-year Solar Cup coordinator, said, "We enhance the water-conservation message by awarding points to teams for preparing water-conservation messages in the forms of videos, radio spots or brochures. The results are always creative."

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Metropolitan sponsors the program, providing teams with tool-chests and pre-cut boat kits of marine-grade plywood; Saturday technical workshops; and the final, three-day competition May 14-16, 2010 at Lake Skinner near Temecula in southwest Riverside County.

Individual teams are sponsored by Metropolitan's member public agencies, and some teams are co-sponsored by local water utilities and civic organizations. New teams receive \$4,000 with which to equip the canoe-like hulls with solar-collection panels, batteries, electrical and steering systems, as well as motors. Returning teams—which can re-use equipment from previous boats but must build new hulls—receive \$2,500.

For the second year, Solar Cup's technical advisor is Dr. Adrian Hightower, assistant professor of materials science at Occidental College, assisted by Occidental students. Dr. Hightower and the Oxy students host Saturday technical workshops for both teachers and students in December and January.

During the May 14-16 Solar Cup event, the boats compete in 90-minute endurance races around a 1.4-kilometer course, and in 200-yard sprint races. Veterans and newcomers compete in separate divisions. Winners have highest number of points from the competitions, plus points awarded for attendance at workshops, three technical reports, and the public information campaign project.

The 2010 Solar Cup roster has 27 veteran teams and nine newcomers. Returning teams include the first-place winners of the 2009 competition, Canyon High School and Savanna High school, both of Anaheim, which won the veteran and newcomer divisions, respectively. Canyon High School also won first-place in the competition in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

A video of the 2009 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 2010 is attached.

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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.

2010 SOLAR CUP SCHOOLS, SPONSORS

<u>City</u>	<u>Team/School Name</u>	<u>Member Agency Sponsor</u>	<u>Co-Sponsor Agency</u>
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
Claremont	Claremont High School	Three Valleys MWD	
Covina	Charter Oak High School	Three Valleys MWD	
Downey	Warren High School	Central Basin MWD	
Duarte	Mountain View High School*	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
El Monte	El Monte High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Fullerton	Sunny Hills High School	City of Fullerton	
Hacienda Heights	La Puente High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Inglewood	City Honors High School	West Basin MWD	
La Cañada Flintridge	La Cañada High School	Foothill MWD	Valley Water Company
La Mirada	La Mirada High School*	Central Basin MWD	
La Puente	Los Altos High School	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	
Lake Forest	El Toro High School	Municipal Water District of Orange County	Irvine Ranch Water District
Lawndale	Environmental Charter High School*	West Basin MWD	
Los Angeles	Academia Avance*	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	
Mira Loma	Jurupa Valley High School	Western MWD	Jurupa Community Service Dist.
Murrieta	Murrieta Mesa High School	Eastern MWD	Rancho California Water District
Nuevo	Nuview Bridge Early College High School*	Eastern MWD	
Pasadena	John Muir High School	City of Pasadena	
Perris	Citrus Hill High School	Western MWD	
Pomona	Walnut High School	Three Valleys MWD	Walnut Valley Water District
Riverside	Patriot High School	Western MWD	
Rolling Hills Estates	Palos Verdes Peninsula High School	West Basin MWD	
San Diego	Scripps Ranch High School*	San Diego County Water Authority	Blue Chip Machine & Fabrication
San Diego	School of Science & Technology (SciTech)*	San Diego County Water Authority	San Diego Miramar College Advanced Transportation Technology & Energy (ATTE) Center; Johnson & Johnson; and San Diego High Foundation
San Jacinto	San Jacinto High School	Eastern MWD	
Santa Monica	Santa Monica High School	City of Santa Monica	
Torrance	West High School*	West Basin MWD/City of Torrance MW	
Walnut	I-Poly High School*	Three Valleys MWD	City of Pomona
Wildomar	Elsinore High School	Western MWD	Elsinore Valley MWD

* New Team

MWD Municipal Water District

MW Municipal Water

Official List as of 11/05/2009