



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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Note to editors: Digital photographs and video of the boat-building workshop will be available.

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IT'S HAMMER TIME: 17th ANNUAL SOLAR CUP™ LAUNCHES **More than 400 students to collaborate, construct 16-foot boats during Nov. 3 boat-building workshop**

Saws will be whizzing, drills will be buzzing and sawdust will be flying this Saturday (Nov. 3) as more than 400 students from high schools across five Southern California counties transform boxes of marine-grade plywood into 16-foot canoe-like hulls, kicking off the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's 17th annual Solar Cup™ competition.

The nation's largest contest of its kind, Solar Cup is a seven-month program in which high school teams use problem-solving, creativity, collaboration and engineering skills to build solar-powered boats and then test their speed and endurance. This year's challenge officially launches with a boat-building workshop Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Three Valleys Municipal Water District, 1021 E. Miramar Ave. in Claremont.

Solar Cup culminates with races May 17-19, 2019 at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner in the Temecula Valley in Riverside County. The competition, which is open to the public, promotes learning about Southern California's water resources, resource management, conservation and alternative energy development.

The boat-building event is part of a series of workshops and activities throughout Solar Cup season. Students, some handling tools for the first time, will use Metropolitan-provided boat hull kits, building instructions, saws, nails, screws, sandpaper, paintbrushes and epoxy to build hulls, with the help of their teachers and Metropolitan's education program leaders.

Then the competitive work begins. In the months ahead, teams will dedicate countless hours, working together to apply math, physics and engineering skills to equip the boats with steering, solar panels, batteries and sun-driven motors producing up to 320 watts. The maximum weight of the boats, including the skipper, is 450 pounds.

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Solar Cup began in 2002 with eight schools and 100 students. Although Saturday's workshop is limited to 12 students from each team, about 850 total students from 42 high schools in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego counties are participating in this year's competition (list of participating schools attached).

In May, teams will gather and compete against each other in two races – a 200-meter sprint race, in which boats reach up to 15 miles per hour, and an endurance race, which is won by the boat that circles a 1.6-kilometer course the most times during two 90-minute heats.

As part of the competition, students also accumulate points through the submission of two technical reports and a water conservation public service announcement.

While Metropolitan provides the teams with the boat kits and tools, local member agencies and retailers financially sponsor them, providing \$4,000 to new teams and \$2,500 to returning teams to fully build and equip their boats.

More information, event videos and photos from past Solar Cup events can be found at mwdh2o.com/inthecommunity.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that, along with its 26 cities and retail suppliers, serves 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.

Member Agency Sponsor	Team/High School	City
Anaheim Public Utilities	Anaheim High School	Anaheim
Burbank Water & Power	Burbank High School	Burbank
Long Beach Water Department	Cabrillo High School	Long Beach
Las Virgenes MWD	Calabasas High School	Calabasas
Western MWD*	Centennial High School	Corona
West Basin MWD	Centinela Valley Union High SD	Lawndale
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Chino Hills High School	Chino Hills
City of Compton	Compton High School	Compton
Municipal Water District of Orange County*	Costa Mesa High School	Costa Mesa
San Diego County Water Authority	Del Lago Academy	Escondido
Three Valleys MWD*	Diamond Ranch High School	Pomona
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Don Bosco Technical Institute	Rosemead
Central Basin MWD	Downey High School	Downey
Western MWD*	Eastvale STEM Academy @ Roosevelt HS	Corona
Western MWD*	Elsinore HS / Lakeside HS / Temescal Canyon HS	Wildomar
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Franklin High School	Los Angeles
Three Valleys MWD*	Ganesha High School	Pomona
City of Glendale	Glendale High School	Glendale
Eastern MWD*	Hemet USD Team (West Valley HS; Western Science Ctr; Hemet HS)	Hemet
San Diego County Water Authority	High Tech High North County	San Marcos
Pasadena Water & Power	John Muir High School	Pasadena
Foothill MWD*	La Cañada High School	La Cañada Flintridge
West Basin MWD	Lennox Math, Science & Technology Academy	Lennox
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Los Altos High School	Hacienda Heights
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga
Anaheim Public Utilities	Magnolia High School	Anaheim
Long Beach Water Department	McBride High School	Long Beach
West Basin MWD	Mira Costa High School	Manhattan Beach
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Mountain View High School	El Monte
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Narbonne High School	Harbor City
Three Valleys MWD*	Nogales High School	La Puente
Western MWD*	Norte Vista High School	Riverside
Las Virgenes MWD	Oaks Christian School	Westlake Village
Municipal Water District of Orange County*	Oxford Academy	Cypress
West Basin MWD	Palos Verdes High School	Palos Verdes Estates
Eastern MWD*	Perris Union High SD Team (Heritage HS; Perris HS)	Romoland
Three Valleys MWD*	Pomona High School	Pomona
Eastern MWD*	San Jacinto Valley Academy	San Jacinto
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	Sierra Vista High School	Baldwin Park
Eastern MWD*	Temecula Valley USD Team (Chaparral HS / Great Oak HS)	Temecula
Inland Empire Utilities Agency*	Upland High School	Upland
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Venice HS STEMM Magnet	Los Angeles

* Has Co-Sponsor(s)

■ Rookie Team