



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anchors Aweigh: OC Schools Ready to Compete in Metropolitan Water's Annual Solar Boat Race

Fountain Valley, CA (November 23, 2015) – Five Orange County high schools are participating in the nation's largest solar-powered boat competition. Teams have begun to assemble the 16-foot hulls they will equip and race next spring as part of Metropolitan Water District's 14th annual Solar Cup™.

The Solar Cup, which Metropolitan began in 2002 with just eight teams and about 80 students, has become the largest solar-powered boat competition in the United States, showcasing technical ingenuity, scientific skills, creativity and collaboration. This year, more than 900 students will participate on 40 Solar Cup teams in the three-day competition.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County is sponsoring three teams: Coast High School in Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach High School and Los Alamitos High School. Anaheim Public Utilities is sponsoring the Anaheim High School and Savanna High School teams.

Earlier this month the teams gathered at Three Valleys Municipal Water District headquarters to build identical, canoe-like hulls out of kits of pre-cut, marine-grade plywood. Over the next seven months, the teams will equip them with motors, batteries, solar-collection panels, rudders and steering systems.

The program will conclude with the Solar Cup competition May 13-15, 2016 at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner near Temecula in southwestern Riverside County, where the teams will compete in endurance and sprint races. The event is open to the public.

The Solar Cup program allows students to apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communications, while learning about Southern California's water resources, resource management, conservation and alternative energy development.

Teams also are required to submit technical reports and create a public service announcement. Winners in the newcomer and veteran divisions will have the highest number of points from the competition, plus points awarded for attendance at workshops, technical reports and producing public service announcements.

The 2015 Solar Cup program featured 41 teams, of which nine were newcomers. Cypress' Oxford Academy, sponsored by the Municipal Water District of Orange County, took the top prize in the rookie division during the three-day event.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County is a wholesale water supplier and resource planning agency. MWDOC's service area covers all of Orange County, with the exception of the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. We serve Orange County through 28 retail water agencies.

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