



For Immediate Release

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TEAMS FROM OXFORD ACADEMY AND COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL PLACE AT METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S 2018 SOLAR CUP

Fountain Valley, CA (May 22, 2018) – This past weekend, more than 600 students throughout Southern California competed in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's 16th annual Solar Cup competition, the nation's largest student-based, solar-powered boating competition. Of the 38 high schools that competed, three were Orange County high schools in the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) service area: Costa Mesa High School, Coast High School in Huntington Beach, and Oxford Academy in Cypress.

Cypress' Oxford Academy, sponsored by MWDOC and Golden State Water Company, placed second overall in the veteran teams division and Costa Mesa High School, sponsored by MWDOC and Mesa Water, took first place in the rookie division at the three-day competition at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner in the Temecula Valley of southwestern Riverside County.

The annual Solar Cup competition begins each fall when school sponsorships are announced. Teams are sponsored by their local water agencies and other organizations to build, equip, and race 16-foot, single-seat boats powered only by the sun. This year-long program gives students the unique opportunity to apply skills in math, physics, engineering, and communications, while also providing valuable education surrounding Southern California's water resources, sustainability, alternative energy development, and resource management.

Before the boats hit Lake Skinner, Metropolitan provided teams with identical kits to build the hull, and a technical advisory team from Occidental College provided support for the boats' mechanical systems. On Friday, the first day of the competition, teams completed a qualifying event to ensure boats aligned with the program requirements and were safe and seaworthy. Saturday, May 19, the teams fastened solar panels to the boats to compete in two, 90-minute endurance races for 1.6-kilometers. On the final day of the competition, the solar panels were removed and the boats were raced down a 200-meter stretch using solar energy stored in batteries.

The Solar Cup program first commenced in 2002 with eight teams and approximately 80 students, and has since grown to more than 10,000 student participants over the past 16 years. Complete Solar Cup scores are posted on Metropolitan's website, mwdh2o.com.

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***The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)** is a wholesale water provider and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.*

MWDOC's service area includes all of Orange County with the exception of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton. MWDOC serves Orange County through 28 retail water agencies.