



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



SOLAR CUP 2011 ~ INTEREST FORM

The Metropolitan Water District's solar boat competition will be held at Lake Skinner May 13-15, 2011.

- We had an overwhelming response to the program last year and anticipate the same this year.
- To assist with planning, we are evaluating the levels of interest for Solar Cup 2011.
 - This list is to gauge the interest in the program.
 - This is an interest form, not a final commitment. That request will come later.
 - Will allow us to alert member agencies on how many spaces are available to them if they want to sponsor multiple teams.
 - Currently, there is space for each member agency to sponsor one team.
 - If space allows, member agencies may sponsor more than one team.
 - Please let us know if you are going to sponsor one or more teams this year.

The Metropolitan Water District will supply:

- Boat kits
- Technical assistance--workshops, rules, review of plans
- Communication with schools
- School visits
- Planning, preparing and staging the event

Participant's sponsor (member agency) will supply:

- **Sponsorship** grant to teams—\$4,000 for rookie teams and \$2,500 for veteran teams
- The teams will use the funds to purchase batteries, solar panels and other boat-related items.

The Metropolitan Water District is here to assist you!

- We can help you in identifying and recruiting a school.
- We can work with teachers/administrators to fit the program into the school year.
- We can answer your questions or concerns.

If you are interested in participating in this program please send your interest form to Royetta S. Perry by **Thursday, September 9, 2010.**

----- **INTEREST FORM** -----

Member agency: _____

Contact name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

- Yes, we will participate!** We will have the school/team identified by September 30.
- Yes, we will participate!** We are interested in sponsoring more than one team from our service area! We would like to sponsor a total of _____ teams.
- Good luck!** We will not be participating this year, but would like to be updated.

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Program Overview

Solar Cup is a program in which high school teams, sponsored by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) member agencies, build and prepare a solar powered boat over a seven-month period. The teams will compete against each other at Lake Skinner, located in Temecula, in both sprint and endurance events. The culminating events will take place May 13-15, 2011.

For the ninth year of the program, Metropolitan will serve as lead sponsor for the event. Once again Metropolitan will receive expert technical assistance from Occidental College to teach the students/teachers each of the steps necessary to build and operate a safe, solar-powered boat. Metropolitan's External Affairs staff will provide program coordination and leads for key areas.

Program Details:

The following tasks are involved in the planning, preparing, and staging of the event:

Program Kickoff

- Send program and timeline information to sponsoring agencies
- Create graphic/logo that will be used on flyers, posters, letterhead
- Distribute waiver forms and video release forms
- Distribute program rule book to teams
- Develop media and legislator outreach strategies with sponsoring agencies

Boat Kits and Building Workshops

- Metropolitan will supply each team with a "hull" kit and some of the hard-to-find pieces and fasteners.
- Metropolitan will host boat-building workshops to assist teams in assembling their boats. The nails, epoxy and other supplies needed to build the boat will be furnished. Limited number of tools will be available to teams that need them during the workshop.
- Member agencies will furnish sponsorship money directly to the school(s).
 - ❖ "Rookie" or first-year school(s) sponsorship will be \$4,000.
 - ❖ "Veteran" or schools that have participated in previous years sponsorship will be \$2,500.
 - ❖ This money will be used to purchase solar panels, batteries, safety and steering equipment, and other boat-related items.

Technical Workshops

- Metropolitan will host technical workshops that provide the technical focus.
- Updated rule books and technical manuals will be furnished to each team.
- Tips and instruction from former participants and experts, including a "Rookies Teachers Only" session.
- Hands-on demonstrations.
- Background on Metropolitan's current water supply, conservation and water quality issues, including the infestation of quagga mussels in Southern California reservoirs and waterways.



Communication with Schools

- Metropolitan staff will be available for questions and concerns—via website, email, telephone.
- Each team will be required to complete three technical reports, an outline on a Public Service Announcement, and a water education activity lesson plan which will be reviewed and evaluated.
- School visits to each school will be conducted to evaluate progress and troubleshoot problems.
- Updates covering concerns, problems, troubleshooting and reminders of what steps need to be taken to adhere to the timeline/deadlines will be mailed to participating schools/teams and sponsoring agencies so they can be well prepared leading up to the event.
- Each skipper **must** pass a mandatory swim test at the Technical Inspection.
- Each boat must have been shown to operate safely on the water prior to the Technical Inspection date in order to participate at the event.
- Each team must learn about properly cleaning and drying their boat after exposure to water to ensure they are not spreading quagga mussels from one body of water to another.

Event Site Survey and Prep

- A detailed site, staffing and logistics plan will be created.
- Materials needed to operate event—floating docks, time equipment, buoys, and safety craft will be provided.
- Volunteers will be trained to serve as judges, inspectors and support staff.

Three-day Event

- Metropolitan will supply shuttles to and from lake/parking for teams and guests.
- Metropolitan will supply participation awards – T-shirts, medals, trophies for participants.

Benefits to Metropolitan and its member agencies

- Promote stewardship of natural resources, water quality issues and recreation
- Increase understanding of water conservation and the many issues, perspectives and science of water
- Greater ties to secondary education audience—high schools—in service area
- Numerous media opportunities both locally and regionally
- Collaborative effort between Metropolitan and sponsoring member agencies
- Community outreach opportunities to service groups, retirees or organizations
- Increase awareness about water industry careers