



May 22, 2017

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SOUTH BAY HIGH SCHOOL WINS REGIONAL AWARDS AT 15TH ANNUAL SOLAR CUP™ COMPETITION *Mira Costa High School Takes First Place in the Rookie Division*



Pictured Left to Right - Trevor Oystrick, Ashley Anderson, Natalie Robinson, Jillian Reed

CARSON, Calif. – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) completed its 15th annual Solar Cup™ competition on May 21, as first time competitor, Manhattan Beach’s Mira Costa High School took home the top prizes in the rookie division this year.

“I am so proud of Mira Costa High School for winning this year’s Solar Cup competition,” said West Basin Division III Director, Carol Kwan. “They may be rookies, but that’s okay because this year was truly their year,” said Kwan.

The Solar Cup program is a seven-month water education and environmentally sustainable technology program in which students build and

race 16-foot, single-seat, solar-powered boats. The program is coordinated and sponsored by MWD and its member agencies, including West Basin, and features 38 teams competing from MWD’s six-county service area.

As part of the competition, teams use a kit to build a fully functioning 16-foot long boat that holds one person. This year, three veteran high school teams sponsored by West Basin also competed in the event including, Environmental Charter High School in Lawndale; Palos Verdes High School in Palos Verdes Estates, and Lennox Academy in Inglewood.

“Each year the Solar Cup competition allows students to showcase what they have learned about resource management and environmentally sustainable engineering,” said West Basin Board President Harold C. Williams. “Their ingenuity and understanding of our vital resources will lead us into the future,” said Williams.

Students at Mira Costa High School began planning and pilot testing their boat last year in preparation for this year’s race. Mira Costa High School won both first place, as well as “hottest looking boat,” in the rookie division.

“The Solar Cup program has not only influenced, but driven students into engineering programs at our school. At least three of our senior team members will be studying engineering at their top schools because of the solar cup program,” said Trevor Oystrick, the teacher advisor at Mira Costa High School. Not only are students getting problem solving and engineering skills, but they are learning about the environment and how engineering practices can apply to it,” he said.

Additional photos are available upon request. For more information about the Solar Cup Competition or West Basin’s education programs, please visit www.westbasin.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram via [@WestBasin](https://www.instagram.com/WestBasin) to join the conversation.

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West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water recycling, conservation, and water education. West Basin is currently implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop drought-proof local water supplies. The program includes water recycling, water conservation, groundwater desalting and ocean water desalination. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.