



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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11TH ANNUAL SOLAR CUP™ RACE FUELS UP AT LAKE SKINNER

LAKE SKINNER, Calif. – The bright desert sun at Lake Skinner provided fuel for the 2013 Metropolitan Water District 11th Annual Solar Cup™ Race, the nation’s largest solar-powered boat competition. Thirty-nine teams from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura counties participated in the seven-month program in which students build, equip, and race 16-foot, single seat canoes powered only by the sun. The competition culminated with a three day race on May 17-19. West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) sponsored four schools: the California Academy of Math and Science, Environmental Charter High School, Palos Verdes High School and Peninsula High School.

The Solar Cup program is a team-based educational competition that 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.

West Basin President Carol W. Kwan said, “This race is a one of a kind opportunity for students to combine their problem solving abilities with the spirit of true sportsmanship and teamwork. In this competition, students use the same skill sets in math, physics, engineering, and communication necessary for a future technical career in fields like water supply management. We are proud of the skills and inspiring abilities of these young teams.”

Teams completed a series of qualifying events on Friday, May 17, supported by West Basin and MWD staff and a technical advisory team from Harvey Mudd and Occidental colleges to ensure boats met the competition rules and were safe and seaworthy. Saturday, May 18, teams attached solar-collection panels to the boats for two, 90-minute 1.4 kilometer endurance races. On the third day of the race, the heavy solar-collection panels were removed and through solar energy stored in batteries. The boats then raced down a 200-meter stretch for the sprint race.

Teams were sponsored by their local water agencies and other organizations to equip the crafts with solar panels, batteries, steering and related systems. While all teams had to build a new boat and equip it, returning teams were allowed to use equipment from previous boats. In addition to racing, teams received points through technical inspections, submissions of three technical reports and the creation of a public service announcement focusing on water conservation in the form of a 30-60 second, self-scripted and produced conservation video, audio tape and/or brochure. The conservation theme of this year’s PSA element was “Be Waterwise . . . Outside.”

Two West Basin Municipal Water District teams received awards in this year’s competition. In the Central/Bay Region Division (South Counties, Foothill, Inland Empire and Central/Bay), Palos Verdes High

School won second place veteran team for their Public Service Announcement project. Peninsula High School won second place for veteran team in both endurance and sprint races, and first place for their technical reports.

The West Basin Board recognized their 2013 Solar Cup teams at the May 29 Board Meeting. To find out more about this year's event or participation in next year's event, visit: <http://www.westbasin.org/education/education-programs/solar-cup>.

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

Photo 1: West Basin Board of Directors recognize students and faculty who participated in the Solar Cup Race at the May 29 Board Meeting.

Photo 2: Students from Peninsula High School craft the frame of their boat.

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West Basin Municipal Water District is a wholesale water district that serves nearly a million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas throughout its 185-square mile service area. West Basin is reducing its dependence on imported water through its Water Reliability 2020 program that will double conservation, double recycled water production and add desalted ocean water to its portfolio by the year 2020. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.

Photo 1:



Photo 2:

