Western Sponsors Four Local High Schools for 2011 Solar Cup

RIVERSIDE, CA – February 9, 2011 – Four local high schools will compete in the 2011 Metropolitan Water District’s Solar Cup with sponsorship from Western Municipal Water District and three partnering agencies. Western is sponsoring Elsinore High School in alliance with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. Arlington High School is being supported in conjunction with Riverside Public Utilities. Murrieta Mesa High School is sponsored by Rancho California Water District and Western. Corona Dept. of Water & Power and Western are sponsoring Centennial High School.

“The Solar Cup provides a wonderful opportunity to bring students, schools and local community agencies together to learn about issues impacting our water; one example is efficiency,” said Western Board Member S. R. “Al” Lopez. “Western is proud to partner with the Elsinore, Rancho and Corona water agencies to sponsor teams for this springtime event. Working with our partnering agencies is an efficient way to support these students, teachers and schools.”

In September, Western sent Solar Cup applications to all the high schools in its regional service area. Selected schools are contacted and given the Solar Cup timeline that includes important workshops such as boat building and new teacher training. Solar Cup is a major component of the educational program for Western and its partnering water agencies, which is designed to support and encourage children to develop an early awareness and appreciation of water.

Western Board President Brenda Dennstedt presented checks to Murrieta Mesa High School and Elsinore High School. “Seeing the smiles on the student’s faces, you can tell they are excited to be part of the Solar Cup program,” said Dennstedt. “To influence a student’s outlook on water and nurture that interest in sustainability is exactly why Western provides these educational programs.

“Working with local schools and helping educate students about water and water issues is one of our top priorities,” said Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board President Ben Wicke. “Solar Cup is a prime example of the wonderful things that can happen when schools and water agencies form meaningful partnerships.”

Metropolitan started Solar Cup in 2002 with eight teams, and nine years later the program has grown into an event with roughly 40 schools and 800 student participants. It’s the largest solar-powered boat program in the nation, if not the world. The May 13 through 15 2011 event is an innovative educational program that introduces students to science while providing an awareness of water quality issues. Agency funds are used to purchase the boat’s power source – solar panels – and drive train components.

(more)
Arlington High School check presentation 12.6.10

Murrieta Mesa High School check presentation 12.9.10

Centennial High School check presentation 12.2.10

Elsinore High School check presentation.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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