



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 17, 2016

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Kaiser High School Earns Top Spot at Metropolitan Water District's 2016 Solar Cup

Inland Empire, California – Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) 2016 Solar Cup competition concluded Sunday with two Inland Empire high school teams taking top honors racing solar-powered boats over a three day competition against 38 high school teams, both veterans and rookies.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) co-sponsored three local high school teams for the MWD's 2016 Solar Cup competition: Chino High School, located in the city of Chino and co-sponsored by the city of Chino; Chino Hills High School, located in the city of Chino Hills and co-sponsored by the city of Chino Hills; and Henry J. Kaiser High School in the city of Fontana and co-sponsored by the Fontana Water Company.

Henry J. Kaiser High School, in Fontana, took 1st place overall in the rookie division at the three-day competition at Metropolitan's Lake Skinner. In the competitions leading to their 1st place finish, they received the most points in the endurance race, the 200-meter sprint and the Inland Empire Region Public Service Announcement categories.

"I'm sure the entire Kaiser High School family joins me in celebrating the Solar Cup Team's championship," stated IEUA Board Member Jasmin A. Hall who represents the city of Fontana. "First years are always challenging, and I'm thrilled their hard work and dedication has brought success. These students should be extremely proud of their accomplishments and are an inspiration to all of us. I am extremely proud of the students of Henry Kaiser High School, who demonstrated that with a vision and determination, you can accomplish the highest goals."

Chino High School, in Chino, placed 2nd overall against 38 teams in the veterans division, an incredible jump from their 13th place finish last year. They received the most points for their Inland Empire Region Public Service Announcement and was awarded the 2nd most points for the 200-meter sprint in the Inland Empire Region.

"I am elated at the success of the Chino High School team and its advisers. This is Chino High School's fourth year in the race, and each year the team's dedication and enthusiasm surpasses the last," stated IEUA Board Member Steve Elie who represents the cities of Chino and Chino Hills. "It's been great seeing the team come together year after year to overcome this race's challenges while applying the many learned skills that this competition fosters and cultivates."

The competition began on Friday, May 13th, as teams were put through qualifying events to ensure that the boats were safe and met all of the rules. Saturday, May 14th, the boats took part in endurance races around a 1.6-kilometer course.

Sunday, May 15th, the competition focused on boat sprint races in which the solar panels were removed and the solar boats were then powered by solar energy stored in batteries.

In addition to gaining points through their participation in the weekend competitions, they also have been earning points throughout the eight month program by participating in technical inspections, submissions of technical reports and the creation of a public service announcement focusing on water conservation. The Solar Cup program allows students to apply their skills in math, physics, engineering, and communication, while learning about Southern California's water resources, resources management, conservation, and alternative energy development.

For complete Solar Cup scores visit <https://www.ieua.org/education/solar-cup/>.



1st place rookie division team picture. Henry J. Kaiser High School Solar Cup Team with advisor George Mendoza (2nd from right) and IEUA Board Member Michael Camacho (Far left).

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The Inland Empire Utilities Agency covers 242-square miles, distributes imported water, provides industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services to more than 830,000 people through its member agencies which include Chino, Chino Hills, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana, Fontana Water Company, Montclair, Monte Vista Water District, Ontario, and Upland.