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Palos Verdes Peninsula High School Team Wins 2008 Solar Cup

PENHI wins Rookie Division out of 13 teams

Lake Skinner, Temecula, CA—Taking first place in 3 out of 4 competitions in the Rookie Division, Palos Verdes Peninsula High School (PENHI) won Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) Solar Cup Competition this past weekend. Sponsored by one of MWD's member agencies, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin), the 5 member PENHI team has spent every Saturday since the beginning of the school year building their boat by hand.

PENHI won first place in the Rookie Visual Display, Rookie Technical Report, and the Rookie Solar Endurance competitions. The Endurance competition requires the Skipper to drive the 16-foot boat in a 1.6 Km loop as many times as possible in 90 minutes. Points are earned by distance covered in an endurance race, shortest time elapsed in a sprint race, submitting technical reports, and completing a water conservation media project.

"We're obviously very proud of PENHI for their hard work and dedication over the past seven months and especially on race day," said Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith who represents the Palos Verdes Peninsula. "We congratulate them for giving this competition their all—their Saturdays, their teamwork, and their brain power."

Led by teachers Hermann Huettemeyer and Jon Stamper, students Chien-Heng Sun, Jeffrey Daniel, Geoffrey Iwata, and Shu Wei Lin comprised PENHI's solar cup team. In addition to constructing the boat frame, the team had to prepare flotation calculations, build an electrical system, and test the propellers and batteries.

As part of the competition, the team had to create a conservation media project. PENHI created a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) entitled *Be Water Wise*. In addition to winning first place for their Solar Cup water conservation media project, the team also submitted their PSA to another competition, this time with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, winning the 2008 Digital Voice Award. The Digital Voice Award recognizes exemplary classroom instructional technology projects. The project will be posted on-line to be used as a model for classroom teachers.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for a young team," said West Basin Board President Donald L. Dear. "This is West Basin's first Solar Cup competition and we're excited about their talent and their success."

Solar Cup is an annual event for MWD and this is West Basin's first year sponsoring a team. More than 900 students participated this year from over 43 schools. West Basin provided \$3500 for materials and the boat-building process began in an all-day workshop seven months ago.

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West Basin Municipal Water District provides imported and recycled water to a diverse service area that includes the cities of Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, West Hollywood, portions of the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, and several unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County.