



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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TEAMS OF SOUTHLAND COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TAKE ON
GLOBAL, LOCAL WATER ISSUES IN 18-MONTH GRANT PROGRAM

Projects proposing low-cost, solar-powered water purifiers, water-efficient landscape irrigation at local middle school among solutions offered by college, university teams as part of Southern California World Water Forum

More than 100 students and professors from universities and community colleges throughout the Southland today displayed and presented an array of water-use efficiency technology and conservation practices they developed as part of the Southern California World Water Forum grant program.

U.S. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-Norwalk), honorary chair of the Southern California World Water Forum, was joined by Timothy F. Brick, chairman of Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors, Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger and representatives of other sponsoring agencies at an expo concluding the pioneering \$180,000 grant program aimed at providing cost-effective solutions to problems in water-stressed regions locally and globally.

"Programs such as the World Water Forum are vital in assisting our nation's water conservation and water recycling efforts, now and in the future," Napolitano said.

"These efforts by the next generation of great young thinkers are essential to the long-term economic future and for drought preparedness of our communities," she added. "A clean and reliable water supply is a key building block to our prosperity in California and the nation."

The Southern California World Water Forum kicked off 18 months ago, with 40 submissions for grants. Last May, team projects were selected to receive forum grants, with each awarded \$10,000 to research, develop and communicate water-saving practices that can be cost-effectively implemented either at a regional or global level.

Along with Metropolitan, other Southern California World Water Forum sponsors are the Bureau of Reclamation, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Friends of the United Nations, Water For People and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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Today's event showcased the variety of solutions the student teams researched and developed. The results ranged from improving the treatment process for recycled water and using native plants to improve water quality in watersheds and urban runoff to enhancing filtration systems in countries such as Honduras and Rwanda and improving groundwater supplies.

One project includes the development of a low-cost solar-powered water purifier, while another developed a water-efficient landscape irrigation project in conjunction with a local middle school. (See accompanying list of schools and projects.)

"The students have challenged the status quo and looked into the future," Brick said. "This is the true essence of what the World Water Forum is about. These projects provide local and regional solutions as well as address needs at the global level."

William Steele, area manager of the Bureau of Reclamation, said the World Water Forum introduces students to real-world problems. "This program energizes and challenges the students to step out of academia and into the real world and, in a creative way, think about ways to solve real-life problems. Water is important to all living creatures, and we have to move on from where we have been to move into the future," Steele said.

Teams participating in the grant program represented the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; California State University, Northridge; Golden West College, Huntington Beach; Occidental College; Pasadena City College; San Bernardino Valley College; San Diego State University; Santa Monica College; University of California, Riverside; University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Redlands; and the University of Southern California.

"This program inspires young people to become involved in water issues and the Sanitation Districts hope that they make a lifelong commitment to the field. The continued progress of our field and the future of the water environment depend on them," said Steve Maguin, chief engineer and general manager of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD WATER FORUM GRANT RECIPIENTS

College	Amount	Project Name
Art Center College of Design	\$9,800	Providing Access to Clean Water in Rural Guatemala - A Proposal for a Low-Cost Solar Water Purifier
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	\$10,000	Bio Sand Filtration and Curriculum for Public Schools
Cal Poly Pomona	\$10,000	Fostering Water Awareness and Conservation at Hollenbeck Middle School
California State University, Northridge	\$10,000	Aquifer Analysis of the South Las Posas Basin
Golden West College	\$10,000	Mobile Water Education Project
Occidental College	\$10,000	Study of Ground Water and Nanofiltration Membrane Processes In Mali, Africa
Pasadena City College	\$10,000	Strategy To Improve Water Quality of Urban Run-Off
San Bernardino Valley College	\$10,000	Gray Water to Green Trees
San Diego State University	\$9,900	Disinfection of Secondary Effluent Using Surfactants Immobilized on the Surfaces of Minerals
Santa Monica College	\$10,000	Water Conservation Through Public Service Announcements in Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside	\$10,000	Silica Removal From Inland Brackish Water
University of California, Santa Barbara, School of Environmental Science	\$10,000	Training on Sustainability for Local Experts in Peru
University of Southern California, Engineers Without Borders	\$10,000	Potable Water For Indigenous Lencas Village of Corral de Piedras, Honduras
University of Southern California, Civil and Environmental Engineering	\$10,000	Let The Games Begin! Water Education using Board Games
University of Southern California, Civil and Environmental Engineering	\$10,000	Design Of An Instant Hot Water System To Increase Water Conservation
University of Southern California, School of Policy, Planning & Development	\$10,000	Green Alley Design: Creating A Menu Of Water Conservation Options
University of Redlands, College of Arts And Sciences	\$10,000	Developing a GIS-Based Suitability Model for Rural Water Supply In Rwanda