



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST-EVER GLOBAL WATER & TECHNOLOGY FORUM TO ADDRESS
CHALLENGES OF WATER SHORTAGES, CLIMATE CHANGE

**Metropolitan event to be held Thursday, May 20
at Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center**

More than 800 scientists, researchers, students, inventors and investors from throughout the world are expected to attend the Metropolitan Water District's inaugural Global Water & Technology Forum next Thursday, May 20, aimed at addressing the challenges caused by water shortages and climate change.

The forum, featuring hands-on demonstrations of futuristic green technologies on the market today, will be held at the Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center in Hemet in southwest Riverside County, beginning at 9 a.m. Admission is free.

"Today all of us—from those in the water industry, our elected leaders and regulators to representatives in the labor, business and environmental communities—are at a crossroads. We are dealing with a new and permanent reality of limited water resources," said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick.

"Together, we will develop a deeper understanding and get a better handle on the challenges we all face in managing our water resources and responding to the effects of climate change, while we identify and implement successful solutions," Brick said.

During the day-long forum, hosted by Metropolitan's Business Outreach Program, attendees will hear and learn from experts in the field of archaeology, climate change, economics, resource planning and planetary science.

The event also will present six moderated panel discussions on topics and perspectives ranging from a historical "Last Days of Water: Lessons from Prehistory" workshop to a future outlook with "Nanotechnology—The Wave of Future Jobs." Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory will join with NASA to present a workshop on "The Search for Water in the Solar System."

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Along with the workshops, attendees will be able to view several technology demonstrations and alternative fuel vehicles as part of a resource alley and exhibition tent housing dozens of green product vendors and innovators. In addition, a special “matchmaking” session will pair investors and inventors for one-on-one meetings to explore collaboration and share information.

“The reason behind this forum is to respond to a new reality of permanent shortage in resource management,” Brick said. “By bringing the public together with thinkers and innovators, the investment community, academia, science and government, we hope to foster an interactive exchange of ideas to advance more ideas and solutions.”

Launched in 2001, Metropolitan’s Business Outreach Program offers incentives to local and small businesses participating in the district’s competitive contracting. Small and locally owned businesses, disabled veterans, women, minorities and economically disadvantaged enterprises are encouraged to participate in the expanding program.

For more information on the Global Water & Technology Forum, visit www.mwdh2o.com.

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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.