PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

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Californians and the Environment

- Conducted with funding from The Hewlett Foundation and The Kabcenell Foundation
- 14th annual survey on the environment since 2000
- Preferences for reducing emissions; support for a carbon tax, cap-and-trade, and energy policies.
- Perceptions of global warming and its impacts; approval ratings of elected officials; and preferences for the water bond.

- Telephone interviews, July 8 to 15
  - 1,705 adults, ± 3.7% margin of error
  - 984 likely voters, ± 4.7% margin of error
Timing of state action to reduce emissions

When it comes to the state government’s plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, should it take action right away or should it wait until the state economy and job situation improve to take action?

- **Right away**
  - 2008: 57%
  - 2009: 48%
  - 2010: 53%
  - 2011: 56%
  - 2012: 58%
  - 2013: 65%
  - 2014: 61%

- **When economy improves**
  - 2008: 36%
  - 2009: 46%
  - 2010: 42%
  - 2011: 38%
  - 2012: 40%
  - 2013: 30%
  - 2014: 35%
Effect on jobs

Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming will cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, will cause there to be fewer jobs, or won’t affect the number of jobs for people around the state?

- More jobs: 39%
- Fewer jobs: 26%
- No effect: 27%
- Don’t know: 8%
Do you favor or oppose requiring oil companies to produce transportation fuels with lower emissions? (If favor: Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in gasoline prices at the pump?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favor, but not if it increases gas prices</th>
<th>Favor, even if it increases gas prices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>$40,000 to under $80,000</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>41</td>
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The governor and legislature recently agreed on a plan for how to spend the revenues generated by California’s cap-and-trade program. The plan includes spending 25 percent of the revenues on high speed rail, 35 percent on affordable housing and other mass transit projects, and the rest on projects related to natural resources, energy efficiency, and transportation. In general, do you favor or oppose this spending plan?

- **Favor**: 59%
- **Oppose**: 35%
- **Don't know**: 6%

**All adults**
State’s renewable energy standard

Do you favor or oppose the state law requiring one-third of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2020? (if favor: Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in your own electricity bill?)

- Favor, even if it increases bill: 46%
- Favor, but not if it increases bill: 30%
- Oppose: 20%
- Don’t know: 3%

All adults
Concerns about global warming impacts

I am going to name a few of the possible impacts of global warming in California, and I would like you to tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one.

- Droughts that are more severe
  - Somewhat concerned: 64
  - Very concerned: 23

- Wildfires that are more severe
  - Somewhat concerned: 61
  - Very concerned: 25

- Heat waves that are more severe
  - Somewhat concerned: 44
  - Very concerned: 29

- Rising sea levels
  - Somewhat concerned: 32
  - Very concerned: 32
The legislature is considering an approximately $11.1 billion bond measure for the November 2014 ballot to pay for state water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on this state water bond? *(if no: What if the state water bond was a lower amount, would you vote yes or no?)*

- **Yes**: 51%
- **No, even if lower amount**: 18%
- **No, but yes if lower amount**: 8%
- **Don't know**: 23%

Likely voters
Approval of state elected officials

Governor Brown

- Job overall: 53%
- Environmental issues: 47%

California Legislature

- Job overall: 38%
- Environmental issues: 38%
Approval of federal elected officials

President Obama

- Job overall: 50%
- Environmental issues: 47%

U.S. Congress

- Job overall: 22%
- Environmental issues: 24%
Conclusions

- Most still say the state should act now to reduce emissions rather than wait for the economy to improve.

- Looking to 2015, support for cleaner fuel rules drops sharply if it means higher gas prices.

- A majority favor the cap-and-trade spending plan, which includes funding high-speed rail.

- Concern is record-high that global warming will lead to droughts that are more severe.

- Slim majority of likely voters support current water bond; support rises 8 points if it were a lower amount.
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.