PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

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July 2012
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Government Ratings, Air Pollution
- Climate Change, Energy Policy
- Conclusions
PPIC Statewide Survey Mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 268,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 127 general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and the Environment

- Conducted with funding from The Hewlett Foundation
- 12th annual survey on environmental issues
- Presidential election, approval ratings, air pollution, health risks, and air standards
- Global warming (perceptions and policies), cap and trade, energy policy, fracking
- Telephone interviews, July 10–24
  - 2,500 adults; 1,131 likely voters
  - ± 2.9% margin of error for adults
  - ± 3.6% for likely voters
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In thinking about the presidential election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on global warming and energy policy in determining your vote?

- All likely voters: 30% important, 42% very important
- Democrats: 40% important, 48% very important
- Republicans: 17% important, 36% very important
- Independents: 28% important, 44% very important
- Obama supporters: 40% important, 47% very important
- Romney supporters: 18% important, 37% very important
Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Job overall
Environmental issues

President Obama

U.S. Congress

%
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

- Governor Brown:
  - Job overall: 42%
  - Environmental issues: 39%

- California Legislature:
  - Job overall: 29%
  - Environmental issues: 36%
Regional Air Pollution

Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your region?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Somewhat of a problem</th>
<th>Big problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How serious of a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Somewhat Serious</th>
<th>Very Serious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your region, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Air Pollution Standards

Would you be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on...?

Percent saying yes

Diesel engine vehicles
New passenger vehicles

July 2005: 77%
July 2006: 77%
July 2008: 75%
July 2009: 76%
July 2010: 75%
July 2012: 71%

July 2005: 65%
July 2006: 70%
July 2008: 71%
July 2009: 75%
July 2010: 75%
July 2012: 71%
Would you be willing to see tougher air pollution standards on...?

Percent saying yes

- Commercial and industrial activities
- Agriculture and farm activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Saying Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2005</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2006</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2007</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July 2005 to July 2012
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Rise in World’s Temperature

What is your personal opinion? Do you think that the world's temperature probably has been going up over the past 100 years, or do you think this probably has not been happening?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Probably has</th>
<th>Probably has not</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California’s future?

Percent saying very serious

July 2005: 39%
July 2006: 49%
July 2007: 54%
July 2008: 52%
July 2009: 47%
July 2010: 44%
July 2011: 47%
July 2012: 45%
Taking Steps to Counter Global Warming

Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away, or do you think it is not necessary to take steps yet?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Right away</th>
<th>Not necessary yet / ever</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support for AB 32

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?

Percent saying favor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2006</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2007</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effect on Jobs

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

- More jobs: 42%
- Wouldn’t affect number: 25%
- Fewer jobs: 25%
- Don’t know: 8%

All adults
Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Require increase in efficiency of buildings, appliances: 77% Favor, 20% Oppose
- Require industry, refineries, commercial facilities to reduce emissions: 82% Favor, 16% Oppose
- Change local land use planning to reduce miles driven: 77% Favor, 20% Oppose
Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions (continued)

Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Require automakers to further reduce emissions from new cars: 78% favor, 20% oppose.
- Require fuel providers to reduce carbon intensity of transportation fuels: 79% favor, 18% oppose.
How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called cap and trade that will set limits on carbon dioxide emissions?

- **12%** A lot
- **30%** A little
- **57%** Nothing at all

**All adults**
In the system called cap and trade, the California state government will issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out...Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?
In the system called cap and trade, the California state government will issue permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out...Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?

Cap and Trade, by Party

- **All adults**: 53% Favor, 36% Oppose
- **Dem**: 55% Favor, 36% Oppose
- **Rep**: 58% Favor, 32% Oppose
- **Ind**: 44% Favor, 38% Oppose
- **Likely voters**: 40% Favor, 49% Oppose
The market for permits created by California’s cap-and-trade system is expected to generate new revenues… How much confidence do you have in the state government to use this money wisely?

Do you think that companies buying permits to release emissions under California’s cap-and-trade system will create a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your region, or not?
Overall, do you think that the ... government is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to address global warming?

Percent saying not enough

- Federal government: 55%
- State government: 48%
- Local government: 49%
Building More Nuclear Plants

How about building more nuclear power plants at this time?
State’s Renewable Energy Requirement

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

![Bar chart showing the percentage of different groups who favor the renewable energy requirement, with options for favoring it but not if it increases their bill or favoring it even if it increases their bill.](chart.png)
How about requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in this country?

Percent saying favor

- All adults: 84%
- Dem: 93%
- Rep: 68%
- Ind: 83%
- Likely voters: 81%
Allowing More Oil Drilling

How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?

Favor
Oppose

July 05: 53%
July 06: 42%
July 07: 41%
July 08: 51%
July 09: 51%
July 10: 36%
July 11: 46%
July 12: 48%
 Awareness of Fracking

How much, if anything, have you heard about a drilling method called hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” that is used to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?

- 46% said nothing at all
- 31% said a little
- 23% said a lot

All adults
Support for Fracking

Do you favor or oppose fracking in California?

Among those who have heard about fracking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
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- Obama trusted over Romney on environment
- Air pollution seen as greater health threat in LA
- Most say world temperature increasing, steps to mitigate should be taken right away
- Strong support for AB 32, growing partisan gap
- Strong support for policies to reduce emissions, except mixed views on cap and trade
- Strong support for renewables, but not if utility bills higher
- Mixed views, and many unsure, about fracking in California
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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:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.