

**PPIC Statewide Survey:  
Special Survey on  
Californians and the Environment**

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**Public  
Policy  
Institute  
*of*  
California**

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## Preface

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The PPIC Statewide Survey is an ongoing series of public opinion surveys designed to provide policymakers, the media, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the opinions and policy preferences of residents throughout the state of California. Begun in April 1998, the surveys have generated a database that includes the responses of over 52,000 Californians.

This survey on Californians and the environment—a collaborative effort of the Public Policy Institute of California and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation—is a special edition of the PPIC Statewide Survey. This is the third in a series of eight surveys—two per year for four years—launched in May 2001. The intent of the surveys is to inform policymakers, encourage discussion, and raise public awareness about the growth, land use, and environmental issues facing the state. The current survey focuses in particular on public perceptions, individual actions, and policy preferences regarding environmental issues.

This special edition presents the responses of 2,029 adult residents throughout the state. It examines in detail the public's views on local, regional, statewide, and national issues related to the environment. Some of the questions are repeated from a PPIC Statewide Survey on Californians and the environment that was conducted in June 2000. More specifically, we examine the following issues:

- The public's perceptions of environmental conditions in California, including opinions about progress in solving environmental problems and whether or not environmental conditions will improve; identification of the most important environmental issue; and perceptions of specific environmental problems in the state and in the region where the respondent lives.
- The personal connections of Californians toward the environment, such as their environment-related consumer choices, leisure activities, and household practices; their degree of knowledge and involvement with local environmental issues; their awareness of economic inequities and "environmental justice" issues; and their interests in environmental news and donations to environmental causes.
- Specific policy preferences, such as general support for environmental laws and regulations and attitudes toward federal, state, and local policies regarding global climate change, oil drilling off the California coast, building new dams and reservoirs, requiring all automakers to further reduce greenhouse gases, increasing the use of renewable energy, and open space purchases.
- Governance issues, including confidence in the government to solve environmental problems; ratings of federal and state elected officials for their overall performance in office and their handling of environmental issues; satisfaction with the state government's efforts to protect the environment; support for maintaining the state's current level of environmental spending given the current deficit; the importance of environmental issues in the November election; and support for a state water bond initiative on the November ballot.
- Variations in environmental perceptions, individual actions, and policy preferences across the four major regions of the state (Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles area, and Other Southern California), between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites, and across age and the socioeconomic and political spectrum.

Copies of this report or other PPIC Statewide Surveys may be ordered by e-mail (order@ppic.org) or phone (415-291-4400). The reports are also posted on the publications page of the PPIC web site ([www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)).



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## Press Release

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### ***SPECIAL SURVEY ON CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT***

#### **PESSIMISM ABOUT STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROSPECTS GENERATES RESOLVE, NOT APATHY**

#### **Californians Willing to Make Major Lifestyle Changes to Improve Environment; Most Believe Environmental Justice Concerns Are Real**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, June 27, 2002 — Despite a budget crisis and deep doubts that environmental progress can be achieved, Californians remain steadfast in their concern about the state's environment and their commitment to improving it, according to a new survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the Hewlett, Irvine, and Packard Foundations. Residents have little faith that government can solve environmental problems, but most residents are willing to make significant personal sacrifices to improve California's air, water, and land.

The survey of 2,029 Californians finds that most residents believe little progress has been made in solving environmental problems over the past twenty years, and they are pessimistic about improvement in the future. Seventy-eight percent believe there has been only some (58%) or hardly any (20%) progress since the early 1980s, and 79 percent have only some (51%) or hardly any (28%) optimism that environmental problems will be under control 20 years from now. While 72 percent of residents say they are currently somewhat (49%) or very (23%) satisfied with the quality of the environment in their region of the state, over half (51%) say it is getting worse; only 27 percent believe it is improving.

#### **Little Faith in Government**

Pessimism about the state's environmental future is consistent with Californians' well-known distrust of government: Half of state residents say they have at least some confidence in government to understand and solve today's environmental problems, but only 9 percent say they have a great deal of confidence and almost half (49%) have little or none. Although residents say they trust state government (32%) more than county (20%), federal (19%), or city (16%) government to deal with environmental problems, a majority (51%) say that the state is not doing enough.

Californians also give President George W. Bush and Governor Gray Davis low marks on environmental performance. Only 39 percent of Californians say they approve of the way the president is handling environmental issues; only 35 percent approve of the governor's environmental performance. Despite their cynicism about the role of government, most voters (88%) say that the candidates' positions on environmental issues will be very (39%) or somewhat (49%) important in determining their vote for governor in November. Currently, 43 percent say that Democrat Davis would do a better job of handling environmental issues in California; 31 percent give Republican challenger Bill Simon the nod.

"Californians today feel profound concern about the environment, but they have little faith that government can resolve serious problems like air pollution," says PPIC Statewide Survey director Mark Baldassare. "They are willing to take personal responsibility to a large degree, which is remarkable given the state's anemic economic circumstances."

## **Air Pollution Top Issue; Public Willing To Make Tradeoffs To Help Environment**

Air pollution (34%) is the most important environmental issue facing the state today according to residents, followed distantly by growth and development (13%), water, ocean, and beach pollution (12%), and the water supply (9%). While air pollution is the top issue in every region, Central Valley residents are more likely than residents of other regions to mention it.

A majority of all Californians see specific regional concerns as at least somewhat of a problem, from ocean and beach pollution along the coast (84%), to growth and air pollution damaging the Sierra mountains (76%), to the loss of farmlands due to urban sprawl in the Central Valley (70%). Southern California residents are far more likely to view pollution along the coast as a big problem, while Central Valley residents are more likely to say that the loss of farmlands is a big problem. A majority of residents of every region except the Central Valley see traffic congestion as a big problem in their area.

Given their broad concerns, state residents are willing to make a variety of economic and lifestyle tradeoffs in order to see environmental improvements:

- **Economy:** Sixty-four percent of Californians say stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the tradeoff, but 31 percent believe such restrictions cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.
- **Lifestyle:** Fifty-three percent of state residents say they will have to make major lifestyle changes to solve today's environmental problems. Eighty percent recycle regularly and over half (52%) buy organic foods at least some of the time. Despite their love of the outdoors, 55 percent believe that open space should mostly be designated as protected land for natural habitat preservation, rather than developed for recreational use (38%).
- **Energy:** Sixty-five percent of Californians — compared to 52 percent of Americans — say the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting energy production and supplies. And 85 percent favor a state policy that requires doubling the use of renewable energy over the next decade.
- **Energy/Oil Drilling:** Fifty-nine percent say policymakers should not allow more oil drilling off the California coast, even if this means higher gasoline prices for California drivers.

“The state is at a critical juncture in terms of our awareness of environmental challenges and our willingness to do something about them,” says Richard Schlosberg, President and CEO of The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. “It is encouraging that Californians accept that they are both part of the problem and a key part of the solution.”

## **Environmental Inequities a Reality for Low-Income, Minority Communities**

Californians are clear about where they stand in the debate over environmental justice: Most believe there are environmental inequities between more and less affluent communities in the state. A majority of residents (58%) agree that compared to wealthier neighborhoods, lower-income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share of toxic waste and polluting facilities. And 64 percent of Californians also say that poorer communities have less than their fair share of well-maintained parks and recreational facilities. Latinos are far more likely than non-Hispanic whites (72% to 60%) to say that poorer communities do not receive their fair share of parks and recreational facilities.

## **More Key Findings**

- ***Water Pollution and Supply*** (pages 4, 18, 24)

Most Californians view the pollution of water sources by urban and agricultural runoff (80%) and by toxic substances such as MTBE (74%) as at least somewhat of a problem. Residents are divided about ways to help California meet its future water needs: 47 percent favor building dams and reservoirs, while 45 percent

prefer conservation. Fifty-nine percent of voters today say they would support the \$3.44 billion water bond measure on the November ballot.

- ***Bottled vs. Tap Water*** (page 7)

Only 24 percent of Californians say they drink straight tap water; 35 percent drink it filtered and 39 percent prefer bottled water. Latinos are far more likely than non-Hispanic whites (55% to 30%) to drink bottled water and Los Angeles residents drink bottled water more than residents of other regions.

- ***SUV Ownership*** (page 7)

Consistent with national rates, 23 percent of Californians say they own or lease a sport utility vehicle. Families with children and those at higher income levels are more likely to own an SUV.

- ***Global Warming*** (page 16)

A solid majority of Californians (62%) believe that there is enough evidence that global climate change is real and that some action is warranted. Eighty-one percent favor a state law requiring all automakers to further reduce emission and greenhouse gases from new cars in the state by 2009.

- ***Growth Controls*** (pages 17 and 18)

Fewer Californians today (49%) than in May 2001 (51%) would vote for a local initiative to slow down the pace of growth in their community, even if it meant having less economic activity. A solid majority (58%) favor using taxpayer money to buy undeveloped land to keep it free of development.

- ***Overall Approval Ratings for Bush, Davis*** (pages 20 and 21)

Sixty-five percent of Californians say they approve of the way President Bush is handling his job, down from 76 percent in February, but still far higher than his environmental rating. Support for the president among Democrats and independents has dropped substantially. Governor Davis' approval ratings have fallen as well: Thirty-nine percent say they approve of the way he is handling his job, compared to 51 percent in February. A significant number of Democrats (41%) say they disapprove of his performance.

## **About the Survey**

The Californians and the Environment survey is a special edition of the PPIC Statewide Survey. It is the third in a four-year, multisurvey series on growth, land use, and the environment, produced in collaboration with The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The purpose of this series is to inform policymakers, encourage discussion, and raise public awareness about the critical growth, development, and environmental challenges facing the state. Findings of the current survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,029 California adult residents interviewed from May 28 to June 4, 2002. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. For more information on survey methodology, see page 25.

Dr. Mark Baldassare is a senior fellow at PPIC, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is founder and director of the PPIC Statewide Survey, which he has conducted since 1998.

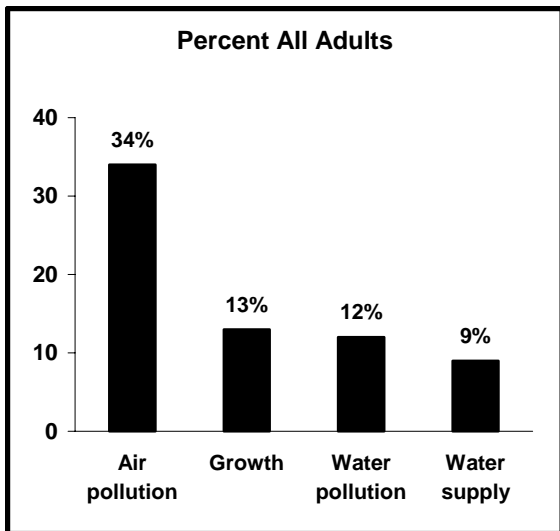
PPIC is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public policy through objective, nonpartisan research on the economic, social, and political issues that affect Californians. The Institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. PPIC does not take or support positions on any ballot measure or state and federal legislation nor does it endorse or support any political parties or candidates for public office.

This report will appear on PPIC's website ([www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)) on June 27. See graphics next page.

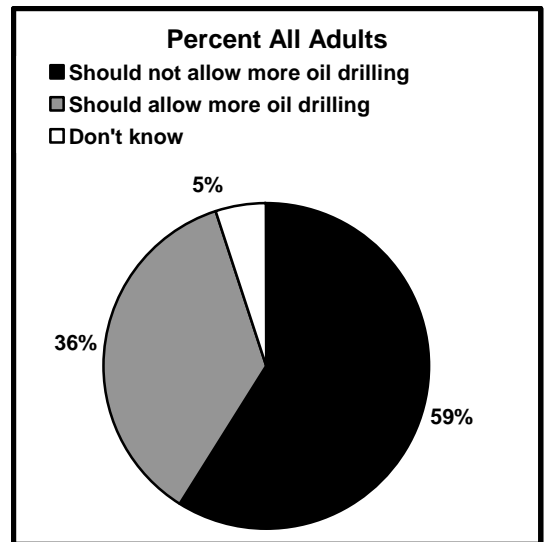
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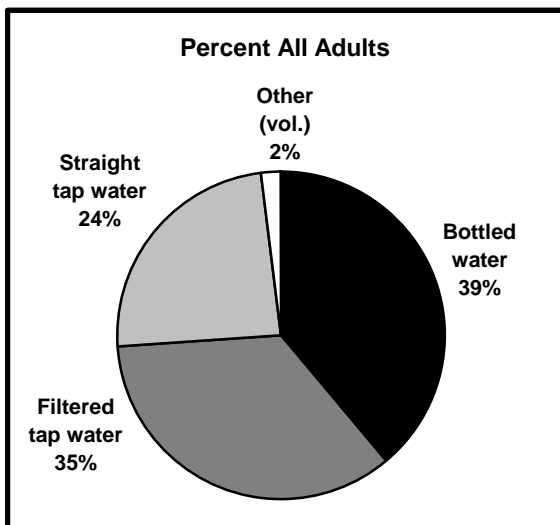
**Top four environmental issues in California today**



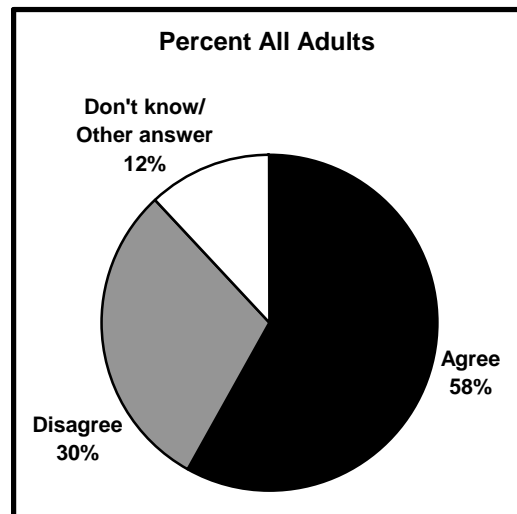
**Oil Drilling off the California coast**



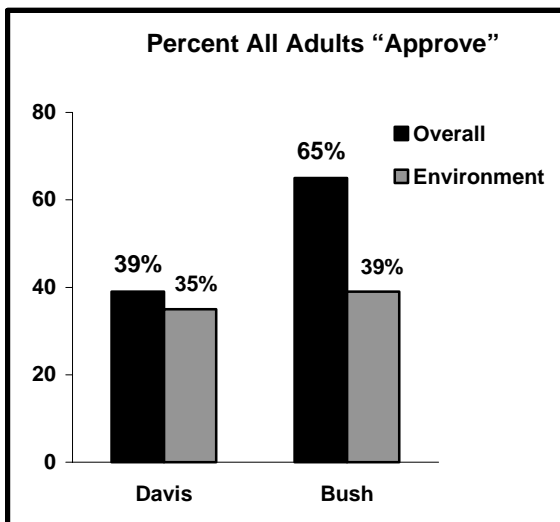
**“What kind of water do you drink in your home?”**



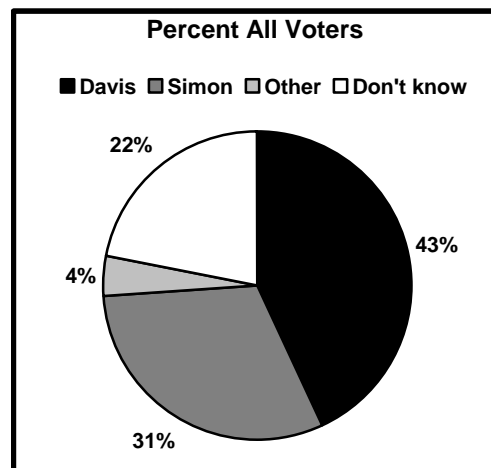
**“Low income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share of toxic waste and polluting facilities.”**



**Approval Ratings**



**“Regardless of your choice for governor, which of these candidates would do a better job of handling environmental issues?”**



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## Environmental Conditions

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### Overall Environmental Conditions

Most Californians do not believe there has been much progress in solving environmental problems in the state over the past twenty years, and they do not hold out much hope for significant improvement over the next two decades.

Only one in six residents say there has been a great deal of progress in dealing with the state's environmental problems over the past 20 years. Eight in ten believe there has been only some (58%) or hardly any (20%) progress since the early 1980s. This fairly pessimistic view about environmental progress in California is similar across regions of the state, as well as across age, education, and income groups. Latinos (16%) and non-Hispanic whites (21%), and Republicans (28%), Democrats (18%), and independents (13%) are all unlikely to believe that California has made a great deal of environmental progress in the past 20 years.

Only 18 percent of Californians express a great deal of optimism that the state's environmental problems will be well under control 20 years from now. More than half (51%) have only some optimism, and three in 10 Californians express hardly any optimism that the state's environmental problems will be under control. Latinos are only somewhat more likely than non-Hispanic whites (23% to 16%) to express a lot of optimism about environmental problem solving. Optimism about future environmental conditions does not vary by education, income, or partisan affiliation.

**"How much progress do you think has been made in dealing with environmental problems in California—including problems related to air, water, and land—over the past 20 years?"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Great deal	18%	17%	22%	15%	19%	16%
Only some	58	56	57	57	60	60
Hardly any	20	24	16	24	18	21
Don't know	4	3	5	4	3	3

**"How much optimism do you have that we will have environmental problems in California well under control 20 years from now?"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Great deal	18%	18%	20%	18%	18%	23%
Only some	51	48	48	55	51	52
Hardly any	28	30	29	25	30	23
Don't know	3	4	3	2	1	2

**Most Important Environmental Issue**

When asked to identify the most important environmental issue facing the state, nine in 10 Californians were able to identify a specific problem. Californians are most likely to name air pollution (34%) as the top environmental concern, followed by growth, development, and sprawl (13%), water pollution (12%), water supply (9%), traffic congestion (5%), and pollution in general (5%). Other problems are mentioned less often, including energy, toxic waste, and wildlife protection.

Californians' assessments of the state's most important environmental issue are little changed from June 2000. Compared to two years ago, residents today are just as likely to name air pollution (34% to 33%), growth, development, and sprawl (13% in both surveys), water quality (12% to 9%), and traffic congestion (5% to 6%) as the most important environmental issue.

Residents in every major region of the state name air pollution as the state's most important environmental issue, with Central Valley residents (41%) the most likely to express concern about this problem. Those living in the coastal regions of the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles are more likely than residents of other regions to mention growth and development and traffic congestion as the biggest environmental issues confronting the state. Non-Hispanic whites, Latinos, and other racial and ethnic groups all rank air pollution as the most important problem, and air pollution is the top environmental concern across every demographic and partisan group.

"What do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Air pollution	34%	41%	31%	34%	35%	34%
Growth, development, sprawl	13	9	14	16	12	8
Water, ocean, and beach pollution	12	10	11	9	12	13
Water supply	9	9	9	6	11	5
Traffic congestion	5	3	8	6	4	4
Pollution in general	5	5	4	6	5	9
Energy	2	1	1	1	2	1
Toxic waste and land contamination	1	0	1	0	1	2
Protecting wildlife	1	1	1	1	2	1
Landfills and garbage	1	1	1	1	1	1
Loss of farmlands and agriculture	1	1	1	0	0	0
Lack of parks and recreation	1	0	1	1	0	1
Other answer ( <i>specify</i> )	8	11	11	10	8	10
Don't know	7	8	6	9	7	11

**Environmental Problems in the State**

Many Californians express concern about environmental problems related to specific regions of the state. More than eight in ten residents say that ocean and beach pollution along the California coast is at least somewhat of a problem, three in four are similarly concerned about the effects of growth and air pollution on forests in the Sierra mountains, and seven in ten residents are at least somewhat concerned about urban sprawl taking over farmlands in the Central Valley. Half say that ocean and beach pollution (50%) is a big problem, and about four in 10 view damage to the Sierras (42%) and the loss of Central Valley farmland (36%) as big problems. Since June 2000, there have been no major changes in how Californians perceive any of these specific issues.

Residents living in Los Angeles (65%) and other Southern California areas (60%) are most likely to view ocean and beach pollution as a big problem. Central Valley (44%) and San Francisco Bay Area (37%) residents are more likely than others to say that urban sprawl taking over Central Valley farmlands is a big problem. Los Angeles residents (51%) are more likely than those in other regions to think that urban growth and air pollution damaging forests in the Sierras is a big problem.

Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say ocean and beach pollution (54% to 49%) and damage to the Sierras (52% to 39%) are big problems. Democrats are much more likely than Republicans and somewhat more likely than independents to say that damage to the Sierras (49% to 26% to 43%) and the loss of Central Valley farmlands (43% to 31% to 35%) are big problems. Democrats (54%) and independents (54%) are both more likely than Republicans (42%) to view ocean and beach pollution along the coast as a big problem.

"How much of a problem is \_\_\_\_\_ in California today?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>Ocean and beach pollution along the California coast</i>						
Big problem	50%	32%	34%	65%	60%	54%
Somewhat of a problem	34	38	45	28	28	29
Not a problem	10	14	16	5	6	9
Don't know	6	16	5	2	6	8
<i>Urban growth and air pollution damaging forests in the Sierra mountains</i>						
Big problem	42%	38%	36%	51%	38%	52%
Somewhat of a problem	34	32	40	32	36	24
Not a problem	13	19	15	7	13	14
Don't know	11	11	9	10	13	10
<i>Urban sprawl taking over farmlands in the Central Valley</i>						
Big problem	36%	44%	37%	33%	32%	37%
Somewhat of a problem	34	33	35	35	33	34
Not a problem	16	16	18	14	17	16
Don't know	14	7	10	18	18	13

## Environmental Conditions

When questioned about three specific statewide environmental problems, three in four California residents indicated that urban and agricultural runoff polluting lakes, rivers and streams; soil and groundwater toxic contamination; and suburban development harming wildlife and endangered species was each at least somewhat of problem. Four in 10 believe that urban and agricultural runoff pollution and land and water contamination by toxics are big problems.

Compared to our June 2000 survey, residents today are marginally less likely to think that pollution from urban and agricultural runoff (47% to 43%), the toxic contamination of soil and groundwater (48% to 41%), and development harming wildlife habitats (39% to 36%) are big problems. In the current survey, Los Angeles residents (50%) are the most likely to say that water pollution from urban and agricultural runoff is a big problem; and together with San Francisco Bay Area residents, they are the most likely to say that toxic contamination is a big problem. Central Valley residents are the most likely to think that suburban development harming wildlife is not a problem (32%).

Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to rate pollution from urban and agricultural runoff (52% to 41%), soil and groundwater contamination (49% to 39%), and development harming wildlife habitats (42% to 34%) as big problems. Republicans are less likely than Democrats and independents to see water pollution from urban and agricultural runoff (32% to 49% to 45%), groundwater and soil contamination (37% to 45% to 43%), and development harming wildlife habitats (23% to 40% to 39%) as big problems.

"How much of a problem is \_\_\_\_\_ in California today?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>Urban and agricultural runoff polluting lakes, rivers, and streams</i>						
Big problem	43%	37%	39%	50%	43%	52%
Somewhat of a problem	37	36	45	32	35	30
Not a problem	12	18	8	9	14	13
Don't know	8	9	8	9	8	5
<i>MTBE and other toxic substances contaminating soil and groundwater</i>						
Big problem	41%	38%	45%	45%	36%	49%
Somewhat of a problem	33	32	31	30	36	28
Not a problem	10	13	11	6	10	10
Don't know	16	17	13	19	18	13
<i>Suburban development harming wildlife habitats and endangered species</i>						
Big problem	36%	30%	34%	41%	35%	42%
Somewhat of a problem	38	34	45	38	35	32
Not a problem	21	32	18	15	25	20
Don't know	5	4	3	6	5	6

**Regional Environmental Problems**

Californians send mixed signals when asked to evaluate their regional environments. While three in four are satisfied with the current state of the environment in their regions, more than half say that the quality of their environment is getting worse. This apparent disconnect reflects the fact that fewer than one in four residents is very satisfied with the air, water, and land quality in his or her region. Most Californians are only somewhat satisfied with the environment, and most of these residents believe that the quality of their regional environment is getting worse.

Compared to residents in the state's other major regions, Los Angeles residents are the least satisfied with the quality of their air, water, and land: Thirty-six percent are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their regional environment. Across the state, Latinos (23%) and non-Hispanic whites (24%) are equally satisfied with regional environmental quality, but Latinos have a notably more optimistic view about their environment improving (35% to 25%).

"Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of the environment in your region—including the air, water, and land?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very satisfied	23%	22%	24%	15%	25%	23%
Somewhat satisfied	49	48	55	48	49	47
Somewhat dissatisfied	20	23	17	23	19	21
Very dissatisfied	7	6	4	13	6	8
Don't know	1	1	0	1	1	1

"Would you say the quality of the environment in your region is getting better or is it getting worse?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Better	27%	23%	28%	28%	27%	35%
Worse	51	57	50	49	53	46
Same ( <i>volunteered</i> )	17	17	17	17	15	16
Don't know	5	3	5	6	5	3

Over the past two years, Californians have become increasingly likely to think that traffic congestion (44% to 61%) and air pollution (28% to 34%) are big problems in their region. Three in 10 residents continue to rate growth and development as a big problem. Residents were asked about the pollution of drinking water for the first time, and nearly one in four rates this as a big problem.

San Francisco Bay Area (72%) and Los Angeles (73%) residents are more likely than others to say that traffic congestion is a big problem where they live. Los Angeles (47%) and Central Valley (39%) residents are the most likely to say that air pollution is a big problem in their region. Latinos are somewhat more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say that air pollution (38% to 32%) and the pollution of drinking water (29% to 20%) are big problems. Republicans are less likely than Democrats or independents to perceive air pollution as a big problem (25% to 37% to 37%).

**Environmental Conditions**

"How much of a problem is \_\_\_\_\_ in your region today?"

<i>Percentage seeing the issue as a big problem:</i>	<u>All Adults</u>		
	2000	2001	2002
Traffic congestion	44%	60%	<b>61%</b>
Air pollution	28	30	<b>34</b>
Population growth and development	27	29	<b>30</b>
Pollution of drinking water	--	--	<b>23</b>

"How much of a problem is \_\_\_\_\_ in your region today?"

	<b>All Adults</b>	<u>Region</u>				<b>Latino</b>
		<b>Central Valley</b>	<b>SF Bay Area</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>Other Southern California</b>	
<i>Traffic congestion on freeways and major roads</i>						
Big problem	61%	36%	72%	73%	62%	59%
Somewhat of a problem	24	33	22	18	26	22
Not a problem	14	30	6	8	12	19
Don't know	1	1	0	1	0	0
<i>Air pollution</i>						
Big problem	34%	39%	27%	47%	30%	38%
Somewhat of a problem	38	33	47	35	37	34
Not a problem	27	27	26	17	32	27
Don't know	1	1	0	1	1	1
<i>Population growth and development</i>						
Big problem	30%	24%	30%	31%	34%	29%
Somewhat of a problem	37	35	45	37	35	34
Not a problem	31	39	23	29	30	35
Don't know	2	2	2	3	1	2
<i>Pollution of drinking water</i>						
Big problem	23%	25%	17%	30%	21%	29%
Somewhat of a problem	31	32	31	32	30	31
Not a problem	42	40	47	34	45	37
Don't know	4	3	5	4	4	3

## Environmental Connections

### Consumer Choices

In California today, 76 percent of all residents do not drink unfiltered tap water in their homes. Across all of the state's major regions, residents overwhelmingly prefer bottled and filtered water to straight tap water, a preference that is higher in Los Angeles (80%) and other Southern California areas (77%) than in the San Francisco Bay Area (70%) or Central Valley (64%). Of those who say that pollution of drinking water is a big problem in their region, only 13 percent drink water straight from the tap, compared to 21 percent who see it as somewhat of a problem, and 34 percent who do not see the pollution of drinking water as a problem. Younger residents are much more likely to drink bottled water at home compared to residents 55 and older.

Latinos (55%) overwhelmingly prefer bottled water to all other types of water, while non-Hispanic whites are more evenly divided among the three choices. The college educated and residents with household incomes of \$80,000 or higher are more likely to drink filtered water, while residents with lower incomes and less education are more likely to drink bottled water.

Nearly one in four Californians (23%) own or lease a sport utility vehicle (SUV). This number is consistent with national findings by *Newsweek* in 2001. Residents 55 and older (14%) are much less likely than younger residents (24%) to have an SUV. Residents who have household incomes of \$80,000 or higher (38%) are more likely than those with lower incomes (18%) to own such a vehicle. People with children at home (30%) are much more likely than those without children in the home (18%) to drive an SUV. Other Southern California residents (28%) are the most likely to own an SUV. Republicans (30%) are more likely to have an SUV than either Democrats (23%) or independents (20%). SUV ownership is unrelated to education or race and ethnicity.

**"What kind of water do you typically drink in your home?"**

	All Adults	Region				Race/Ethnicity	
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	Non-Hispanic White	Latino
<b>Straight tap water</b>	24%	33%	27%	18%	22%	30%	13%
<b>Filtered tap water</b>	35	33	38	32	38	37	31
<b>Bottled water</b>	39	31	32	48	39	30	55
<b>Other (volunteered)</b>	2	3	3	2	1	3	1

**"Do you personally own or lease an SUV (sport utility vehicle)?"**

	All Adults	Income			Kids at Home		Latino
		<\$40K	\$40,000 -79,999	\$80K+	Yes	No	
<b>Yes</b>	23%	13%	23%	38%	30%	18%	24%
<b>No</b>	77	87	77	62	70	82	76



**Personal Activities and Practices**

Californians are living up to their active image by spending time out-and-about in the Golden State. Forty percent of Californians regularly spend time at local parks, recreation areas, or beaches, and another 41 percent do so on a less frequent basis. Two in three Californians say they at least sometimes visit a national park or other scenic destination, and almost one-quarter do so regularly. Nineteen percent of residents say that they regularly hike and bike on unpaved trails, and an additional 27 percent sometimes engage in these activities.

There are only modest regional differences in participation in any of these activities. By contrast, residents' income and education are highly related to the amount of time they spend pursuing these leisure activities. Residents who make less than \$40,000 annually and those who have not attended college are much less likely than others to spend time on these activities. Having children in the house seems to provide some incentive for activity; residents with children in the home are more likely than those without children at home to spend time hiking and biking (51% to 43%) and visiting local parks and beaches (89% to 75%).

"How often do you ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>Spend your leisure time at local parks, recreation areas, or beaches</i>						
Regularly	40%	34%	42%	39%	41%	44%
Sometimes	41	43	41	42	38	40
Hardly ever	13	17	11	12	14	10
Never	6	6	6	7	7	6
<i>Take a trip to a national park or other scenic destination</i>						
Regularly	23%	27%	26%	20%	23%	22%
Sometimes	42	42	40	44	41	41
Hardly ever	25	21	27	25	26	25
Never	10	10	7	11	10	12
<i>Go on day trips that involve hiking or mountain biking on unpaved trails</i>						
Regularly	19%	15%	21%	18%	19%	16%
Sometimes	27	26	28	27	25	28
Hardly ever	24	26	23	25	25	26
Never	30	33	28	30	31	30

Californians' familiarity with environmental issues in their cities or communities carries, at least partly, into environmentally friendly practices. Eighty percent of Californians regularly recycle their newspapers, aluminum cans, and glass; and two in 10 regularly buy organic and pesticide-free foods or carpool on a regular basis.

San Francisco Bay Area residents' commitment to recycling has not wavered since June 2000, when 90 percent of Bay Area residents indicated that they recycled regularly. Traffic congestion in the state has perhaps had one positive environmental effect: Fewer residents say that they never carpool now (47%) than in June 2000 (52%). The percentage of residents who never carpool has declined in traffic-snarled Los Angeles (50% to 44%) and other areas of Southern California (51% to 44%). Today, residents purchase organic and pesticide-free foods somewhat less regularly. In the "Other Southern California" area, for example, there has been a nine-point drop (57% to 48%) in the percentage of people who regularly or sometimes buy organic foods.

There are some interesting differences between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites: Non-Hispanic whites are more likely than Latinos to say they regularly recycle (84% to 74%), while Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say they carpool regularly (26% to 17%). Both groups are equally likely to buy organic and pesticide-free foods.

Recycling tends to increase among those with higher education and income, while carpooling declines with these socioeconomic factors. People ages 55 and older (88%) are the most likely to regularly recycle, and those under 35 are the most likely to carpool on a regular basis (29%).

"How often do you ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Recycle newspapers, aluminum cans, or glass</b>						
Regularly	80%	76%	89%	79%	75%	74%
Sometimes	10	12	7	8	13	14
Hardly ever	4	5	2	5	5	5
Never	6	7	2	8	7	7
<b>Buy organic and pesticide-free foods</b>						
Regularly	20%	19%	21%	20%	18%	20%
Sometimes	32	24	35	34	30	30
Hardly ever	22	22	21	20	25	23
Never	26	35	23	26	27	27
<b>Carpool with others</b>						
Regularly	19%	21%	16%	20%	20%	26%
Sometimes	18	13	20	20	18	19
Hardly ever	16	13	16	16	18	17
Never	47	53	48	44	44	38

**Knowledge and Involvement**

While 68 percent of Californians say they are at least somewhat knowledgeable about the environmental issues facing their communities, only 21 percent say they have a lot of knowledge. Far fewer are personally involved in local environmental issues.

Local environmental knowledge is highly related to education: Residents who have college or postgraduate degrees (27%) are more likely than residents with either some college (19%) or a high school education or less (14%) to say that they have a lot of knowledge about environmental issues. As income increases, so does the percentage of residents who say they have at least some knowledge about these issues: Sixty percent of those with household incomes under \$40,000, 69 percent of those with incomes between \$40,000 and \$80,000, and 79 percent of those with incomes \$80,000 and higher know at least something about environmental issues in their city or community. Non-Hispanic whites (76%) are much more likely than Latinos (56%) to say that they have at least some knowledge of these issues. Knowledge about the local environment also increases with age and length of time living at current residence.

Three in 10 residents have been personally involved at least sometimes in environmental issues in their city or community, although only 7 percent have been involved a lot. Forty percent of non-Hispanic whites indicate that they are at least somewhat involved in environmental issues in their communities, compared to 29 percent of Latinos. Involvement increases with age, education, and income and is higher among those who are registered to vote (40%) than those who are not (20%). There are no significant differences in involvement across region or party affiliation.

"How much do you personally know about specific environmental issues in your city or community?"

	All Adults	Income			Race/Ethnicity	
		<\$40K	\$40,000-79,999	\$80K+	Non-Hispanic White	Latino
A lot	21%	16%	22%	25%	24%	15%
Some	47	44	47	54	52	41
Very little	26	32	25	19	20	32
Nothing/Don't know	6	8	6	2	4	12

"How often have you been personally involved in environmental issues in your city or community by taking steps such as attending public meetings, signing petitions, or writing letters to local officials?"

	All Adults	Income			Race/Ethnicity	
		<\$40K	\$40,000-79,999	\$80K+	Non-Hispanic White	Latino
A lot	7%	7%	6%	8%	8%	5%
Sometimes	29	24	29	34	32	24
Hardly ever	25	22	24	30	26	23
Never	39	47	41	28	34	48

**Environmental Justice**

There is a growing debate among environmental advocates and policymakers about potential environmental inequities in low-income and minority communities. The broad label “environmental justice” has been applied to this ongoing discussion; the term encompasses both negative conditions such as polluting activities and positive conditions such as parks and recreational facilities. Much of the current debate focuses on the quantification of environmental conditions as well as on quality. Although public opinion is implicated at each turn, it is rarely studied.

In California, roughly six in 10 residents agree with the statement that low-income and minority neighborhoods are unfairly burdened with toxic waste and other polluting facilities. Notably, there are no differences across income groups on this question. Moreover, non-Hispanic whites (58%) are just as likely as Latinos (61%) to agree that lower-income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share of polluting facilities.

Residents who say that they are involved with environmental issues in their communities and those who are less satisfied with the quality of the environment in their region are more likely to agree with the statement that lower-income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share of toxic waste and other polluting facilities. Republicans (39%) are much more likely than Democrats (21%) and independents (29%) to disagree with this statement.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of residents agree with the statement that lower-income and minority neighborhoods have less than their fair share of well-maintained parks and recreational facilities. On this question, Latinos (72%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (60%) to agree that low-income and minority neighborhoods are not getting their fair share. Once again, however, there are no differences across income or education groups. Residents ages 18 to 34 (70%) are much more likely than those ages 55 and older (54%) to agree that the distribution of these facilities is problematic. Republicans (52%) are much less likely than Democrats (71%) and independents (68%) to see an inequitable division.

"Do you agree or disagree with this statement ...?"

	All Adults	Income			Race/Ethnicity	
		<\$40K	\$40,000-79,999	\$80K+	Non-Hispanic White	Latino
<i>Some people say that when it comes to where toxic waste and polluting facilities are located in the state, lower-income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share compared to other neighborhoods</i>						
Agree	58%	61%	59%	56%	58%	61%
Disagree	30	28	29	31	28	31
Don't know/Other answer	12	11	12	13	14	8
<i>Some people say that lower-income and minority neighborhoods have less than their fair share of well-maintained parks and recreational facilities compared to other neighborhoods</i>						
Agree	64%	65%	65%	64%	60%	72%
Disagree	29	29	28	30	31	24
Don't know/Other answer	7	6	7	6	9	4

**Environmental News and Interest**

Almost six in 10 Californians say they follow news about the state’s environmental issues closely, with 12 percent saying they follow this news very closely. There are few regional differences, but Los Angeles residents (9%) are somewhat less likely than those elsewhere to say that they follow news very closely. Older, better educated, and wealthier residents tend to keep a closer eye on environmental issues in the state.

Residents who follow news stories about air, land, and water protection at least fairly closely are more engaged when it comes to environmental issues than residents who follow the news less closely. For example, those who closely watch the news are much more likely to be involved in their city or community on environmental issues (48% to 18%) and to say that they have at least some knowledge of the environmental issues facing their communities (82% to 50%). They are also more likely (67% to 54%) to believe that their health and well-being are seriously threatened by today’s environmental problems.

**"How closely do you follow news about the state’s environmental issues—such as air, land, and water protection?"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very closely	12%	13%	13%	9%	14%	14%
Fairly closely	46	46	43	50	43	44
Not too closely	33	31	36	33	34	31
Not at all closely	9	10	8	8	9	11

**Money for Environmental Causes**

Although many residents express a strong interest in the environment, only 37 percent have donated to environmental groups, causes, or issues in the past year, and only 7 percent have donated a lot. Comparing residents who make donations to those who do not, the donors tend to be more involved in their communities’ environmental issues (53% to 25%), know a lot about environmental issues (30% to 15%), and view their health and well-being as seriously threatened by today’s environmental problems (69% to 56%). Non-Hispanic whites are more likely than Latinos to have made a donation (39% to 30%). Donations increase along with education and income. Compared to those who donate a little, residents who donate a lot are much more likely to say that they have been involved a lot in their communities on these issues (27% to 9%).

**"Have you donated money to any environmental groups, causes, or issues in the past year? (if yes, Have you donated a lot or a little?)"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes, a lot	7%	5%	11%	5%	6%	5%
Yes, a little	30	28	34	34	26	25
No	63	67	55	61	68	70

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## Environmental Policy

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### Environmental Protection: Economic and Lifestyle Implications

Despite the continuing economic doldrums, 64 percent of Californians believe that stricter environmental laws are worth potential costs to the economy. This degree of commitment is up somewhat from February 2002 (59%) and June 2000 (57%). In fact, it represents a return to the pre-economic downturn level of 64 percent in January 2000.

Although Californians from all regions, political parties, and all age, education, and income groups support stricter environmental laws, degree of support differs across regions and political and demographic groups. For example, Central Valley residents (54%) are much less likely than residents of the state's other major regions to say that stricter environmental laws are worth the costs for jobs and the economy. Republicans (50%) are less likely than Democrats (72%), independents (67%), or those not registered to vote (66%) to opt for the environmental side of this trade-off. Support for stricter laws also decreases with age but increases with education and is unrelated to household income.

"Does the first statement or the second statement come closer to your views ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost	64%	54%	70%	69%	62%	62%
Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy	31	38	26	26	34	33
Don't know	5	8	4	5	4	5

When asked how much they will have to change their lifestyles to solve today's environmental problems, a slim majority of Californians (53%) believe that they will have to make major changes. Forty-four percent think that solving the problems will require them to make few or no changes. Democrats (60%) are more likely than Republicans (45%) to say that major lifestyle changes will be required of them. There are no significant differences among age, income, educational, or regional groups in perceived need for change.

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
People like me will have to make major lifestyle changes to solve today's environmental problems	53%	60%	45%	56%	51%	57%
People like me will have to make few or no lifestyle changes to solve today's environmental problems	44	38	52	42	46	40
Don't know/Other answer	3	2	3	2	3	3

**Environmental Protection and Energy Supplies**

It would appear that the energy crisis has not fundamentally affected Californians' policy preferences: 65 percent believe that protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies—such as oil, gas, and coal—the U.S. produces. Only 29 percent of Californians would give development of U.S. energy supplies priority even if the environment suffers to some extent. A recent Gallup survey found American public opinion less widely divided on this trade-off: In March 2002, 52 percent of the Gallup sample gave priority to protecting the environment, while 40 percent gave priority to developing energy supplies.

"Does the first statement or the second statement come closer to your views ...?"

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies—such as oil, gas, and coal—which the U.S. produces	52%	65%
Development of U.S. energy supplies such as oil, gas, and coal should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent	40	29
Don't know/Other answer	8	6

\*Gallup, March 2002

Support for environmental protection varies greatly across the state's major regions and among partisan groups. It is highest in Los Angeles (71%) and lowest in the Central Valley (55%). It is higher among Democrats (71%), independents (67%), and people not registered to vote (67%) than among Republicans (51%). Latinos (71%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (63%) to view environmental protection as worth the supply risks. Support for environmental protection decreases with age, increases modestly with education, and is unrelated to income.

	All Adults	<u>Region</u>				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies—such as oil, gas, and coal—which the U.S. produces	65%	55%	66%	71%	61%	71%
Development of U.S. energy supplies such as oil, gas, and coal should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent	29	39	27	24	33	23
Don't know/Other answer	6	6	7	5	6	6

**State Energy Policy**

Californians' general sentiments about environmental protection are reflected in their opinions on specific environmental issues confronting their state. Opposition to more offshore oil drilling in the state is high, and a large majority favor doubling the state's use of renewable energy.

In our survey, 59 percent opposed new oil drilling off the state's coast, even if it meant higher gasoline prices. This opposition is up from June 2000, when 54 percent opposed new drilling. As in June 2000, opposition to new drilling is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (69%) and Los Angeles (64%) and lower in other Southern California areas (53%) and the Central Valley (48%).

Democrats (69%), independents (62%), and those not registered to vote (61%) also continue to be more opposed than Republicans (43%) to new drilling. Opposition to new offshore drilling increases with education but is unrelated to income or age.

"Does the first statement or the second statement come closer to your views ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Policymakers should not allow more oil drilling off the California coast even if this means higher gasoline prices for California drivers	59%	48%	69%	64%	53%	57%
Policymakers should allow more oil drilling off the California coast if this means lower gasoline prices for California drivers	36	46	26	32	41	38
Don't know	5	6	5	4	6	5

Californians express overwhelming support (85%) for a state policy requiring that renewable energy account for 20 percent of all state power in the next 10 years. Support for this measure is high across the state and among all partisan and socioeconomic groups. Even among those who think that the development of U.S. energy supplies should take priority over potential environmental harm, only 21 percent are opposed to this renewable energy policy.

"Do you favor or oppose a state policy that requires doubling the use of renewable energy—such as wind, geothermal, and solar power— in the next 10 years from 10 percent of all California power today to 20 percent?"

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
Favor	85%	88%	82%	85%	83%	81%
Oppose	12	8	14	13	13	16
Don't know	3	4	4	2	4	3



**Global Warming**

How seriously do Californians take the threat of global warming? A solid majority (62%) believe there is enough evidence that global climate change is real and that at least some action must be taken. This breaks down into 25 percent who see global climate change as an established, serious problem that requires immediate action and 37 percent who say that there is ample evidence that global warming is real and that some action is needed. Twenty-seven percent of Californians believe that more research is needed before acting, and 7 percent feel that concern about global climate change is unwarranted. These findings are similar to those of June 2000.

Democrats (70%) and independents (68%) are much more likely than Republicans (47%) to believe there is enough evidence of global climate change to require at least some action. San Francisco Bay Area residents (70%) are the most likely to think at least some action is needed, and Central Valley residents are the least likely (53%). Californians under age 55 (66%) are more likely than those 55 and older (51%) to think that at least some action on global warming is needed. Support for action on global warming also increases with education and income.

"From what you know about global climate change or global warming, which of the following four statements comes closest to your opinion ...?"

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
Change is serious, need immediate action	25%	32%	12%	29%	28%	27%
Enough evidence, need some action	37	38	35	39	36	38
Need more research before acting	27	23	37	23	26	27
Concern is unwarranted	7	3	13	8	5	4
Don't know/Other answer	4	4	3	1	5	4

A large majority of Californians (81%) support a state law that would mandate further reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2009. Public support for tougher emission standards varies by party affiliation and region but remains at or above 70 percent for all demographic subgroups. Although opposition is highest among those who do not see the need for at least some action on global warming, a sizeable majority (67%) of this group still favor legislating lower emissions. Owners of S.U.V.s also overwhelmingly support this measure (77%).

"Do you favor or oppose a state law requiring all automakers to further reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars in California by 2009?"

	All Adults	Global Warming		Own/Lease S.U.V.	Latino
		Change is Real/ Action is Necessary	More Research Needed/ Concern is Unwarranted		
Favor	81%	90%	67%	77%	82%
Oppose	16	9	29	23	15
Don't know	3	1	4	0	3

**Open Space and Land Development**

The high concern that Californians have about growth and development issues carries over into what they want done with the remaining open space in their regions. Overall, a majority (55%) believe that open space in their region should be designated as protected land for the preservation of species and natural habitats, as opposed to being developed for parks, sports, and recreational use (38%).

Support for designating open space as protected land varies widely across the state and among Californians from different socioeconomic groups. Majorities of residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (60%), Los Angeles (56%), and other Southern California areas (55%) want to protect open space as open space, but Central Valley residents are evenly split between protection (45%) and development (45%). Democrats (61%) and independents (59%) are more likely than Republicans (49%) to want to see the land protected.

"Does the first statement or the second statement come closer to your views ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Open space in my region should mostly be designated as protected land for the preservation of species and natural habitats	55%	45%	60%	56%	55%	53%
Open space in my region should mostly be developed for parks, sports, and recreation use	38	45	32	39	40	42
Don't know	7	10	8	5	5	5

Californians' commitment to open space extends to their spending priorities: 58 percent say they would favor using taxpayer money to buy undeveloped land to keep it free from commercial and residential development. However, support for this use is higher among Democrats (66%), independents (61%), and those not registered to vote (60%) than among Republicans (47%). Support increases with income and education and decreases with age. In June 2000, 57 percent of Californians supported the idea of using public funds to slow the pace of development.

"Do you favor or oppose using taxpayer money to buy undeveloped land to keep it free from commercial and residential development?"

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
Favor	58%	66%	47%	61%	60%	58%
Oppose	37	30	48	35	36	37
Don't know	5	4	5	4	4	5

Californians are more divided on a hypothetical local growth-control initiative: 49 percent say they would vote yes on a local initiative to slow down the pace of growth in their cities or communities, even if it meant having less economic growth; 44 percent say that they would vote no. Californians are more evenly divided on this issue today than they have been in any of the three previous Statewide Surveys in which it was raised. This shift results primarily from decreased support for a local growth initiative in the San Francisco Bay Area since the earlier surveys. Today, support for the slow growth initiative in the Bay Area (49%) mirrors support elsewhere in the state (49%). Previously, Bay Area residents were far more likely than Californians elsewhere to say that they would vote yes on this initiative.

"If an election were held today, would you vote yes or no on a local initiative to slow down the pace of development in your city or community, even if it meant having less economic growth?"

	All Adults			
	June 2000	May 2001	Nov 2001	June 2002
Yes	58%	51%	55%	49%
No	37	41	38	44
Don't know	5	8	7	7

**Water Supply**

Californians are evenly split on how to help the state meet its future water needs: 47 percent think the better approach is building new dams and reservoirs; 45 percent prefer encouraging conservation through pricing and reallocating some existing water supply from agriculture to urban areas.

Residents of the Central Valley (58%) are more supportive of building new dams and reservoirs than residents of "Other Southern California" areas (49%), and much more supportive than residents of Los Angeles (43%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (39%). Democrats (49%), independents (47%), and those not registered to vote (49%) are much more in favor than Republicans (33%) of conservation and reallocation. In fact, a majority of Republicans (58%) favor new dams and reservoirs. Political conservatives (57%) are also much more likely than moderates (48%) and liberals (35%) to prefer dams and reservoirs. Support for dams and reservoirs over conservation and reallocation decreases with education, increases with income, and is unrelated to age.

"Regarding ways to help California meet its future water needs, do you favor ...?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Encouraging conservation through pricing and reallocating some of the existing water supply from agriculture to urban areas	45%	36%	51%	48%	43%	45%
Building new dams and reservoirs	47	58	39	43	49	49
Don't know	8	6	10	9	8	6

## Governance

### Trust in Government

Californians' notorious distrust of government extends to the environmental arena: While half of Californians say they have at least some confidence that government can understand and solve environmental problems, only 9 percent say they have a great deal of confidence in government's ability to do so. Half of the state's residents have very little or not much confidence that government can understand and solve the problems. Independents (33%) are more likely than either Democrats (21%) or Republicans (22%) to express not much confidence. There are no major differences in trust in government's ability across regions or between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites. However, residents ages 18 to 34 (53%) and 35 to 54 (52%) are more likely than those age 55 and older (44%) to have at least some confidence in government ability to handle environmental issues.

When asked about the level of government they trusted most to deal with environmental problems, Californians chose state government (32%) more than county (20%), federal (19%), or city (16%) government. Central Valley (25%) and San Francisco Bay Area (23%) residents are more likely to say they trust counties than are residents in Los Angeles and other Southern California areas (16% each). There are no significant differences between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites on this dimension of trust in government. As for partisan differences, independent voters (42%) put more faith in the abilities of local governments (i.e., cities and counties) to understand and solve environmental problems than do Republicans (38%) or Democrats (32%).

**"How much confidence do you have in the ability of government to understand and solve the kinds of environmental problems that we have today?"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>A great deal</b>	9%	10%	7%	10%	10%	13%
<b>Some</b>	41	39	40	42	42	40
<b>Very little</b>	26	26	29	23	28	29
<b>Not much</b>	23	23	23	25	19	17
<b>Don't know</b>	1	2	1	0	1	1

**"Which level of government do you trust the most to deal with environmental problems?"**

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>State government</b>	32%	31%	30%	33%	34%	32%
<b>County government</b>	20	25	23	16	16	17
<b>Federal government</b>	19	19	16	21	19	23
<b>City government</b>	16	13	15	18	17	16
<b>None (volunteered)</b>	10	9	10	9	10	9
<b>Don't know</b>	3	3	6	3	4	3

**President's Ratings**

Although a relatively high 65 percent of Californians approve of President Bush's performance in office, statewide support for the president is down sharply from February 2002 (76%). This is the president's lowest approval rating since before the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, but it is still higher than his approval rating in May 2001 (57%). These California results are in contrast with a national survey by Gallup in May, which showed the president's support at 77 percent, down only slightly since early February.

Not all Californians have become less positive about the president's job performance. Republicans are almost as supportive now (90%) as they were in February (95%). It is Democrats (47% vs. 60%) and independents (59% vs. 71%) whose support has declined the most since the February 2002 survey. The president's approval ratings today are similar for registered and unregistered Californians. Sixty-four percent of Latinos and 68 percent of non-Hispanic whites approve of Bush's job performance. College graduates (57%) are substantially less approving of the president than are those with a high school diploma or less (74%).

When it comes to the environment, 39 percent approve and 44 percent disapprove of the way Bush is handling this issue. Opinions of the president's environmental record have a partisan cast: Two-thirds of the president's fellow Republicans approve of his environmental performance, while two-thirds of Democrats and nearly half of independents disapprove. Approval of Bush is lower on environment issues for all partisan groups compared to his overall support: It is 25 points lower for Democrats (22% vs. 47%), 24 points lower for Republicans (66% vs. 90%), and 22 points lower for independents (37% vs. 59%).

Latinos and non-Hispanic whites offer identical assessments of Bush's environmental record: forty percent in each group approve. Higher education leads to lower levels of support: Those without any college are more approving (50%) than those with a college degree (31%).

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
<i>Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</i>						
Approve	65%	47%	90%	59%	69%	64%
Disapprove	30	47	7	35	25	30
Don't know	5	6	3	6	6	6
<i>Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling environmental issues in the U.S.?</i>						
Approve	39%	22%	66%	37%	39%	40%
Disapprove	44	65	19	48	37	43
Don't know	17	13	15	15	24	17

**Governor’s Ratings**

While 39 percent of Californians approve of Governor Davis’s performance in office, 52 percent disapprove. The governor’s overall approval rating is lower than in February 2002 (51%) or one year ago in May 2001 (46%) or any other time since September 2000 when this question was first asked.

Half of the governor’s fellow Democrats approve of his performance in office, compared to one in five Republicans and one in three independents. Latinos are among the governor’s strongest supporters—48 percent approve of how he is handling his job, compared to only 33 percent of non-Hispanic whites. The governor’s approval ratings decline as Californians’ age, education, and income increase.

Davis’s approval ratings on the environment closely match his overall ratings: Thirty-five percent approve of the way he is handling environmental issues, and 47 percent disapprove. The governor’s approval ratings on environmental issues have not changed since June 2000 (36%), but disapproval has risen over time (28% to 47%) as the proportion with no opinion has declined (36% to 18%). A plurality of Democrats (43%) approve of the governor’s performance on environmental issues, compared to 21 percent of Republicans and 33 percent of independents. Davis’s overall approval ratings and his environmental approval ratings are fairly close among Democrats (50% to 43%), Republicans (19% to 21%), and independents (34% to 33%).

Fewer Latinos approve of the governor’s handling of environmental issues (41%) compared to their approval of his performance overall (48%). Still, Latinos are more likely to approve of Davis on environmental issues than are non-Hispanic whites (41% to 31%). Support for the governor’s efforts on environmental issues tends to decline as age, education, and income increase.

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
<i>Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gray Davis is handling his job as governor of California?</i>						
Approve	39%	50%	19%	34%	47%	48%
Disapprove	52	41	76	57	36	43
Don’t know	9	9	5	9	17	9
<i>Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Davis is handling environmental issues in California?</i>						
Approve	35%	43%	21%	33%	41%	41%
Disapprove	47	40	63	51	36	46
Don’t know	18	17	16	16	23	13

**Political Importance of Environmental Issues**

Nine in 10 California registered voters (88%) say that the candidates' environmental positions will be at least somewhat important in determining their vote for governor this fall, and 39 percent rate environmental issues as very important.

Nearly half of Democrats (47%) say the candidates' stances on the environment will be a very important consideration in whom they vote for, compared to 27 percent of Republicans and 39 percent of independents. Latino registered voters (48%) are more likely than non-Hispanic white registered voters (36%) to say the issue will be very important. Registered voters in Los Angeles (44%) are more likely than their counterparts in the rest of the state (37%) to say that environmental issues will be very important when it comes to deciding their vote.

While Californians are more likely to disapprove than approve of the governor's performance on environmental issues, registered voters choose Davis rather than Republican challenger Bill Simon (43% to 31%) when asked which candidate for governor would do a better job handling the state's environmental issues. On this question, partisan differences are sharp: Sixty-four percent of Democrats support Davis over Simon and 59 percent of Republicans support Simon over Davis. Independent voters favor Davis (41% to 25%). Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic white voters to favor Davis over Simon on environmental issues (50% to 40%).

Registered voters who say environmental issues will be very important to their vote for governor favor Davis over Simon in handling environmental issues (51% to 25%), as do those who say environmental issues will be only somewhat important (42% to 32%). Those who approve of the governor's performance on environmental issues think Davis would do a better job than Simon on the environment (73% to 11%), and those who disapprove of Davis's performance on the environment tend to think that Simon would do a better job (48% to 24%).

**"In thinking about the governor's election this year, how important are the candidates' positions on environmental issues in determining your vote?"**

	All Registered Voters	Party Registration			Latino Voters
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	
Very important	39%	47%	27%	39%	48%
Somewhat important	49	45	53	50	44
Not important	11	6	19	10	6
Don't know	1	2	1	1	2

**"Regardless of your choice for governor, which of these candidates would do a better job of handling environmental issues in California?"**

	All Registered Voters	Party Registration			Latino Voters
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	
Gray Davis	43%	64%	17%	41%	50%
Bill Simon	31	14	59	25	25
Other answer ( <i>volunteered</i> )	4	4	4	5	3
Don't know	22	18	20	29	22

**State Government**

A majority of Californians (51%) say that the state government is not doing enough to protect the environment, 38 percent feel the state is doing just enough, and 7 percent think the state is doing more than enough. These numbers are relatively unchanged from June 2000 when 50 percent of Californians said the state government was not doing enough, 37 percent said just enough, and 9 percent said it was doing more than enough to protect the environment.

Democrats (56%) and independents (54%) are more likely than Republicans (44%) to think that the state government is not doing enough to protect California's environment. Latinos and non-Hispanic whites do not differ substantially on this issue. The perception that the state government is not doing enough when it comes to environmental protection increases with education.

Perhaps reflecting this general desire for more state government action in this policy arena, Californians are willing to fund environmental programs even if it draws money from other state programs. Forced to make a trade-off in light of the large state budget deficit, 54 percent say full funding of environmental programs should continue even if it means less money for other programs, and 35 percent feel that funding for environmental programs should be reduced. Democrats (61%) and independents (57%) tend to take the pro-environmental position on government spending, while Republicans (45%) are nearly evenly split on this spending issue. Once again, Latinos and non-Hispanic whites offer similar opinions. Support for environmental programs is higher among 18 to 34 year olds (58%) and 35 to 54 year olds (56%) than it is among those 55 and older (46%).

"Do you think the state government is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to protect the environment in California?"

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
More than enough	7%	4%	13%	7%	6%	7%
Just enough	38	36	39	34	42	41
Not enough	51	56	44	54	46	49
Don't know	4	4	4	5	6	3

"The state is facing an estimated \$23 billion deficit next year, and program cuts are needed in order to balance the state budget. Should the state ..."

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	Not Registered	
Continue to fund environment programs at current levels even if it means fewer funds are available for other state programs	54%	61%	45%	57%	53%	51%
Reduce funding for environment programs, so that more funds are available for other state programs	35	29	44	31	36	39
Other answer ( <i>volunteered, specify</i> )	4	3	5	3	3	2
Don't know	7	7	6	9	8	8



**Water Bond Initiative**

A water bond initiative on the state ballot this fall would authorize \$3.44 billion in state bonds to pay for a wide range of water projects, some of which involve environmental protection. Asked about the measure, a solid majority of voters (59%) expect to vote yes.

Two-thirds of Democrats (67%) and six in 10 independents (60%) support the water bond measure, while Republican opinion (48%) is more evenly divided. Solid majorities of registered Latinos (59%) and non-Hispanic whites (57%) support this initiative. Registered voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) and Los Angeles (61%) are most likely to back the initiative, followed by those in other Southern California areas (58%) and the Central Valley (53%). Support for the initiative declines with age and rises with education, but no other demographic subgroup is more likely to oppose than to support this water bond

As might be expected, a desire to maintain environmental programs in the face of budget cuts goes hand-in-hand with a yes vote on the water bond: Seventy percent of registered voters who want to keep environmental funding at its current levels support the water bond, compared to 46 percent of those who prefer reducing the state’s environmental funding. Two-thirds of voters who feel the state is not doing enough to protect the environment indicate they will vote for the bond, compared to 56 percent of those who feel just enough is being done. Finally, 71 percent of those voters who say environmental issues will be very important to their gubernatorial vote say they will vote yes on this initiative, compared to 58 percent of those who feel such issues are somewhat important, and only 29 percent of those who feel that environmental issues are not important to their gubernatorial choice.

"A proposition on the November 2002 ballot would authorize \$3.44 billion in state bonds to fund a variety of water projects, including: increasing urban agricultural efficiency; reducing dependence on Colorado River water; protecting coastal wetlands; and improving the security for state, local, and regional water systems. Fiscal impacts include state costs to repay the 25-year bonds with payments of \$227 million per year. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?"\*

	All Registered Voters	Party Registration			Latino Voters
		Democrat	Republican	Independents	
<b>Yes</b>	59%	67%	48%	60%	59%
<b>No</b>	29	23	39	27	31
<b>Don't know</b>	12	10	13	13	10

	Registered Voters by Region			
	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
<b>Yes</b>	53%	64%	61%	58%
<b>No</b>	36	23	28	30
<b>Don't know</b>	11	13	11	12

\* This question text is a slightly abbreviated version of the Initiative Statute language listed at the California Secretary of State's Office.

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## Survey Methodology

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The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance in research and writing from Jon Cohen, survey research manager, and Lisa Cole and Eric McGhee, survey research associates. The survey was conducted in collaboration with The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and benefited from discussions with staff at the foundations; however, the survey methods, questions, and content of the report were solely determined by Mark Baldassare.

The findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,029 California adult residents interviewed from May 28 to June 4, 2002. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights, using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers, ensuring that both listed and unlisted telephone numbers were called. All telephone exchanges in California were eligible for calling. Telephone numbers in the survey sample were called up to six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing by using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender. Each interview took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish. Casa Hispana translated the survey into Spanish.

We used recent U.S. Census and state figures to compare the demographic characteristics of the survey sample with characteristics of California’s adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the census and state figures. The survey data in this report were statistically weighted to account for any demographic differences.

The sampling error for the total sample of 2,029 adults is +/- 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger. Sampling error is just one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

Throughout the report, we refer to four geographic regions. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “SF Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, and “Other Southern California” includes the mostly suburban regions of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. These four regions were chosen for analysis because they are the major population centers of the state, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population; moreover, the growth of the Central Valley and “Other Southern California” regions have given them increasing political significance.

We present specific results for Latinos because they account for about 28 percent of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. The sample sizes for the African American and Asian subgroups are not large enough for separate statistical analysis. We do contrast the opinions of registered Democrats, Republicans, and independents. The “independents” category includes those who are registered to vote as “decline to state” and those who are registered with minor political parties.

In some cases, we compare PPIC Statewide Survey responses to responses recorded in national surveys conducted by Gallup in March and May 2002, *Newsweek* in November 2001, Hart and Teeter 1999, Pew Research Center 1999, and Gallup/CNN/*USA Today* in June 1998. We used earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys to analyze trends over time in California, including our June 2000 “Special Survey on Californians and the Environment.”



**PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: SPECIAL SURVEY ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**MAY 28 – JUNE 4, 2002**  
**2,029 CALIFORNIA ADULT RESIDENTS; ENGLISH AND SPANISH**  
**MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE**

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1. Which of the following best describes the city or community where you now live—a large city, a suburb near a large city, a medium-to-small-sized city, a small town not near a city, or a rural area?

- 25% large city
- 25 suburb near a large city
- 30 medium-to-small-sized city
- 13 small town not near a city
- 7 rural area

2. Overall, how would you rate your city or community as a place to live? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 33% excellent
- 43 good
- 20 fair
- 4 poor

3. In the past few years, do you think the population of your city or community has been growing rapidly, growing slowly, staying about the same, or declining?

- 57% growing rapidly
- 21 growing slowly
- 17 staying about the same
- 1 declining
- 4 don't know

4. If an election were held today, would you vote yes or no on a local initiative to slow down the pace of development in your city or community, even if it meant having less economic growth?

- 49% yes
- 44 no
- 7 don't know

5. Some people have thought a lot about environmental issues—such as air, water, and land protection—in their city or community, and others have not. How much do you personally know about specific environmental issues in your city or community—a lot, some, very little, or nothing?

- 21% a lot
- 47 some
- 26 very little
- 6 nothing

6. How often have you been personally involved in environmental issues in your city or community by taking steps such as attending public meetings, signing petitions, or writing letters to local officials—a lot, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

- 7% a lot
- 29 sometimes
- 25 hardly ever
- 39 never

Next, we are interested in your opinions about the region or broader geographic area of California that you live in. I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your region. *(rotate questions 7 to 10).*

7. How about air pollution?

- 34% big problem
- 38 somewhat of a problem
- 27 not a problem
- 1 don't know

8. How about traffic congestion on freeways and major roads?

- 61% big problem
- 24 somewhat of a problem
- 14 not a problem
- 1 don't know

9. How about population growth and development?

- 30% big problem
- 37 somewhat of a problem
- 31 not a problem
- 2 don't know

10. How about pollution of drinking water?

- 23% big problem
- 31 somewhat of a problem
- 42 not a problem
- 4 don't know

11. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of the environment in your region— including the air, water, and land? Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

23% very satisfied  
 49 somewhat satisfied  
 20 somewhat dissatisfied  
 7 very dissatisfied  
 1 don't know

12. Would you say the quality of the environment in your region— including the air, water, and land— is getting better or is it getting worse?

27% better  
 51 worse  
 17 same (volunteered)  
 5 don't know

13. Next, turning to the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today? (*code, don't read*)

34% air pollution  
 13 too much growth, overpopulation  
 12 water pollution of rivers, lakes, streams  
 9 water supply, reservoirs  
 5 pollution in general  
 5 traffic congestion  
 2 energy  
 1 toxic wastes, contamination of the land  
 1 protecting wildlife, endangered species  
 1 landfills, garbage, sewage, waste  
 1 loss of farmlands, agriculture  
 1 loss of parks, recreation  
 8 other (specify)  
 7 don't know

Please tell me if each of the following is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in California today (*rotate questions 14 to 19*).

14. How about ocean and beach pollution along the California coast?

50% big problem  
 34 somewhat of a problem  
 10 not a problem  
 6 don't know

15. How about urban sprawl taking over farmlands in the Central Valley?

36% big problem  
 34 somewhat of a problem  
 16 not a problem  
 14 don't know

16. How about urban growth and air pollution damaging the forests in the Sierra Mountains?

42% big problem  
 34 somewhat of a problem  
 13 not a problem  
 11 don't know

17. How about urban and agricultural runoff polluting lakes, rivers, and streams?

43% big problem  
 37 somewhat of a problem  
 12 not a problem  
 8 don't know

18. How about MTBE and other toxic substances contaminating soil and groundwater?

41% big problem  
 33 somewhat of a problem  
 10 not a problem  
 16 don't know

19. How about suburban development harming wildlife habitats and endangered species?

36% big problem  
 38 somewhat of a problem  
 21 not a problem  
 5 don't know

20. Overall, how much progress do you think has been made in dealing with environmental problems in California—including problems related to air, water, and land—over the past 20 years? Would you say there has been a great deal of progress, only some progress, or hardly any progress at all?

18% great deal  
 58 only some  
 20 hardly any  
 4 don't know

21. How much optimism do you have that we will have environmental problems in California well under control 20 years from now— a great deal, only some, or hardly any optimism at all?

18% great deal  
 51 only some  
 28 hardly any  
 3 don't know

22. And overall, how serious a threat to your own health and well-being are environmental problems in California today—very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

19% very serious  
 42 somewhat serious  
 38 not too serious  
 1 don't know

Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement in the following questions comes closer to your views—even if neither is exactly right.

(rotate questions and response pairs for questions 23 to 27)

23. (1) Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost; (2) Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.

64% worth the cost  
31 hurt the economy  
5 don't know

24. (1) People like me will have to make major lifestyle changes to solve today's environmental problems; (2) People like me will have to make few or no lifestyle changes to solve today's environmental problems.

53% major life style changes are needed  
44 few or no lifestyle changes are needed  
3 don't know

25. (1) Open space in my region should mostly be designated as protected land for the preservation of species and natural habitats; (2) Open space in my region should mostly be developed for parks, sports, and recreational use.

55% protected land  
38 recreational use  
7 don't know

26. (1) Policymakers should not allow more oil drilling off the California coast, even if this means higher gas prices for California drivers; (2) Policymakers should allow more oil drilling off the California coast if this means lower gasoline prices for California drivers;

59% no more drilling  
36 more drilling  
5 don't know

27. (1) Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies—such as oil, gas, and coal—which the U.S. produces; (2) Development of U.S. energy supplies—such as oil, gas, and coal—should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent.

65% protection of the environment  
29 development of U.S. energy supplies  
6 don't know/ other answer

28. Regarding ways to help California meet its future water needs, do you favor (*rotate*) (1) building new dams and reservoirs; or (2) encouraging conservation through pricing and reallocating some of the existing water supply from agriculture to urban areas.

47% building new dams and reservoirs  
45 encouraging conservation  
8 don't know

I am going to read you some specific environmental proposals. For each one, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.

(rotate questions 29 to 31).

29. Do you favor or oppose a state law requiring all automakers to further reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars in California by 2009?

81% favor  
16 oppose  
3 don't know

30. Do you favor or oppose a state policy that requires doubling the use of renewable energy—such as wind, geothermal, and solar power—in the next 10 years from 10 percent of all California power today to 20 percent?

85% favor  
12 oppose  
3 don't know

31. Do you favor or oppose using taxpayer money to buy undeveloped land to keep it free from commercial and residential development?

58% favor  
37 oppose  
5 don't know

32. On another topic, from what you know about global climate change or global warming, which of the following four statements comes closest to your opinion?

25% Global climate change has been established as a serious problem, and immediate action is necessary  
37 There is enough evidence that climate change is taking place, and some action should be taken  
27 We don't know enough about global climate change, and more research is necessary before we take any actions  
7 Concern about global climate change is unwarranted  
4 don't know/ other answer

33. How much confidence do you have in the ability of government to understand and solve the kinds of environmental problems that we have today— a great deal, some, very little, or not much?

- 9% a great deal
- 41 some
- 26 very little
- 23 not much
- 1 don't know

34. Which level of government do you trust the most to deal with environmental problems (*rotate response categories*)?

- 32% state government
- 20 county government
- 19 federal government
- 16 city government
- 10 none (*volunteered*)
- 3 don't know

35. On another topic, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

- 65% approve
- 30 disapprove
- 5 don't know

36. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling environmental issues in the United States?

- 39% approve
- 44 disapprove
- 17 don't know

37. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gray Davis is handling his job as governor of California?

- 39% approve
- 52 disapprove
- 9 don't know

38. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Davis is handling environmental issues in California?

- 35% approve
- 47 disapprove
- 18 don't know

39. Overall, do you think the state government is doing more than enough, just enough, or not enough to protect the environment in California?

- 7% more than enough
- 38 just enough
- 51 not enough
- 4 don't know

40. The state is facing an estimated 23 billion dollar deficit next year, and program cuts are needed to balance the state budget. Should the state (*rotate*) (1) continue to fund environment programs at current levels even if it means fewer funds are available for other state programs, or (2) reduce funding for environment programs, so that more funds are available for other state programs?

- 54% continue to fund at current levels
- 35 reduce funding for environmental programs
- 4 other answer (*volunteered, specify*)
- 7 don't know

[Questions 41-43 responses from registered voters.]

41. On another topic, a proposition on the November 2002 ballot would authorize \$3.44 billion in state bonds to fund a variety of water projects, including increasing urban agricultural efficiency; reducing dependence on Colorado River water; protecting coastal wetlands; and improving the security for state, local, and regional water systems. Fiscal impacts include state costs to repay the 25-year bonds with payments of \$227 million per year. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this proposition?

- 59% yes
- 29 no
- 12 don't know

42. In thinking about the governor's election this year, how important are the candidates' positions on environmental issues in determining your vote— very important, somewhat important, or not important?

- 39% very important
- 49 somewhat important
- 11 not important
- 1 don't know

43. Regardless of your choice for governor, which of these candidates would do a better job handling environmental issues in California (*rotate*) (1) Gray Davis, the Democrat, or (2) Bill Simon, the Republican?

- 43% Gray Davis
- 31 Bill Simon
- 4 other answer (*volunteered*)
- 22 don't know

44. On another topic, some people say that when it comes to where toxic waste and polluting facilities are located in the state, lower-income and minority neighborhoods have more than their fair share compared to other neighborhoods. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- 58% agree
- 30 disagree
- 12 don't know

45. Some people say that lower-income and minority neighborhoods have less than their fair share of well-maintained parks and recreational facilities compared to other neighborhoods. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

64% agree  
29 disagree  
7 don't know

On another topic, please tell us if you regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never spend time doing each of the following (*rotate questions 46 to 48*).

46 How often do you spend your leisure time at local public parks, recreation areas, or beaches?

40% regularly  
41 sometimes  
13 hardly ever  
6 never

47. How often do you take a trip to a national park or other scenic destination?

23% regularly  
42 sometimes  
25 hardly ever  
10 never

48. How often do you go on day trips that involve hiking or mountain biking on unpaved trails?

19% regularly  
27 sometimes  
24 hardly ever  
30 never

49. We have a few questions about you and your household. What kind of water do you typically drink in your home – straight tap water, tap water that has been filtered, or bottled water?

24% straight tap water  
35 filtered tap water  
39 bottled water  
2 other (*volunteered, specify*)

And for the following questions, please tell us if you regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never do each of the following activities (*rotate questions 50 to 52*).

50. How often do you recycle newspapers, aluminum cans, or glass?

80% regularly  
10 sometimes  
4 hardly ever  
6 never

51. How often do you carpool with others?

19% regularly  
18 sometimes  
16 hardly ever  
47 never

52. How often do you buy organic and pesticide-free foods?

20% regularly  
32 sometimes  
22 hardly ever  
26 never

53. On another topic, have you donated money to any environmental groups, causes, or issues in the past year? (*if yes, Have you donated a lot or a little?*)

7% yes, a lot  
30 yes, a little  
63 no

54. How closely do you follow news about the state's environmental issues— such as air, land, and water protection— very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

12% very closely  
46 fairly closely  
33 not too closely  
9 not at all closely

55. On another topic, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote? (*if yes: Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?*)

35% yes, Democrat  
26 yes, Republican  
18 yes, independent  
21 no

56. Would you consider yourself to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

12% very liberal  
22 somewhat liberal  
32 middle-of-the-road  
25 somewhat conservative  
9 very conservative

[57-60: *Demographic questions*]

61. Do you personally own or lease an SUV (sport utility vehicle)?

23% yes  
77 no

[62-66: *Demographic questions*]





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