PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, David Kordus, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcennell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation

July 27, 2017
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Public perceptions
- Policy preferences
- Conclusions
PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 340,000+ Californians interviewed since 1998
  - 160+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and the Environment

- Conducted with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation
- Telephone interviews, July 9–18, 2017
  - 65% cell phone, 35% landline
  - 1,708 adults, ± 3.4% margin of error
  - 1,095 likely voters, ± 4.3% margin of error
- Views on state and federal elected officials
- Opinions and policy preferences on climate change, air pollution, water supply, and coastal issues
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Approval of state and federal elected officials

Governor Brown: 53% overall, 51% for environmental issues
California Legislature: 50% overall, 51% for environmental issues
President Trump: 25% overall, 22% for environmental issues
US Congress: 24% overall, 26% for environmental issues
Overall approval of federal elected officials

- President Trump
- US Congress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>President Trump</th>
<th>US Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approval of state elected officials on environmental issues

- Governor Brown
- California Legislature
Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?
Air pollution in lower-income areas

Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>% Saying Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to under $80,000</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?
Water supply and local conservation by region

- Central Valley: 44% (Water supply is a big problem), 52% (Local government doing the right amount to conserve)
- Inland Empire: 46% (Water supply is a big problem), 43% (Local government doing the right amount to conserve)
- Los Angeles: 38% (Water supply is a big problem), 52% (Local government doing the right amount to conserve)
- Orange/San Diego: 35% (Water supply is a big problem), 50% (Local government doing the right amount to conserve)
- SF Bay Area: 30% (Water supply is a big problem), 57% (Local government doing the right amount to conserve)
Do you favor or oppose building desalination plants on the California coast?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
California’s ocean and beaches

How often do you visit a beach on the California coast?

- Less than once a year/never: 14%
- Once a year: 13%
- Several times a year: 36%
- At least once a month: 36%

How important is the condition of California’s ocean and beaches to...

- The state's economy and quality of life: 73%
  - Somewhat important: 22%
  - Very important: 71%
- You personally: 71%
  - Somewhat important: 21%
Seriousness of coastal issues

Ocean and beach pollution along the California coast

- Age 18-34: 31% adults, 56% somewhat of a problem, 44% big problem
- Age 35-54: 38% adults, 42% somewhat of a problem, 58% big problem
- 55 and older: 40% adults, 39% somewhat of a problem, 61% big problem

Issues along the part of the coast closest to you

- Contamination of fish and seafood: 31% adults, 31% somewhat of a problem, 69% big problem
- Declining marine life: 32% adults, 46% somewhat of a problem, 54% big problem
- Limited public access to coast and beaches: 32% adults, 18% somewhat of a problem, 82% big problem
Effects of global warming

Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen?

% saying already begun

- Californians
- Adults nationwide*

*Gallup polls 2005–2017
How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California’s future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>% saying very serious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Do you support or oppose Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which is the international agreement that tries to address climate change?
State leadership on climate change

Favor California making its own policies
Say it is very important California act as a world leader

%  

66 58  63 52  78 73  33 25  68 54

All adults  Likely voters  Dem  Rep  Ind
Support for SB 32’s emission-reduction goal

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030?
Renewable energy

Support 100 percent renewable goal
Would be willing to pay more for renewables

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<th>Likely voters</th>
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<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>愿意支付更多</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

%
Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause…

- More jobs: 50%
- Fewer jobs: 22%
- Wouldn't affect the number of jobs: 19%
- Don't know: 9%

- Higher gasoline prices: 54%
- Lower gasoline prices: 18%
- Wouldn't affect gasoline prices: 19%
- Don't know: 9%
In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out… Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?
After hearing a description of how cap-and-trade revenues are spent, and that one Legislative Analyst estimate has cap and trade adding 15 cents per gallon to gasoline costs by 2021…
Cap and trade: spending in lower-income areas

How important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities?

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</tr>
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</table>
Support for more oil drilling off the coast

Do you favor or oppose allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?
Support for energy development off the California coast

Bar chart showing support for more oil drilling versus wind power and wave energy projects among different groups:
- All adults: 25% support more oil drilling, 73% support wind power
- Likely voters: 28% support more oil drilling, 76% support wind power
- Dem: 14% support more oil drilling, 78% support wind power
- Rep: 50% support more oil drilling, 76% support wind power
- Ind: 30% support more oil drilling, 76% support wind power
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Conclusions

- Approval ratings for the governor and state legislature on environmental issues have risen dramatically since 2011. Approval is low for both the president and Congress.

- Many still see water supply as a big problem, and most say their local government is doing the right amount to conserve. A quarter say air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state.

- Nearly all Californians say the condition of the ocean and beaches is important to the state and to themselves personally.

- Most see climate change as a very serious threat and majorities—including notable shares of Republicans—favor state actions to address it.
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Notes on the use of these slides

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

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Thank you for your interest in this work.