



# Californians & the Environment

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**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters—informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

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## News Release

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### PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## State's Climate Change Actions Get Majority Support, Though Most Expect Gas Prices to Rise

### BIG RISE IN APPROVAL RATINGS FOR BROWN, LEGISLATURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26, 2017—Majorities of Californians favor state policies to address global warming, including the law mandating statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Most adults and half of likely voters favor the state's cap-and-trade program. Residents support steps to reduce warming even though most expect the result will be higher gasoline prices. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Strong majorities of California adults (72%) and likely voters (66%) favor the state law passed last year that requires the state to reduce emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (71%) and 42 percent of Republicans support the law. Majorities across the state's regions and racial/ethnic groups are in favor.

Half of Californians believe that the state's actions to reduce global warming will result in more jobs in the future (22% fewer jobs, 19% no effect on jobs). Among likely voters, 49 percent say the result will be more jobs. The share of Californians who express this view is the highest since PPIC first asked the question in 2010. At the same time, most Californians (54% adults, 54% likely voters) say the state's actions to reduce warming will cause gasoline prices to increase.

While the survey was being conducted, the legislature voted to extend the state's cap-and-trade system until 2030. Most Californians (56%) say they have heard nothing about the system, in which the state enforces emissions "caps" by issuing permits that can be traded among companies at quarterly auctions. After hearing a short description of the system, 56 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters are in favor—a high point for support since PPIC began asking about cap and trade in 2009. Most Democrats (60%) and independents (54%) and 32 percent of Republicans favor cap and trade.

"There is broad consensus for the state's efforts to address climate change, and many support the cap-and-trade system," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Most Democrats and independents and sizable percentages of Republicans are in favor."

The survey describes how cap-and-trade revenues are spent—on affordable housing near public transit, energy efficiency, high speed rail, and public transit—and gives a Legislative Analyst Office estimate that cap and trade will add 15 cents per gallon of gasoline by 2021. Given this additional information, 60 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters favor the state's efforts to reduce emissions through cap and trade. Across party lines, 68 percent of Democrats, 52 percent of independents, and 28 percent of Republicans are in favor. Most Californians (54%) and 46 percent of likely voters also say it is very important to them that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities.

Californians also support expanding the state's goals for generating electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power. State law currently requires that 50 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2030. The legislature is considering requiring that 100 percent of electricity come from renewable sources by 2045. Overwhelming majorities (76% adults, 71% likely voters) are in favor, as are majorities across parties.

Half of Californians (51% adults, 48% likely voters) say that to reduce global warming, they are willing to pay more for electricity if it is generated by renewable sources. Most Democrats (60%) are willing to pay more, compared to fewer than half of independents (45%) and 30 percent of Republicans.

Baldassare summed up views on state actions to address global warming: "A record-high percentage of Californians believe that the state's climate change and energy policies will lead to more jobs, while many residents are willing to live with higher electricity and gasoline costs."

## Support for Offshore Drilling Falls to New Low

On another energy issue, support for more drilling off the California coast has dropped to a record low. Just 25 percent of Californians are in favor, while 69 percent are opposed. Support has fallen by 11 percentage points since July 2016 (36% favor, 59% oppose). Fewer than a third of residents across all major regions of the state favor more drilling. Most Democrats (81%) and independents (68%) and 45 percent of Republicans are opposed. Across regions, opposition is highest in the north and central coast (74% in coastal counties from San Luis Obispo to Del Norte and all counties in the San Francisco Bay Area) and somewhat lower in the inland counties (64%).

In contrast, 73 percent of Californians are in favor of wind power and wave energy projects off the state's coast, while 19 percent are opposed. Large majorities across parties and regions and across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups favor wind and wave energy projects.

## Few Favor Trump's Exit from Paris Accord

When asked their views on President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, few Californians (22% adults, 29% likely voters) support it. Most Democrats (86%) and independents (68%) and a third of Republicans (32%) are opposed.

Most Californians (66%) favor the state government making its own policies—separate from the federal government—to address global warming. A majority (58%) also say it's very important to them that California act as a world leader in efforts to fight climate change (23% somewhat important, 7% not too important, 11% not important at all). Most (58%) say warming is a very serious threat to California's future economy and quality of life, and 66 percent say the effects of warming have already begun.

## Trump, Congress Get Low Ratings—State Leaders Fare Much Better

Just 25 percent of adults and 34 percent of likely voters approve of the way the president is handling his job, and his approval ratings for handling environmental issues are similar (22% adults, 31% likely voters).

"President Trump's low job approval ratings are matched by equally low approval for his handling of environmental issues and strong opposition to withdrawing from the Paris climate change agreement," Baldassare said.

Although Trump's overall job approval ratings are low, he has strong majority support among Republicans (68%). In contrast, Congress' job approval ratings (24% adults, 17% likely voters) are low across parties (19% Democrats, 26% Republicans, 23% independents). Californians give Congress low ratings on environmental issues (26% adults, 21% likely voters), and these ratings are also low across parties (17% Democrats, 27% Republicans, 28% independents).

In contrast to Californians' views of the president, majorities (53% adults, 52% likely voters) approve of Governor Brown's job performance. His ratings for handling environmental issues (51% adults, 53% likely voters) are similar and have increased since he took office in 2011—by 16 points among adults and 17 points among likely voters (35% adults, 36% likely voters in July 2011). Half of Californians (50% adults, 45% likely voters) approve of the legislature's job performance. They approve of the legislature's handling of environmental issues in similar numbers (51% adults, 49% likely voters). The legislature's ratings on environmental issues have increased by 20 points since 2011 among all adults (31%) and 25 points among likely voters (24%).

## Most Favor Desalination Plants

Although the drought officially ended this year, most Californians say the supply of water in their part of the state is a big problem (37%) or somewhat of a problem (27%). Last July, 62 percent said water supply was a big problem. Across regions today, residents in the Inland Empire (46%) and Central Valley (44%) are the most likely to say that the water supply is a big problem in their region. Within the Central Valley, 51 percent of San Joaquin Valley residents say water supply is a big problem in their region (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties).

Asked about their views on building desalination plants on the coast, 67 percent of adults are in favor, including majorities across parties and regions and across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups. When it comes to water conservation, 52 percent say their local governments are doing the right amount (38% not enough, 6% too much).

"In the wake of the historic drought, most Californians favor building desalination plants on the California coast, and most think that their local government is doing enough to conserve water," Baldassare said.

## Residents Place High Value on Ocean, Beaches

In response to one of several questions about the state's ocean and beaches, an overwhelming majority of residents say pollution is a big problem (46%) or somewhat of a problem (37%). These views are in line with residents' opinions that the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to them personally (71%) as well as to the economy and quality of life for the state's future (73%). Most (72%) say they visit a state beach at least several times a year. The survey also asks Californians about the importance of other issues along their part of the coast:

- **Contamination of fish and seafood:** 46 percent say it is a big problem.
- **Declining marine life:** 45 percent say it is a big problem.
- **Limited public access to the coast and beaches:** 18 percent say it is a big problem.

## LA Residents Most Likely to View Air Pollution as Big Problem

When asked about air pollution in their part of the state, 24 percent of Californians say it is a big problem, while 38 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. Los Angeles residents are the most likely to say air pollution is a big problem (39%). Residents of Orange/San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area are the least likely (17% each). In the Central Valley as a whole, 24 percent say air pollution is a big problem, while 34 percent express this view in the eight-county San Joaquin Valley.

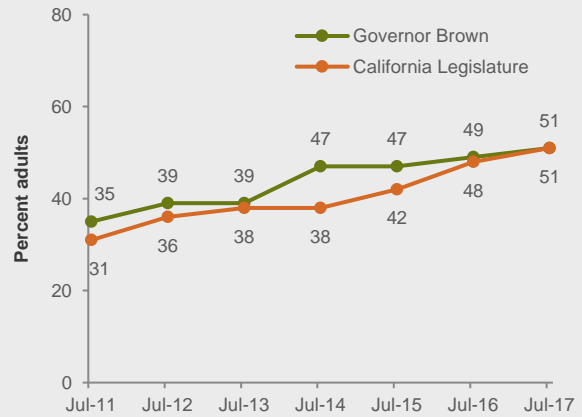
Most state residents (55%) say air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere in their part of California. And Californians overwhelmingly (79%) favor the idea of empowering local air districts to require that industries curb emissions of air pollutants. Majorities across parties express this view.

# Public Perceptions

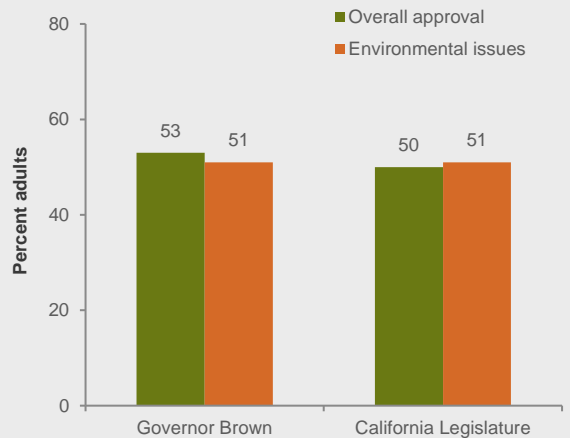
## Key Findings

- At the state level, about half approve of the overall job performance of both Governor Brown and the legislature. At the federal level, about one in four approve of President Trump's job performance and the US Congress. Approval ratings are similar on environmental issues. *(pages 7, 8)*
- Two in three adults and likely voters say the effects of global warming have already begun. Similar shares are somewhat or very concerned about rising sea levels. Six in ten say global warming is a very serious threat to the economy and quality of life in California. *(page 9)*
- Twenty-four percent say air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state, with wide differences across regions. A majority say air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas, and eight in ten favor empowering local air districts to require industries to reduce air pollution. *(page 10)*
- Thirty-seven percent say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California. Half say their local government is doing the right amount to conserve water, and 67 percent support building desalination plants on the California coast. *(page 11)*
- Three in four say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to the economy and quality of life in California. Seven in ten say it is very important to them personally. *(page 12)*
- More than four in ten say ocean and beach pollution in California is a big problem. Similar shares see both declining marine life and the contamination of fish and seafood on their part of the coast as big problems. One in five say limited public access to their part of the coast is a big problem. *(page 13)*

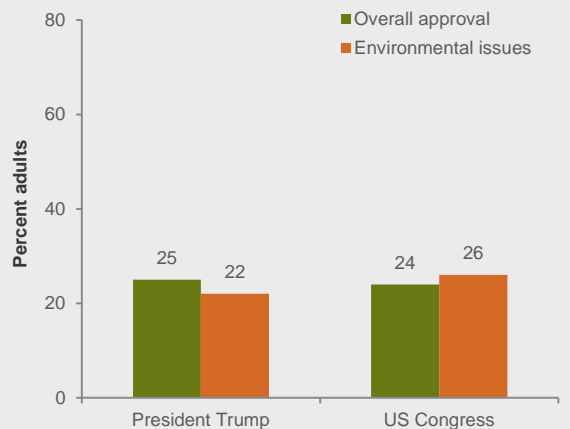
Approval of state elected officials on environmental issues



Approval ratings of state elected officials



Approval ratings of federal elected officials



## Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of California adults (53%) and likely voters (52%) approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California. Approval ratings for Brown in May (52% adults, 50% likely voters) and last July (54% adults, 53% likely voters) were similar. Today, Democrats (73%) are much more likely than independents (51%) and Republicans (19%) to express approval. San Francisco Bay Area residents (63%) are somewhat more likely than those living in other regions to approve. Asian Americans (68%), African Americans (61%), and Latinos (56%) are more likely than whites (46%) to approve.

Majorities of Californians also approve of the way Governor Brown is handling environmental issues (51% adults, 53% likely voters)—approval was similar last July (49% adults, 51% likely voters). Among adults, approval of his handling of environmental issues has increased by 16 points since he took office in 2011. Today, Democrats (67%) are much more likely than independents (49%) and Republicans (24%) to approve. San Francisco Bay Area residents (63%) are more likely than those living in other regions to approve.

### “Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	53%	73%	19%	51%	52%
	Disapprove	27	13	69	31	36
	Don't know	20	14	12	18	12
Environmental issues in California	Approve	51	67	24	49	53
	Disapprove	28	17	61	33	33
	Don't know	21	15	14	17	14

Fifty percent of adults and 45 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval was similar in May (46% adults, 41% likely voters) and last July (45% adults, 42% likely voters). Today, Democrats (63%) are much more likely than independents (46%) and Republicans (20%) to approve. San Francisco Bay Area (54%), Los Angeles (53%), and Central Valley (50%) residents are slightly more likely than those living in other regions to approve. Asian Americans (67%) and Latinos (57%) are somewhat more likely than African Americans (49%) and whites (40%) to approve.

Half of Californians (51% adults, 49% likely voters) approve of the way the legislature is handling environmental issues. Approval was similar for adults last July (48% adults, 42% likely voters) but has increased by 20 points since 2011. Across parties today, Democrats (63%) are most likely, and across regions, San Francisco Bay Area (61%) residents are most likely to approve. African Americans (63%), Asian Americans (61%), and Latinos (54%) are somewhat more likely than whites (46%) to approve.

### “Do you approve or disapprove of the way the California Legislature is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	50%	63%	20%	46%	45%
	Disapprove	34	23	67	43	42
	Don't know	17	14	12	11	13
Environmental issues in California	Approve	51	63	30	46	49
	Disapprove	33	24	59	41	40
	Don't know	16	12	10	12	11



## Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Donald Trump has low approval ratings (25% adults, 34% likely voters) for his handling of his job as president of the United States. Approval was similar in May (27% adults, 33% likely voters), March (31% adults, 35% likely voters), and January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 9 percent of Democrats, 33 percent of independents, and 68 percent of Republicans approve. The president’s approval rating was at 39 percent in a recent Gallup weekly national tracking poll. Californians were slightly less likely to approve of George W. Bush near the end of his second term (19% October 2008).

Californians’ approval ratings are similarly low for Donald Trump’s handling of environmental issues (22% adults, 31% likely voters). Last July, most Californians (60% adults, 55% likely voters) approved of President Barack Obama’s handling of environmental issues. Today, 9 percent of Democrats, 26 percent of independents, and 57 percent of Republicans approve of President Trump’s handling of environmental issues. Majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups and regions disapprove.

### “Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as president of the United States	Approve	25%	9%	68%	33%	34%
	Disapprove	71	87	28	62	63
	Don't know	4	3	4	5	3
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	22	9	57	26	31
	Disapprove	70	85	28	67	63
	Don't know	8	6	15	7	6

The US Congress also has low approval ratings among Californians (24% adults, 17% likely voters) for the way it is handling its job. Approval of the US Congress was similarly low in May (26% adults, 19% likely voters) and last July (28% adults, 17% likely voters). Today, 19 percent of Democrats, 23 percent of independents, and 26 percent of Republicans approve of Congress. Majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups and regions of the state disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of the US Congress was at 20 percent in a July Gallup national poll.

Approval ratings are low for the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States (26% adults, 21% likely voters). Approval was similar last July (31% adults, 17% likely voters). Today, majorities across age, education, income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups and the state’s major regions disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues.

### “Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	24%	19%	26%	23%	17%
	Disapprove	68	77	66	72	78
	Don't know	8	5	8	6	5
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	26	17	27	28	21
	Disapprove	63	77	53	66	70
	Don't know	11	6	19	6	9



## Global Warming

As state and national leaders diverge on climate change and how to address it, most Californians (66%) continue to believe the effects of global warming have already begun. Another one in five say they will begin in the future (21%), while just 8 percent say the effects will never happen. Since we began asking this question in July 2005, majorities have said the effects have already begun: more than six in ten have held this view since 2011. Views were similar among adults nationwide in a March Gallup survey (62% already happening, 27% will happen in the future, 9% will never happen). Most California Democrats (78%) and independents (65%)—and a substantial proportion of Republicans (40%)—say the effects have already begun. At least six in ten across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups think the effects have already begun.

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

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Already begun	66%	60%	75%	66%	66%	66%
Within a few years	5	10	3	9	2	3
Within your lifetime	5	11	4	6	4	4
Not within lifetime, but will affect future	11	15	8	11	11	11
Will never happen	8	3	7	4	13	12
Don't know	4	1	4	4	4	4

Eight in ten Californians think global warming is a very serious (58%) or somewhat serious (23%) threat to California’s future economy and quality of life. Since we began asking this question in July 2005, more than seven in ten Californians have said that the threat is at least somewhat serious; since December 2014, more than half have said it is a very serious threat. Most Democrats (69%) call the threat very serious, while half of independents (53%) and one in four Republicans (25%) hold this view. Solid majorities of Latinos (70%), African Americans (62%), and Asian Americans (60%) say it is a very serious threat, compared to about half of whites (48%). The share saying that global warming is a very serious threat to California’s future is higher among the less affluent, and it declines sharply with age (70% 18 to 34, 56% 35 to 54, 48% 55 and older).

**“How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California’s future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?”**

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Very serious	58%	62%	60%	70%	48%	52%
Somewhat serious	23	30	25	22	23	24
Not too serious	7	5	9	4	10	9
Not at all serious	10	3	5	3	17	14
Don't know	2	–	1	2	3	1

Two in three Californians are very concerned (35%) or somewhat concerned (34%) about rising sea levels as a possible effect of global warming. Half of Democrats (49%) are very concerned about rising sea levels, compared to 13 percent of Republicans and 29 percent of independents.

## Air Pollution

When asked about air pollution in their part of California, 24 percent of California adults and 21 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. Notably, solid majorities say that air pollution is at least somewhat of a problem (62% adults, 63% likely voters). The proportion of Californians saying that air pollution is a big problem was similar last July (25% adults, 24% likely voters). Today, Los Angeles residents (39% big, 39% somewhat) are the most likely and Orange/San Diego residents (17% big, 37% somewhat) are the least likely to say that air pollution is a problem. Within the Central Valley, in the San Joaquin Valley’s eight counties, 34 percent of residents say that air pollution is a big problem. Democrats (22%) and independents (31%) are somewhat more likely than Republicans (14%) to say that air pollution is a big problem. Latinos (35%) are somewhat more likely than African Americans (26%), Asian Americans (21%), and whites (16%) to hold this view.

**“We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	24%	24%	21%	39%	17%	17%	21%
Somewhat of a problem	38	41	39	39	37	42	42
Not a problem	36	35	39	22	45	39	37
Don't know	1	–	1	–	1	2	–

Fifty-five percent of adults and 45 percent of likely voters say that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere in their part of California. Findings were similar last July (50% adults, 42% likely voters). Today, 64 percent of Democrats, 45 percent of independents, and 27 percent of Republicans say that air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas. This perception of air pollution is more common among those under age 35 (70%), those with no college education (65%), and those with less than \$40,000 in household income (66%). Latinos (76%) and African Americans (74%) are more likely than Asian Americans (49%) and whites (42%) to hold this view. Majorities in Los Angeles (61%), Orange/San Diego (57%), the San Francisco Bay Area (56%), and the Inland Empire (54%)—and half in the Central Valley (49%)—hold this view. Fifty-seven percent of San Joaquin Valley residents say that air pollution is a more serious health threat 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?”**

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Yes	55%	66%	46%	47%	74%	49%	76%	42%
No	39	29	49	49	20	44	21	53
Don't know	5	5	5	5	6	7	3	6

Californians overwhelmingly favor the idea of empowering local air districts to require industries to cut down their emission of air pollutants (79% adults, 74% likely voters). Overwhelming majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups and regions of the state support this idea. Majorities of Democrats (86%), independents (76%), and Republicans (57%) favor this proposal.

## Water Supply

The historic California drought officially ended this year, but 37 percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters say that the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California. The share of Californians saying that water supply is a big problem was much higher last July (62% adults, 71% likely voters) during the drought. Importantly, more than six in ten Californians today say that the supply of water is either a big problem or somewhat of a problem in their region (64% adults, 71% likely voters).

Inland Empire (46%) and Central Valley (44%) residents are much more likely than San Francisco Bay Area residents (30%) to say that the water supply is a big problem in their region. Fifty-one percent of residents in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley say that the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California. Fewer than half across political parties say that the supply of water is a big problem (49% independents, 41% Republicans, 36% Democrats). Whites (42%) are more likely than Latinos (35%), Asian Americans (32%), and African Americans (27%) to hold this view.

**“Next, 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?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	37%	44%	46%	38%	35%	30%	42%
Somewhat of a problem	27	21	24	27	32	32	29
Not much of a problem	34	34	28	34	32	36	28
Don't know	1	–	1	1	1	2	1

In the wake of the drought, solid majorities (67% adults, 68% likely voters) favor building desalination plants on the California coast. Majorities across state regions and age, education, income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view. Fewer Californians favored building desalination plants on the California coast when this question was last asked in February 2006 (56% adults, 58% likely voters).

What do residents think about water conservation in their part of California? Six percent of adults say the local government is doing too much, while 52 percent say it is doing the right amount and 38 percent say it is not doing enough. The results are similar among likely voters. Half or more across almost all regions say that the local government is doing the right amount; the exception is the Inland Empire (43% right amount, 43% not enough). African Americans (52%) are more likely than Latinos (38%), whites (36%), and Asian Americans (34%) to say the local government is not doing enough about water conservation. Last July, in response to a different question, most Californians (58% adults, 63% likely voters) said state and local governments were not doing enough to respond to the drought.

**“When it comes to water conservation in your part of California, do you think that your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Too much	6%	8%	8%	5%	7%	4%	8%
The right amount	52	52	43	52	50	57	51
Not enough	38	35	43	39	39	35	37
Don't know	4	5	7	4	4	4	4

## Importance of the Ocean and Coast

Californians make use of the state’s coast and beaches, with 72 percent of all adults visiting a coastal beach at least several times a year, including more than a third who visit beaches at least once a month. With many Californians visiting the state’s coast and beaches, more than nine in ten adults say that the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important (73%) or somewhat important (22%) to the economy and quality of life for California’s future. More than seven in ten adults across all age, income, and racial/ethnic groups say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important. Even among Californians who say they never visit the coast or visit less than once a year, 67 percent hold this view.

Strong majorities across the state’s major regions say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important for the future economy and quality of life in California. Indeed, at least seven in ten residents in both coastal and inland counties say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important. In our February 2006 survey, 71 percent said the condition of the ocean and beaches was very important to the state’s quality of life, and 63 percent saw it as very important to the state’s economy.

### “How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches to the economy and quality of life for California’s future?”

	All adults	Region*			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast*	South coast*	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	73%	72%	75%	70%	78%	74%	73%	73%
Somewhat important	22	23	20	24	19	24	21	22
Not too important	2	4	1	1	3	1	–	2
Not important at all	2	1	1	5	–	–	2	2
Don't know	1	1	2	–	–	1	3	1

\* Here and in the rest of the report, “North and central coast” refers to the coastal counties northward from San Luis Obispo County to Del Norte County, including all of the San Francisco Bay Area counties. “South coast” includes coastal counties southward from Santa Barbara County.

Seventy-one percent of Californians rate the condition of the ocean and beaches as very important to them personally. That is up from 62 percent when we last asked in February 2006 and 60 percent in November 2003. Solid majorities in all regions and across income and racial/ethnic groups consider the condition of the ocean and beaches very important to them personally. Across parties, most Democrats (76%), independents (70%), and Republicans (58%) say the condition of the ocean and beaches is personally very important. Notably, younger Californians age 18 to 34 are more likely than those 55 and older to visit the coast at least monthly (49% to 25%) and are more likely to say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to them personally (82% to 64%).

### “How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches in California to you personally?”

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	71%	72%	73%	66%	75%	72%	74%	68%
Somewhat important	21	22	20	21	16	20	19	22
Not too important	4	3	2	6	4	4	2	5
Not important at all	4	3	4	6	4	3	4	5
Don't know	1	–	1	–	–	1	1	–

## California Coastal Conditions

More than eight in ten Californians think ocean and beach pollution is a big problem (46%) or somewhat of a problem (37%) in the state today. Findings were similar when we last asked this question in our February 2006 survey (50% big problem, 35% somewhat of a problem). About half of Democrats (52%) and independents (50%) say coastal pollution is a big problem, compared to 32 percent of Republicans. Regionally, residents in Los Angeles (52%) are the most likely to say ocean and beach pollution is a big problem, while those in the Central Valley (39%) are the least likely to say so. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (60%) and Latinos (52%) are more likely than Asian Americans (43%) and whites (41%) to say ocean and beach pollution is a big problem in California today. Notably, a majority of younger Californians age 18 to 34 (56%) say ocean and beach pollution is a big problem, while fewer than half of older Californians (42% 35 to 54, 39% 55 and older) hold this view.

**“Do you think that ocean and beach pollution along the California coast is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in California today?”**

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Big problem	46%	45%	49%	42%	60%	43%	52%	41%
Somewhat of a problem	37	40	36	35	31	37	31	41
Not a problem	16	13	14	20	7	19	16	15
Don't know	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	3

More than three in four Californians view declining marine life as a big problem (45%) or somewhat of a problem (32%) in the part of the California coast closest to them. Across parties, Democrats (52%) and independents (48%) are much more likely than Republicans (29%) to say declining marine life is a big problem on their part of the coast. When asked about the contamination of fish and seafood, more than three in four Californians say it is a big problem (46%) or somewhat of a problem (31%) on their part of the California coast. Findings were similar in our February 2006 survey (44% big problem, 36% somewhat). Today, residents in Los Angeles (53%) are the most likely to see the contamination of fish and seafood as a big problem on their part of the coast, while those in Orange/San Diego (38%) are the least likely to hold this view. Across parties, Democrats (57%) and independents (48%) are much more likely than Republicans (32%) to view fish and seafood contamination as a big problem. African Americans are more likely than whites (57% to 43%) to view fish and seafood contamination as a big problem (47% each Asian Americans and Latinos).

Fewer Californians see limited public access to the coast and beaches as a problem (18% big problem, 32% somewhat). Findings were similar when we last asked this question in February 2006 (20% big problem, 33% somewhat) and November 2003 (20% big problem, 38% somewhat). Today, similar proportions of Democrats (21%), Republicans (17%), and independents (18%) view limited public access to the coast and beaches as a big problem.

**“Thinking about the part of the California coast that is closest to you, please tell me whether you think each of the following is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem today. How about...?”**

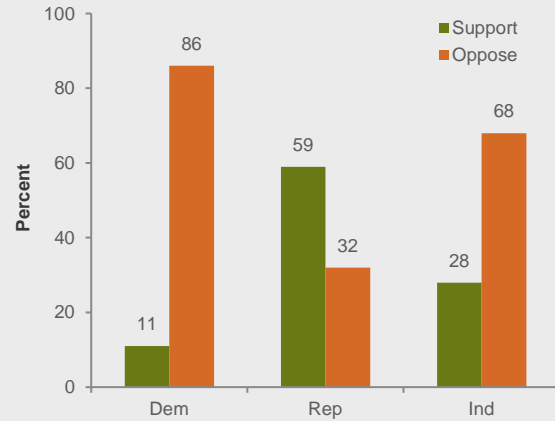
	Declining marine life	Limited public access to the coast and beaches	Contamination of fish and seafood
Big problem	45%	18%	46%
Somewhat of a problem	32	32	31
Not a problem	17	47	20
Don't know	6	2	3

# Policy Preferences

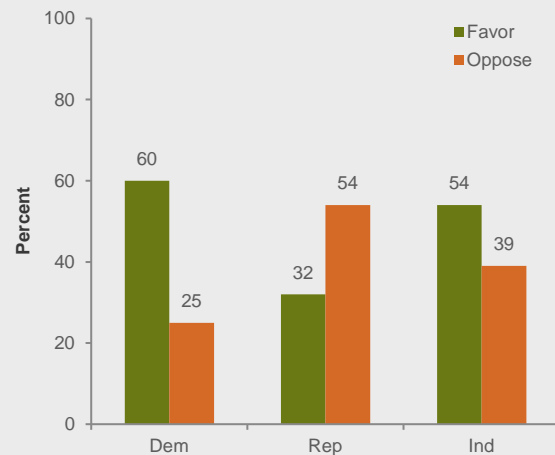
## Key Findings

- More than six in ten adults and likely voters favor California making its own policies to address global warming, and majorities say it is very important that California act as a global leader on climate change. Fewer than one in four Californians support President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. *(page 15)*
- Seventy-two percent of adults and two-thirds of likely voters favor the state law requiring California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Similar shares support a proposal that would require 100 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2045. *(page 16)*
- Half of adults and likely voters expect that California doing things to reduce global warming would lead to more jobs in the state, and majorities expect such action would lead to higher gasoline prices. To help reduce global warming, about half would be willing to pay more for electricity generated by renewable sources. *(page 17)*
- Though fewer than half of adults have heard of the state’s cap-and-trade system, after being read a brief description, 56 percent approve of it. After hearing how the revenues are spent and an estimate of increased gasoline costs, 60 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters support the system. A majority of adults say it is very important that cap-and-trade revenues be spent on projects in lower-income areas. *(pages 18, 19)*
- Californians are far more likely to favor wind and wave energy projects than increased oil drilling off the coast. Three in four say it is very important that the state have Marine Protected Areas. *(pages 20, 21)*

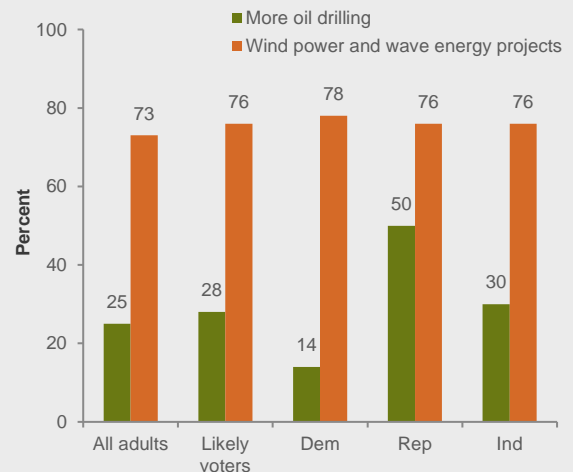
**Support or oppose Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement**



**Favor or oppose California's cap-and-trade policy**



**Favor energy development off the California coast**



## State Leadership on Climate Change

California has emerged as a leader on climate change in recent years and has continued to play this role under the new federal administration. Most Californians (66%) support the state making its own policies to address global warming. Since we first asked this question in July 2005, a majority of Californians have held this view. Most Democrats (78%) and independents (68%) are in favor, compared with 33 percent of Republicans. Support is highest among residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (73%) and Los Angeles (70%), followed by those in Orange/San Diego (63%), the Central Valley (61%), and the Inland Empire (55%). Solid majorities across racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Support for California acting alone declines sharply as age increases (75% 18 to 34, 65% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older). Among those who approve of Governor Brown, 80 percent are in favor of separate state action.

**“Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	66%	78%	33%	68%	63%
Oppose	28	15	61	30	32
Don't know	6	7	6	3	6

Earlier this month, Governor Brown announced that California would host a global warming summit next year convening leaders from around the world—furthering his efforts to strengthen California’s leadership on climate issues. When asked how important it is that California acts as a leader around the world in efforts to fight climate change, eight in ten Californians say it is very important (58%) or somewhat important (23%). Most Democrats (73%) and independents (54%) say it is very important, compared with 25 percent of Republicans. Across almost all regions and demographic groups, at least half call state leadership on this issue very important; the exceptions are residents in the Central Valley (47%) and whites (46%). Among those who favor California making its own policies, 69 percent say it is very important for California to be a world leader when it comes to efforts to fight climate change. Among those who approve of Governor Brown, 71 percent view this as very important.

**“When it comes to efforts to fight climate change, how important is it to you that California acts as a leader around the world?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very important	58%	73%	25%	54%	52%
Somewhat important	23	19	22	20	20
Not too important	7	2	17	9	9
Not important at all	11	5	35	16	17
Don't know	1	1	1	–	1

Earlier this summer, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate accord, the international agreement that aims to reduce emissions and address climate change. Few Californians support his decision (22% adults, 29% likely voters), and most are opposed (71% adults, 67% likely voters). Most Democrats (86%) and independents (68%)—and 32 percent of Republicans—are opposed. Solid majorities are opposed across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups. Among those who approve of President Trump, 71 percent are supportive; among those who disapprove, 91 percent are opposed. Among adults nationwide, support was slightly higher on a similar question in a June ABC News/Washington Post survey (28% support, 59% oppose).



## Climate Change Policies

California’s effort to reduce greenhouse gases began in earnest with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 in 2006, and each July from 2006 to 2016 strong majorities in our surveys supported this policy. The California Air Resources Board indicated that the state is on track to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020, and policymakers passed Senate Bill (SB) 32 last year with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. When asked about this goal, seven in ten Californians including overwhelming majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (71%) and 42 percent of Republicans are in favor. Strong majorities across regions are in favor, as are seven in ten men and women. Strong majorities across racial/ethnic groups are in favor, with Asian Americans (87%) most likely—and whites (65%) least likely—to be in favor. While solid majorities across age, education, and income groups are in favor, support declines as age increases.

**“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?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	72%	84%	42%	71%	66%
Oppose	21	10	52	24	28
Don't know	7	7	6	6	6

According to the California Energy Commission, 27 percent of California’s electricity in 2016 was derived from renewable sources. In 2015, the state legislature passed SB 350, which among other things established the goal that 50 percent of California’s electricity come from renewable energy resources by 2030. The legislature is currently considering SB 100, which would require that 100 percent of the state’s electricity be generated by renewable energy sources by 2045, including a goal of 50 percent by 2026. A strong majority of Californians (76%)—including majorities across parties—support the goal of 100 percent renewably sourced electricity. More than six in ten across regions and more than two in three across demographic groups favor this goal.

**“The state legislature is currently considering legislation that would require 100 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2045. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	76%	81%	53%	71%	71%
Oppose	18	11	41	26	23
Don't know	7	8	6	3	6

To help reduce global warming, 51 percent of Californians say they are willing to pay more for electricity if it is generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy; 45 percent are not willing to pay more (likely voters: 48% willing, 46% not willing). Findings were similar last year (56% willing, 40% not willing). Most Democrats (60%) are willing to pay more, compared to 45 percent of independents and 30 percent of Republicans. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Orange/San Diego (56%) are willing to pay more; elsewhere, somewhat fewer hold this view (49% Los Angeles, 45% Central Valley, 39% Inland Empire). Six in ten Asian Americans (62%) are willing to pay more, compared to about half of African Americans (53%), Latinos (50%), and whites (50%). Adults under 35 are more likely than those 55 or older to be willing to pay more (56% to 46%). At least half across income groups are willing, and among those supporting the goals of SB 32 or SB 100, six in ten are willing to pay more.

## Potential Costs of Climate Change Policies

Half of adults (50%) and likely voters (49%) think that California doing things to reduce global warming would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state. Another 19 percent of adults say there would be no effect on the number of jobs, and 22 percent expect fewer jobs. Since we first asked this question in 2010, pluralities have said there would be more jobs, but 50 percent is a record high and is up 10 points since last July (40% more jobs, 20% fewer, 29% no effect). Half or more of Asian Americans (64%), African Americans (60%), and Latinos (50%) expect more jobs, as do 44 percent of whites. Pluralities across regions and age, education, and income groups say there would be more jobs. Across parties, 66 percent of Democrats expect that state action on global warming would result in more jobs, compared to 50 percent of independents and 21 percent of Republicans. Among those who favor the emission-reduction goal of SB 32, 60 percent expect more jobs. Among those opposed, 46 percent expect fewer jobs.

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

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
More jobs	50%	43%	49%	52%	47%	56%	49%
Fewer jobs	22	22	26	19	29	16	21
Wouldn’t affect the number of jobs	19	25	19	19	16	17	21
Don’t know	9	11	6	10	8	11	9

While relatively few Californians expect that state action on global warming would have a negative impact on jobs, most adults and likely voters (54%) expect such action would cause gasoline prices to increase. Responses among adults were similar a year ago (59% increase, 20% no effect, 14% decrease). Today, about six in ten in the Inland Empire and the Central Valley expect an increase, as do about half in other regions. Majorities of Latinos (60%), whites (55%), and African Americans (54%) say the same. Pluralities across age, education, income, and partisan groups expect higher prices, though Republicans (66%) are more likely than independents (56%) or Democrats (46%) to expect an increase. Among those in favor of SB 32’s emission-reduction goal, 47 percent expect higher gas prices; among those opposed, 75 percent expect higher prices.

**“Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn’t affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Increase gasoline prices	54%	58%	63%	48%	50%	50%	54%
Decrease gasoline prices	18	19	15	22	21	15	14
Wouldn’t affect gasoline prices	19	15	14	19	22	24	21
Don’t know	9	8	8	11	7	11	10

## Cap and Trade

On July 17, the California Legislature passed AB 398 to extend the state’s cap-and-trade system until 2030. (Our survey was conducted July 9–18.) Most Californians (56%) say they have heard nothing at all about the state’s cap-and-trade system (32% heard a little, 11% heard a lot). Among likely voters, a majority have heard a little (39%) or a lot (18%), while 42 percent have heard nothing. Responses have been similar in PPIC surveys since 2012. Latinos (70%), adults under 35 (70%), those with no college (69%), and those with incomes below \$40,000 (67%) are the most likely to say they have heard nothing.

After hearing a short description of the state’s cap-and-trade system, 56 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters are in favor—a high point for support since we began asking the question in 2009 and similar to what we found last July (54% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, majorities of Democrats (60%) and independents (54%) are in favor, compared with 32 percent of Republicans. Two-thirds of San Francisco Bay Area residents, and majorities across all other regions but the Central Valley (46%), are in favor. Across racial/ethnic and income groups, at least half are in favor. Among those who say global warming is a very serious threat to California’s future, two-thirds (67%) favor cap and trade.

**“In the system called ‘cap and trade,’ the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?”**

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	56%	61%	50%	55%	55%	68%	56%	53%
Oppose	33	29	36	37	36	17	34	36
Don't know	11	11	14	8	9	15	10	11

After hearing a description of how cap-and-trade revenues are spent and hearing that one Legislative Analyst estimate has cap and trade adding 15 cents per gallon to gasoline costs by 2021, 60 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters are in favor of the system. Given this additional information, majorities of Democrats (68%) and independents (52%)—and 28 percent of Republicans—are in favor of the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through cap and trade. Majorities across income groups are in favor, with lower-income Californians somewhat more likely than others to be supportive. At least half across racial/ethnic groups are in favor, and adults under 35 (75%) are much more likely than older adults (59% 35 to 54, 48% 55 and older) to favor cap and trade after hearing the description of revenue spending and the cost estimate.

**“Cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as affordable housing near public transit, energy efficiency, high speed rail, and public transit. One Legislative Analyst estimate has cap and trade adding 15 cents per gallon to gasoline costs by 2021. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the cap-and-trade system?”**

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	60%	65%	57%	56%	59%	74%	68%	52%
Oppose	34	28	38	41	36	19	27	43
Don't know	6	7	5	4	5	7	5	5

Last year, the Legislative Analyst estimated that including transportation fuels in the state’s cap-and-trade system had added 11 cents per gallon to the cost of gasoline. In our July 2016 survey, we found 52 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters in favor of including transportation fuels in the cap-and-trade system, after hearing that cost estimate along with a description of how cap-and-trade revenues are spent.

As a way to limit price increases for businesses, AB 398 authorizes a ceiling on the price of cap-and-trade permits. When asked about setting a price ceiling—even if that makes it less certain that the state will meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals—half of adults are in favor and likely voters are narrowly divided (44% favor, 42% oppose). Both Democrats and Republicans are split between favoring and opposing a ceiling, and independents are somewhat more likely to be in favor than to be opposed. Lower-income Californians are somewhat more likely than higher-income Californians to favor a price ceiling (54% below \$40,000, 45% \$80,000 or more). A majority of those who favor cap and trade in general (58%) favor a ceiling, as do 43 percent of those who oppose the system.

**“Thinking about the permits that allow businesses to put out greenhouse gases, do you favor or oppose setting a ceiling on the price businesses pay for these permits, even if that makes it less certain that the state will meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	50%	42%	45%	49%	44%
Oppose	38	44	41	41	42
Don't know	13	15	15	10	14

A majority of adults (54%) and 46 percent of likely voters say it is very important that some of the cap-and-trade revenues be spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. Another 27 percent of adults say it is somewhat important, while 17 percent say it is not too important (7%) or not at all important (10%). Responses were similar a year ago (51% very, 30% somewhat, 15% not important). Today, most Democrats (64%), about half of independents (47%), and 22 percent of Republicans say this is very important. Majorities of African Americans (69%), Latinos (66%), and Asian Americans (56%) say this is very important, compared with 43 percent of whites. The shares expressing this opinion decrease as age and income levels increase.

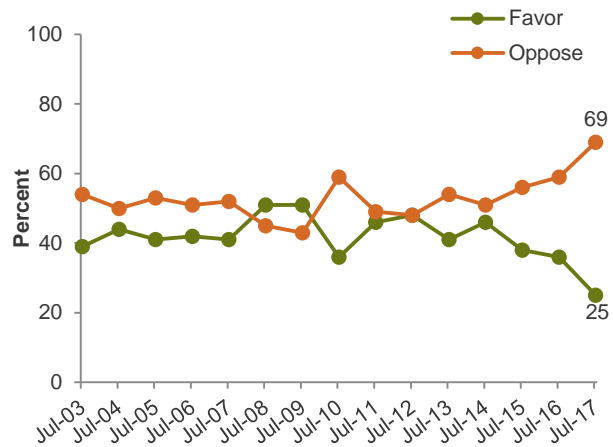
**“How important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities?”**

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	54%	62%	50%	45%	69%	56%	66%	43%
Somewhat important	27	24	25	32	21	29	25	31
Not too important	7	7	8	7	8	6	4	9
Not important at all	10	5	13	15	2	6	4	16
Don't know	2	2	4	1	–	2	2	2

## Ocean and Coastal Policy

Support for allowing more drilling off the California coast is at a record low, with just 25 percent of Californians in favor and 69 percent opposed. Support for more drilling has dropped by 11 percentage points since July 2016 (36% favor, 59% oppose). Today, fewer than a third of residents across all major regions of the state are in favor of allowing more drilling off the coast. Majorities of Democrats (81%) and independents (68%) as well as 45 percent of Republicans are opposed to allowing more oil drilling. Notably, majorities across all age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are opposed. Opposition is highest in the north and central coast (74%) and somewhat lower in the inland counties (64%). Among Californians who say global warming is a very serious threat to California’s future economy and quality of life, 79 percent oppose allowing more drilling off the coast. Among those who say global warming is not at all serious, 74 percent are in favor.

**Support for allowing more oil drilling off the California coast**



### “Do you favor or oppose allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?”

	All adults	Region			Age		
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and over
Favor	25%	20%	25%	29%	23%	23%	30%
Oppose	69	74	71	64	73	70	64
Don't know	5	6	4	7	3	7	6

The low levels of support for allowing more drilling in coastal waters are in stark contrast to the relatively high levels of support for allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the coast. Seventy-three percent of adults are in favor of wind power and wave energy projects, while 19 percent are opposed. More than seven in ten Democrats (78%), Republicans (76%), and independents (76%) support allowing wind power and wave energy projects. More than six in ten Californians across all age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Across regions, at least two-thirds are in favor. At least seven in ten inland (74%) and coastal (73%) residents support allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast.

### “Do you favor or oppose allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast?”

	All adults	Region			Age		
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and over
Favor	73%	78%	70%	74%	83%	65%	72%
Oppose	19	15	21	18	14	24	17
Don't know	8	6	9	8	3	10	10

In 1999, the California Legislature passed the Marine Life Protection Act, which mandated the redesign of a network of Marine Protected Areas along the California coast. Today, more than three in four

Californians say it is very important that California have Marine Protected Areas. A further 18 percent say it is somewhat important, while few say it is not too or not at all important (3%). Most Democrats (86%), independents (73%), and Republicans (56%) say this is very important, as do at least three in four residents across all regions. Among those who say declining marine life is a big problem on their part of the coast, 90 percent say it is very important that the state have Marine Protected Areas. Even among those who say declining marine life is not a problem, a majority (52%) say having Marine Protected Areas is very important.

**“Next, Marine Protected Areas, or MPAs, are managed by the California State Fish and Game Commission to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat in coastal waters. Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all that California has Marine Protected Areas?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Very important	77%	77%	75%	77%	75%	80%	75%
Somewhat important	18	17	17	19	19	17	20
Not too important	2	4	5	2	1	1	2
Not important at all	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Don't know	1	–	2	2	2	1	1

# Regional Map





# Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from survey research associate David Kordus, project manager for this survey, and associate survey director Dean Bonner and survey research associate Lunna Lopes. The *Californians and the Environment* survey is supported with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,708 California adult residents, including 1,110 interviewed on cell phones and 598 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from July 9–18, 2017.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving). Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using a “youngest male/female” method to avoid biases in age and gender.

For both cell phones and landlines, telephone numbers were called as many as eight times. When no contact with an individual was made, calls to a number were limited to six. Also, to increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, we made up to three additional calls to phone numbers estimated by Survey Sampling International as likely to be associated with Asian American individuals.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt Associates in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt Associates uses the US Census Bureau's 2011–2015 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt Associates used 2015 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2016 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.4$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,708 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.4 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,321 adults asked question 8a (local regulation of air pollution) and question 20b (price ceiling for cap-and-trade permits) from July 11–18, the sampling error is  $\pm 3.9$  percent; for the 1,409 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 3.8$  percent; for the 1,095 likely voters, it is  $\pm 4.3$  percent. Sampling error is only 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.

We present results for five geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Francisco 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, “Inland Empire” refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and “Orange/San Diego” refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately.

We also refer to two geographic subregions within the Central Valley. “Sacramento metro and the North Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Joaquin Valley” includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties. Additionally, in several places, we refer to coastal and inland counties. Within coastal counties, the “north and central coast” region refers to the counties along the California coast from San Luis Obispo County northward to Del Norte County, including all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. The “south coast” region includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. All other counties are included in the “inland” region.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by Gallup and ABC News/Washington Post. Additional details about our methodology can be found at [www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf) and are available upon request through [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org).

# Questionnaire and Results

## CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

July 9–18, 2017

1,708 California Adult Residents:  
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR  $\pm 3.4\%$  AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE  
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. **First, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?**
  - 53% approve
  - 27 disapprove
  - 20 don't know
2. **Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Brown is handling environmental issues in California?**
  - 51% approve
  - 28 disapprove
  - 21 don't know
3. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?**
  - 50% approve
  - 34 disapprove
  - 17 don't know
4. **Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling environmental issues in California?**
  - 51% approve
  - 33 disapprove
  - 16 don't know
5. **Next, 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?**
  - 37% big problem
  - 27 somewhat of a problem
  - 34 not much of a problem
  - 1 don't know
6. **When it comes to water conservation in your part of California, do you think that your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough?**
  - 6% too much
  - 52 the right amount
  - 38 not enough
  - 4 don't know
7. **We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?**
  - 24% big problem
  - 38 somewhat of a problem
  - 36 not a problem
  - 1 don't know
8. **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?**
  - 55% yes
  - 39 no
  - 5 don't know
- 8a. **[Asked beginning July 11] Do you favor or oppose empowering local air districts to require industries to cut down on the emission of air pollutants?**
  - 79% favor
  - 17 oppose
  - 4 don't know

**9. On another topic, which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen—[rotate order] (1) they have already begun to happen; (2) they will start happening within a few years; (3) they will start happening within your lifetime; (4) they will not happen within your lifetime, but they will affect future generations; [or] (5) they will never happen?**

- 66% already begun
- 5 within a few years
- 5 within your lifetime
- 11 not within lifetime, but will affect future generations
- 8 will never happen
- 4 don't know

**10. How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?**

- 58% very serious
- 23 somewhat serious
- 7 not too serious
- 10 not at all serious
- 2 don't know

**11. Thinking about the possible impact of global warming in California, how concerned are you about rising sea levels? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about that as an impact?**

- 35% very concerned
- 34 somewhat concerned
- 13 not too concerned
- 16 not at all concerned
- 2 don't know

**12. 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?**

- 72% favor
- 21 oppose
- 7 don't know

**13. The state legislature is currently considering legislation that would require 100 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2045. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?**

- 76% favor
- 18 oppose
- 7 don't know

**14. Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?**

- 66% favor
- 28 oppose
- 6 don't know

**14a. When it comes to efforts to fight climate change, how important is it to you that California acts as a leader around the world—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?**

- 58% very important
- 23 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 11 not important at all
- 1 don't know

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

- 50% more jobs
- 22 fewer jobs
- 19 wouldn't affect the number of jobs
- 9 don't know

**16. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn't affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?**

- 54% increase gasoline prices
- 18 decrease gasoline prices
- 19 wouldn't affect gasoline prices
- 9 don't know

**17. In order to help reduce global warming, would you be willing or not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy?**

- 51% willing
- 45 not willing
- 4 don't know

**18. How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called "cap and trade" that sets limits on greenhouse gas emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?**

- 11% a lot
- 32 a little
- 56 nothing at all
- don't know

**19. In the system called "cap and trade," the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?**

- 56% favor
- 33 oppose
- 11 don't know

**20. Cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as affordable housing near public transit, energy efficiency, high speed rail, and public transit. One Legislative Analyst estimate has cap and trade adding 15 cents per gallon to gasoline costs by 2021. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the cap-and-trade system?**

*[Interviewer note: if respondent asks, "The Legislative Analyst's Office provides nonpartisan fiscal and policy analysis for the California Legislature."]*

- 60% favor
- 34 oppose
- 6 don't know

**20a. Next, 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—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?**

- 54% very important
- 27 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 10 not important at all
- 2 don't know

**20b. [Asked beginning July 11] Thinking about the permits that allow businesses to put out greenhouse gases, do you favor or oppose setting a ceiling on the price businesses pay for these permits, even if that makes it less certain that the state will meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals?**

- 50% favor
- 38 oppose
- 13 don't know

On another topic,

**21. Do you think that ocean and beach pollution along the California coast is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in California today?**

- 46% big problem
- 37 somewhat of a problem
- 16 not a problem
- 2 don't know

Thinking about the part of the California coast that is closest to you, please tell me whether you think each of the following is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem today.

*[rotate questions 22 to 24]*

**22. How about declining marine life?**

- 45% big problem
- 32 somewhat of a problem
- 17 not a problem
- 6 don't know

**23. How about limited public access to the coast and beaches?**

- 18% big problem
- 32 somewhat of a problem
- 47 not a problem
- 2 don't know

**24. How about the contamination of fish and seafood?**

- 46% big problem
- 31 somewhat of a problem
- 20 not a problem
- 3 don't know

Next,

**25. How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches to the economy and quality of life for California's future? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?**

- 73% very important
- 22 somewhat important
- 2 not too important
- 2 not important at all
- 1 don't know

**26. How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches in California to you personally?**

- 71% very important
- 21 somewhat important
- 4 not too important
- 4 not important at all
- 1 don't know

**27. How often would you say you visit a beach on the California coast for any purpose—once a week, once a month, several times a year, once a year, less than once a year, or never?**

- 18% once a week
- 18 once a month
- 36 several times a year
- 13 once a year
- 8 less than once a year
- 6 never
- don't know

Please say if you favor or oppose the following proposals.

*[rotate questions 28 to 30]*

**28. How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?**

- 25% favor
- 69 oppose
- 5 don't know

**29. How about allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast?**

- 73% favor
- 19 oppose
- 8 don't know

**30. How about building desalination plants on the California coast?**

*[Interviewer note: If respondent asks, "Desalination is the processes of turning ocean water into fresh water"]*

- 67% favor
- 26 oppose
- 7 don't know

**31. Next, Marine Protected Areas, or MPAs, are managed by the California State Fish and Game Commission to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat in coastal waters. Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all that California has Marine Protected Areas?**

- 77% very important
- 18 somewhat important
- 2 not too important
- 1 not important at all
- 1 don't know

On another topic,

**32. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

- 25% approve
- 71 disapprove
- 4 don't know

**33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Trump is handling environmental issues in the United States?**

22% approve  
70 disapprove  
8 don't know

**34. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job?**

24% approve  
68 disapprove  
8 don't know

**35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States?**

26% approve  
63 disapprove  
11 don't know

**36. 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?**

22% support  
71 oppose  
6 don't know

**37. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?**

69% yes *[ask q37a]*  
31 no *[skip to q38b]*

**37a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?**

44% Democrat *[ask q38]*  
26 Republican *[skip to q38a]*  
5 another party *(specify) [skip to q39]*  
25 independent *[skip to q38b]*

**38. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?**

56% strong  
41 not very strong  
4 don't know

*[skip to q39]*

**38a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

57% strong  
40 not very strong  
3 don't know

*[skip to q39]*

**38b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

18% Republican Party  
49 Democratic Party  
27 neither *(volunteered)*  
6 don't know

**39. Would you consider yourself to be politically:**

*[read list, rotate order top to bottom]*

14% very liberal  
21 somewhat liberal  
27 middle-of-the-road  
21 somewhat conservative  
13 very conservative  
3 don't know

**40. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics?**

28% great deal  
33 fair amount  
30 only a little  
9 none  
— don't know

*[d1-d14 demographic questions]*



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