

To: Interested Parties

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May 31, 2022

## Recent Polling Finds Voters in the Central Valley Support Policies to Combat Climate Change and Protect California's Natural Environment

Tulchin Research recently conducted a poll<sup>1</sup> of likely voters in the Central Valley (Fresno Designated Media Market) on behalf of the California Environmental Voters Education Fund. The poll found that voters in this region are extremely aware of and concerned about the impact climate change is having on their communities and strongly support a number of policy proposals aimed at mitigating these effects and protecting and strengthening California's natural environment.

### Voters Express Deep Concerns about Major Environmental Issues and Support Several Policy Proposals to Address Them

Our poll found that voters in the Central Valley are deeply concerned about a number of pressing environmental issues facing the region and California more broadly. Overall, voters are most concerned about droughts (8.87/10 Mean, 62% "10" extremely convincing), wildfires (8.57/10 Mean, 55% "10") and water scarcity (8.38/10, 54% "10"). Furthermore, the poll also showed that voters in this region are particularly concerned about toxic chemicals getting into drinking water, food and everyday products (8.06/10, 44% "10").

### Top Environmental Concerns

*Here are some environmental concerns facing California. On a scale from 1 to 10, please indicate how concerned you are about each one with a TEN being **EXTREMELY** concerned and a ONE being **NOT AT ALL** concerned. You can choose any number between 1 and 10.*

	<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>% 10 "Extremely Concerned"</b>
<i>Drought</i>	8.87/10	62%
<i>Wildfires</i>	8.57/10	55%
<i>Water scarcity</i>	8.38/10	54%
<i>Toxic chemicals getting into drinking water, food and everyday products</i>	8.06/10	44%

Consequently, strong majorities of Central Valley expressed support for a number of policy proposals to help alleviate their concerns, especially those that focus on conserving water and strengthening safe drinking laws (89% total support, including 59% “strongly” support) and increasing funding and resources to protect communities from wildfires (85% total support, including 54% “strongly” support). Additionally, over 7-in-10 (73%) Central Valley voters support a policy of phasing out the use of toxic pesticides that harm public health (87% support, including 56% “strongly” support).

### Support for Environmental Protection Proposals

<b>Here is a list of some policies that have been proposed to protect California’s environment. Please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose allowing police to do each one.</b>		
	<b>Total Support</b>	<b>Total Oppose</b>
<i>Invest in new surface and groundwater conservation technologies to conserve water and strengthen laws that protect access to safe drinking water for all Californians</i>	89%	9%
<i>Increase funding for wildfire mitigation and prevention programs, ecosystem restoration and land-use planning that protect communities from the threat of wildfires</i>	85%	12%
<i>Phase out the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides in farming that harm public health and the environment</i>	73%	24%

### Voters are Keenly Aware of the Impacts of Climate Change on Their Communities and Want Urgent Action to be Taken to Solve Them

Our poll also found that Central Valley voters are extremely conscious of the impact climate change is having on the region. We asked voters whether they agreed that the effects of climate change, including extreme heat, wildfires and droughts, are an issue Californians are increasingly feeling the impact of and need to be addressed. The results found that just under 7-in-10 voters (69%) said they agreed with this statement, including nearly half (47%) who said they “strongly” agreed.

### Views on the Impact of Climate Change

<b>Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement:</b>	
<b><i>“The effects of climate change including extreme heat, wildfires and droughts are becoming more visible and are an issue Californians are increasingly feeling the impact of, and they need to be addressed”</i></b>	
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Agree – Disagree</b>	<b>+39</b>

The poll also found that voters in this region have extremely positive opinions of clean, alternative energy resources and tools to help reduce our carbon footprint, with overwhelming majorities voters holding favorable views of “solar power” (79% favorable), “renewable energy” (76% favorable) “electric vehicles” (63% favorable) and “wind power” (62% favorable).

### Views of Clean Energy Sources & Tools

Here is a list of institutions. Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each. If you've never heard of them, please indicate so.				
	Solar Power	Renewable Energy	Electric Vehicles	Wind Power
<b>Total Favorable</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Total Unfavorable</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Favorable – Unfavorable</b>	<b>+63</b>	<b>+61</b>	<b>+34</b>	<b>+41</b>

In contrast, the fossil fuel industry, including oil and gas companies, are unpopular with voters in this region. Indeed, when asked for their opinions of large “gas” and “oil” companies, a 56% majority of Central Valley voters reported having “unfavorable” views of gas companies while half hold similar opinions of oil companies.

### Views of Corporate Polluters

Here is a list of institutions. Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each. If you've never heard of them, please indicate so.		
	Gas Companies	Oil Companies
<b>Total Favorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Total Unfavorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Favorable – Unfavorable</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>-14</b>

### Despite Rising Energy Prices, Voters Support Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

Our poll also found that even with rising energy prices causing some policy makers to call for an increase in oil production, a majority of Central Valley voters (54%) still support transitioning away from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy compared to just 41% of voters who support allowing for more oil drilling and production to increase supply.

### Preferred Policy to Address High Gas Prices

<i>Here is a pair of statements about rising gas prices. Please indicate which one you prefer:</i>	
	<b>Total</b>
<i>We should focus on transitioning away from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy that is becoming cheaper in price and more dependable every year.</i>	54%
<b>OR</b>	
<i>We should allow for more oil drilling and production to increase supply and lower costs.</i>	41%
<i>Don't Know</i>	4%

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<sup>i</sup> Survey Methodology: From March 23rd - 29th, 2022, Tulchin Research conducted a multi-modal survey among 600 likely November 2022 voters in the Central Valley region of California (Fresno Designated Media Market). The survey was conducted using live phone interviews conducted by professional callers in English and Spanish dialing both landlines and cell phones as well as interviewing a portion of respondents online through e-mails and text messages from the voter file. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.0 percentage points.