

To: Interested Parties

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May 31, 2022

Recent Polling Finds Voters in Coastal San Diego Support Policies to Combat Climate Change and Protect California's Natural Environment

Tulchin Research recently conducted a poll¹ of likely voters in Coastal San Diego, California on behalf of the California Environmental Voters Education Fund. The poll found that voters in this region strongly support a number of policy proposals aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting and strengthening California's natural environment, including transitioning away from fossil fuel production in favor of clean and renewable energy and ending offshore drilling. We present findings from the poll below.

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

Our poll found that Coastal San Diego voters are deeply concerned about a number of pressing environmental issues facing the region and California more broadly. Overall, voters are most concerned about toxic chemicals getting into drinking water, food and everyday products (8.05/10 Mean, 44% "10" extremely concerned), wildfires (8.04/10, 38% "10"), protecting California's beaches, coastland, farmland and mountains (8.04/10, 41% "10") and water scarcity (8.01/10, 44% "10"). Furthermore, the poll also showed that voters in this region are particularly concerned about protecting California's state and national parks (7.89/10, 33% "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.*

	<i>Mean Score</i>	<i>% 10 "Extremely Concerned"</i>
<i>Toxic chemicals getting into drinking water, food and everyday products</i>	8.05/10	44%
<i>Wildfires</i>	8.04/10	38%
<i>Protecting California's beaches, coastland, farmland and mountains</i>	8.04/10	41%
<i>Water scarcity</i>	8.01/10	44%
<i>Protecting state and national parks</i>	7.89/10	33%

As a result, strong majorities of voters in Coastal San Diego expressed support for a number of policy proposals to help alleviate their concerns, especially proposals that focus on conserving water and strengthening safe drinking laws (88% total support, including 59% “strongly” support), increasing funding and resources to protect communities from wildfires (88% total support, including 54% “strongly” support), phasing out the use of toxic pesticides that harm public health (87% support, including 56% “strongly” support) and protecting, restoring and expanding public lands (82% total support, including 55% “strongly” support).

Support for Environmental Protection Proposals

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.		
	Total Support	Total Oppose
<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>	88%	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>	88%	10%
<i>Phase out the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides in farming that harm public health and the environment</i>	87%	11%
<i>Protect, restore, and expand California’s public lands which help reduce carbon emissions, protect our air, land and water and prevent wildlife extinctions</i>	82%	16%

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

Additionally, the poll shows that voters in Coastal San Diego 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 over 3-in-4 voters in this region (76%) said they agreed with this statement, including a nearly half (49%) who said they “strongly” agreed.

Views on the Impact of Climate Change

Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement:	
<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>	
Total Agree	76%
Total Disagree	22%
Agree – Disagree	+54

The poll also found that voters in this region have overwhelmingly positive opinions of clean, alternative energy resources and tools to help reduce our carbon footprint, with strong majorities holding favorable views of “solar power” (86% favorable), “renewable energy” (80% favorable), “electric vehicles” (75% favorable) and “wind power” (74% favorable).

Views of Clean Energy Sources & Tools

Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each of the following.				
	Solar Power	Renewable Energy	Electric Vehicles	Wind Power
Total Favorable	86%	80%	75%	74%
Total Unfavorable	9%	15%	20%	15%
Favorable – Unfavorable	+77	+65	+55	+59

In contrast, the fossil fuel industry, including oil and gas companies, are very unpopular. Indeed, when asked for their opinions of large “oil” and “gas” companies, nearly 6-in-10 Coastal San Diego voters said they had “unfavorable” opinions of both (59% “unfavorable” view of oil companies, 59% “unfavorable” view of gas 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.		
	Oil Companies	Gas Companies
Total Favorable	32%	31%
Total Unfavorable	59%	59%
Favorable – Unfavorable	-27	-28

Voters Support Limiting Land-Based Oil Drilling, a Ban on Offshore Drilling, and Issuing No New Fracking Permits

Our poll also shows that voters in Coastal San Diego favor placing strict new limits on land-based drilling in California. Indeed, two-thirds of voters (67%) said they support ending oil drilling on land close to homes and schools to prevent harm to public health, including 44% who said they “strongly support” such a policy.

Furthermore, 64% voters also said they support ending all offshore drilling in California to prevent further damage to the state’s coastlines and regional economies, including 39% who said they “strongly support” this.

Finally, 6-in-10 voters (60%) in this region also said they support phasing out all existing fossil fuel production including “not issuing any new oil drilling and fracking permits”, including over 1-in-3 voters (36%) who “strongly support” this policy.

Support For Ending Drilling & Phase Out of Fossil Fuel Production

<i>End oil drilling on land close to homes and schools to prevent harm to our health</i>		<i>End oil drilling in the ocean to prevent harm to our beaches and local economy</i>		<i>Phase out existing fossil fuel production including not issuing any new oil drilling & fracking permits</i>	
Total Support	67%	Total Support	64%	Total Support	60%
Total Oppose	26%	Total Oppose	30%	Total Oppose	34%
Support – Oppose	+41	Support – Oppose	+34	Support – Oppose	+26

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

In line with solid majority support in the poll for ending drilling in California and turning 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, over 6-in-10 voters in Coastal San Diego (64%) still support transitioning away from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy compared to just 31% 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>	
	Total
<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>	64%
OR	
<i>We should allow for more oil drilling and production to increase supply and lower costs.</i>	31%
<i>Don't Know</i>	5%

ⁱ Survey Methodology: From April 2nd – 10th, 2022, Tulchin Research conducted a multi-modal survey among 600 likely November 2022 voters in coastal San Diego County. 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.