

To: Interested Parties

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Recent Polling Finds Sierra Voters Support Policies to Combat Climate Change and Protect California's Natural Environment

Tulchin Research recently conducted a poll¹ of likely voters in the Sierra region of California (Placer, El Dorado and Nevada Counties) 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 Sierra voters are deeply concerned about a number of pressing environmental issues facing the region and California more broadly. Overall, voters are most concerned about the threat of wildfires (8.64/10 Mean, 56% "10" extremely concerned), droughts (8.04/10, 43% "10") and water scarcity (7.96/10, 36% "10"). Furthermore, the poll also showed that voters in this region are particularly concerned about protecting California's state and national parks (7.72/10, 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.*

	Mean Score	% 10 "Extremely Concerned"
<i>Wildfires</i>	8.64/10	56%
<i>Drought</i>	8.04/10	43%
<i>Water Scarcity</i>	7.96/10	36%
<i>Protecting state and national parks</i>	7.72/10	33%

Consequently, strong majorities of Sierra voters 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 (85% total support, including 46% “strongly” support), increasing funding and resources to protect communities from wildfires (83% total support, including 48% “strongly” support) and protecting, restoring and expanding public lands (76% total support, including 40% “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>	85%	10%
<i>Increase funding for wildfire mitigation and prevention programs, ecosystem restoration and land-use planning that protect communities from the threat of wildfires</i>	83%	14%
<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>	76%	20%

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 Sierra 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 close to 7-in-10 voters (67%) said they agreed with this statement, including a 43% plurality 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	
”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”	
Total Agree	67%
Total Disagree	32%
Agree – Disagree	+35

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 overwhelming majorities holding favorable views of “solar power” (86% favorable), “renewable energy” (82% favorable) “wind power” (76% favorable), and “electric vehicles” (67% 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	Wind Power	Electric Vehicles
Total Favorable	86%	82%	76%	67%
Total Unfavorable	13%	14%	19%	30%
Favorable – Unfavorable	+73	+68	+57	+37

In line with voters' overwhelmingly positive views of clean, alternative energy resources and tools, our poll also found that nearly 8-in-10 Sierra voters (79%) said they support a policy to rapidly increase production and distribution of clean energy sources to make them readily available for everyday consumers, including a 45% plurality who said they "strongly support" this.

Support for Rapid Scale-Up Clean Energy Production

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>Rapidly increase production and distribution of clean energy sources like solar power so they are available for everyday consumers</i>	79%	20%

Voters Have Low Opinions of Major Corporate Polluters

In contrast, the fossil fuel industry, including oil and gas companies, are very unpopular. Indeed, when asked for their opinions of large "gas" and "oil" companies, over 6-in-10 Sierra voters (63%) said they had "unfavorable" opinions of gas companies while a 57% majority expressed similarly unfavorable views of oil companies. Additionally, a large majority of voters (68%) reported having negative opinions of "electric utility companies" while nearly 8-in-10 (77%) cited holding even worse views of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), specifically.

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	Electric Utility Companies	Pacific Gas and Electric, or PG&E
Total Favorable	30%	34%	28%	19%
Total Unfavorable	63%	57%	68%	77%
Favorable – Unfavorable	-33	-23	-40	-58

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ⁱ Survey Methodology: From March 23rd - 27th, 2022, Tulchin Research conducted a multi-modal survey among 400 likely November 2022 voters in the Sierra region of California (the counties of Placer, El Dorado and Nevada). 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 +/- 4.9 percentage points.