

JULY 2014

# Californians & the environment



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in collaboration with  
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
and The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation



**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

# ABOUT THE SURVEY

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The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. This is the 143rd PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 300,000 Californians. The current survey, *Californians and the Environment*, was conducted with funding from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation. Its goal is to inform state policymakers, encourage discussion, and raise public awareness about Californians' opinions on global warming and energy policy. It is the 14th annual PPIC Statewide Survey on environmental issues since 2000.

As part of the policy framework laid out in Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), California continues to pursue measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050. A cornerstone of these efforts is the cap-and-trade program, which began in 2012. Beginning in 2015, fuel providers will be subject to the cap. Detractors argue this could cause increases in gas prices at the pump while proponents say any increases would be small. The recently enacted state budget included a spending plan for revenues generated from the cap-and-trade program that earmarks 25 percent for the controversial high-speed rail project. Amid historic drought conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted new rules criminalizing certain types of water waste and state legislators are debating changes to the water bond set for the November ballot. In Washington, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new rules for regulating carbon emissions from power plants and the president has delayed a decision about construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

In this context, this year's survey presents the responses of 1,705 adult residents throughout California, interviewed in English and Spanish by landline or cell phone. It includes findings on:

- Policy preferences, including opinions on whether the state needs to act right away to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; support for AB 32; opinions about California acting independently to address global warming and the effect of state action on job numbers; opinions on ways government can regulate emissions, including stricter emissions limits on power plants and fuel providers, a carbon tax, and the state's cap-and-trade program; and support for various energy policies, including oil drilling, renewable energy, fracking, and the Keystone XL pipeline.
- Overall perceptions and political context, including perceptions of the onset of global warming, concerns about its possible impacts, and views of its role in the state's wildfires and current drought; approval of the governor, legislature, president, and Congress overall and of their handling of environmental issues; concerns about water supply and support for an \$11.1 billion water bond; and likely voters' preferences in the gubernatorial election and the perceived importance of candidates' positions on the environment.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences based on political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence (Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego Counties), race/ethnicity (Asian, black, Latino, and non-Hispanic white), and other demographic characteristics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website ([www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)). If you have questions about the survey, please contact [survey@ppic.org](mailto:survey@ppic.org). Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at [www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp](http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp).

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

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**<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>**

### **PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

## **Strong Support for Global Warming Law Tempered by Concerns About Gas, Electricity Prices**

MAJORITIES OPPOSE INCREASED FRACKING, FAVOR KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23, 2014—Most Californians support the state’s landmark law mandating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). More specifically, strong majorities support two aspects of the state’s efforts to address global warming: a requirement that oil companies produce cleaner transportation fuels and the goal that a third of California’s electricity come from renewable energy sources. But residents’ support declines significantly if these two efforts lead to higher gas prices or electricity bills.

About two-thirds of Californians (68%) support the state law, AB 32, which requires California to reduce its emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Strong majorities have favored this law since the survey first asked about it in July 2006, but a partisan divide has emerged on the question. While most Democrats, Republicans, and independents favored the law in 2006, support since then has increased 14 points among Democrats (from 67% to 81% today) and dropped 26 points among Republicans (from 65% to 39% today). Support has dipped slightly among independents (from 68% to 62% today). A strong majority of Californians (65%) favor the state making its own policies to address global warming.

One explanation for Californians’ consistent support for state action on global warming is that relatively few (26%) think that these efforts will lead to job losses. Most say the state’s efforts will result in more jobs (39%) or won’t affect the number of jobs (27%).

Beginning next year, oil companies in California must comply with the state’s cap-and-trade rules by either producing transportation fuels with lower emissions or buying emissions allowances or offsets. Some argue that this will increase gas prices, while others say any increase would be small. A large majority of Californians (76%) favor this requirement, but support declines to 39 percent if the result is higher prices at the pump.

A strong majority of adults (76%) favor a state law passed in 2011 that calls for a third of California’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2020. But support declines to 46 percent if meeting this goal means paying more for electricity.

Summing up, Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO, said: “Californians want to see government action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but their strong support for clean energy policies diminishes if they have to pay higher electricity bills or gas prices.”

Most Californians say global warming is a very serious (49%) or somewhat serious (31%) threat to the economy and quality of life for California’s future. Democrats (59%) are much more likely than

independents (43%) or Republicans (26%) to consider the threat very serious. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (43%) are the least likely to say the threat is very serious (50% Asians, 54% blacks, 57% Latinos). Also more likely to see the threat as very serious: Californians under age 55, those with only a high school education or less, and those with household incomes less than \$40,000.

Reflecting the view that global warming is a threat, 61 percent of Californians say the state government should act right away on its plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, rather than wait for the economy and job situation to improve. Support for taking immediate action is lower among likely voters (52%).

### **DIVIDED ON CAP-AND-TRADE, MAJORITY FAVOR CARBON TAX**

Although the state's cap-and-trade system took effect in 2012, awareness of this program is not high among Californians. Just 13 percent say they have heard a lot about it, while 32 percent have heard a little and 55 percent have heard nothing at all about this system, which sets limits on carbon dioxide emissions. Awareness is higher among likely voters (24% heard a lot, 39% a little, 37% nothing at all). After being read a brief description, Californians are more likely to favor (51%) than oppose (40%) the program. Likely voters are slightly more likely to oppose it (43% favor, 50% oppose). Opposition is highest (66%) among those who have heard a lot about cap-and-trade. There is majority support among those who have heard a little (56%) or nothing at all (53%) about the program.

Under a recent agreement between the governor and legislature, 25 percent of the revenues generated by the cap-and-trade program will be spent on high-speed rail, 35 percent on other mass transit projects and affordable housing near transit, and the rest for other purposes. When asked about this plan, 59 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters say they favor it.

State government is relying on the cap-and-trade program to meet the emissions reductions goals set by AB 32, but some argue that another effective method would be to tax companies for the carbon pollution they emit. About half of Californians (52%) say they have heard a lot (16%) or a little (36%) about this type of carbon tax. Awareness is higher among likely voters (64% heard a lot or a little). Asked if they would favor a carbon tax, 58 percent of all adults and 54 percent of likely voters say yes.

On other energy policies, overwhelming majorities of adults favor requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in the U.S. (85%) and increasing federal funding to develop wind, solar, and hydrogen technology (78%). Most residents (64%) oppose building more nuclear power plants—as they have since the 2011 nuclear power plant disaster in Japan. A slim majority of adults (51%) oppose allowing more oil drilling off the California coast, while 46 percent are in favor. Opposition to offshore drilling was slightly higher in 2010 (59%), after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

### **54 PERCENT OPPOSE MORE FRACKING, 53 PERCENT FAVOR KEYSTONE PIPELINE**

As debates continue over hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, at least half of adults (54% oppose, 36% favor) and likely voters (50% oppose, 40% favor) oppose this method of oil and natural gas extraction. Majorities oppose fracking in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Central Valley (56%), Los Angeles (55%), and Orange/San Diego (55%). Residents of the Inland Empire are divided (43% favor, 42% oppose).

Asked about another contentious issue—building the Keystone XL pipeline to transport oil from Canada to refineries in Texas—majorities of California adults (53%) and likely voters (58%) express support. Most Republicans (73%) and independents (56%) favor building the pipeline, while half of Democrats (50%) oppose it (39% favor).

### **DROUGHTS, WILDFIRES TOP WORRIES ABOUT EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING**

Is global warming already having an impact? Yes, say 62 percent of Californians. About a quarter (23%) say global warming's effects will be felt in the future, and 12 percent say they will never happen. A strong

majority say they are very concerned (40%) or somewhat concerned (34%) about global warming. Only about a quarter are not too concerned (11%) or not at all concerned (15%).

Asked about some of the possible effects of global warming in California, majorities say they are very concerned about droughts (64%) or wildfires (61%) that are more severe. Fewer express this level of concern about heat waves that are more severe (44%) or rising sea levels (32%). Across regions, residents of the Central Valley are the most likely to be very concerned about droughts (72%) and residents of the Inland Empire are the least likely (57%).

## **MOST SAY WATER DISTRICTS SHOULD REQUIRE RESIDENTS TO USE LESS**

In response to an open-ended question, 35 percent name water supply or drought as the most important environmental issue facing California today. This represents an increase of 27 points since July 2011, and the first time in environmental surveys dating back to 2000 that air pollution has not been the top issue. Today, 14 percent mention air pollution, down 13 points since 2011. Amid reports of worsening drought conditions, 54 percent of Californians say water supply is a big problem in their part of the state, 25 percent say it is somewhat of a problem, and only 21 percent say it is not much of a problem. Regionally, Californians living on the coast (52%) are about as likely as those living inland (58%) to say that water supply is a big problem in their areas.

In yet another measure of their concern about drought, strong majorities of residents (75%) and likely voter (70%) say they favor their local water districts requiring residents to reduce water use. Residents across the state are in favor, with those in Los Angeles (80%) the most supportive.

What do Californians think is the primary cause of the drought? Half (51%) say it is natural weather patterns, 38 percent say it is global warming.

Baldassare noted: “Many Californians are very concerned that global warming will lead to more severe droughts, yet most believe that the current water crisis is a result of natural weather patterns.”

Asked about the cause of the state’s current wildfires, 55 percent of residents say they are mostly the result of natural weather patterns and 31 percent say the primary cause is global warming.

The legislature continues to discuss downsizing an \$11.1 billion state bond for water projects that is currently on the November ballot. How would residents vote on the measure with a price tag of \$11.1 billion? A majority (61%) would vote yes (22% no), as would about half of likely voters (51% yes, 26% no). When those who would vote no are asked how they would vote if the bond were a smaller amount, support increases by 8 points for both adults (69% yes, 14% no) and likely voters (59% yes, 18% no). Asked how important it is that voters pass the state water bond, 46 percent say it is very important and 30 percent say it is somewhat important (likely voters: 44% very important, 24% somewhat important).

## **MORE KEY FINDINGS**

- **Brown leads Kashkari, 52 percent to 33 percent, among likely voters—page 23**

In the governor’s race, Jerry Brown has the support of 80 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of independents, while challenger Neel Kashkari has the support of 70 percent of Republicans.

- **Brown’s job approval holds steady—page 20**

Majorities of Californians (53%) and likely voters (56%) approve of the governor’s job performance. The legislature’s job approval rating is 38 percent among adults and 31 percent among likely voters.

- **Obama’s approval rating stays near its record low in California—page 19**

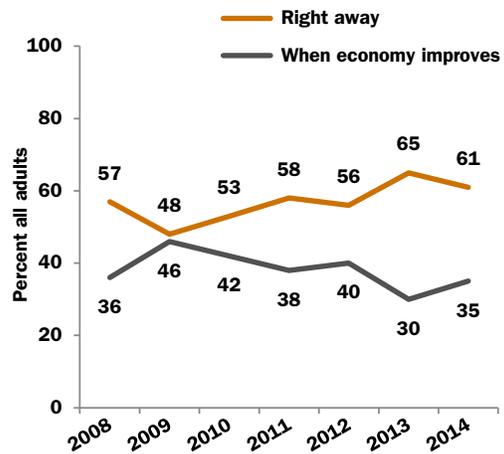
President Obama’s approval rating is 50 percent among adults and 47 percent among likely voters. Congress continues to have low approval ratings among Californians (22% adults, 15% likely voters).

# POLICY PREFERENCES

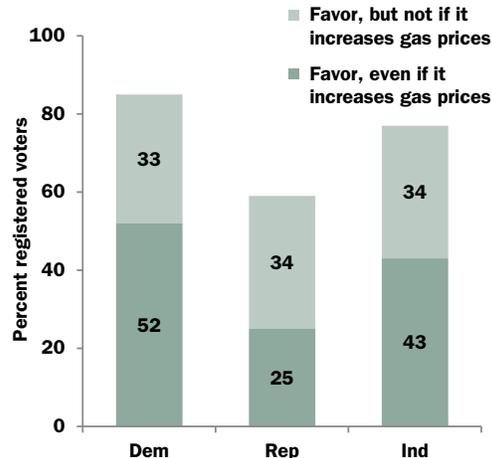
## KEY FINDINGS

- Solid majorities of Californians continue to say the state should take action right away to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that it should act independently of the federal government to address global warming. (pages 7, 8)
- Most Californians say that fuel providers should be required to produce cleaner transportation fuels, but support drops if this would increase prices at the pump. Across parties, Republicans are the least supportive. (page 9)
- A strong majority (75%) favor setting stricter emissions limits on power plants. (page 9)
- Fifty-eight percent of Californians favor the idea of a carbon tax on companies for greenhouse gas emissions. Slightly fewer (51%) favor the state's cap-and-trade program, while 59 percent favor the recently enacted plan for how to spend cap-and-trade revenues, which earmarks 25 percent for high-speed rail. (pages 10, 11)
- Strong majorities continue to favor requiring automakers to improve the fuel efficiency of cars; there is also strong support for federal funding for renewable energy projects. Two in three oppose building more nuclear power plants and 51 percent oppose increased oil drilling off the California coast. A majority favor the state's renewable energy goals, but support declines if it means higher electricity bills. (pages 12, 13)
- A slim majority continue to oppose increased use of fracking, while a slim majority favor building the Keystone XL pipeline. (page 14)

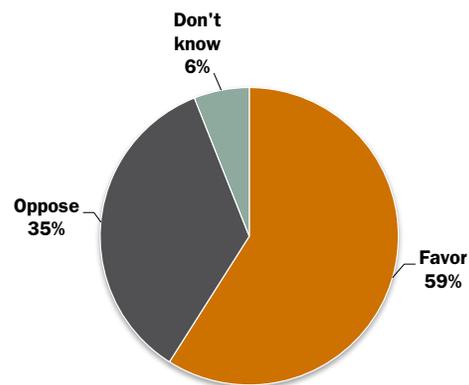
**When the State Should Take Action to Reduce Emissions**



**Require Oil Companies to Produce Fuels with Lower Emissions**



**State Spending Plan for Cap-and-Trade Revenues**



All adults

## GLOBAL WARMING AND CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

Consistent with attitudes expressed in previous years, eight in 10 Californians say that global warming is a very serious (49%) or somewhat serious (31%) threat to California's future economy and quality of life. Since we first asked this question in July 2005, more than seven in 10 have said global warming poses a very or somewhat serious threat to the state's future. Still, there are some differences in the perceived degree of threat that global warming poses. For example, Democrats (59%) are much more likely than independents (43%) and far more likely than Republicans (26%) to say the threat is very serious. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (43%) are the least likely to say the threat is very serious (50% Asians, 54% blacks, 57% Latinos). The percentage of Californians who consider global warming to be a very serious threat to the state's future is higher among those younger than age 55, those with only a high school education or less, and those with household incomes less than \$40,000.

### "How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?"

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites	
<b>Very serious</b>	49%	50%	54%	57%	43%	46%
<b>Somewhat serious</b>	31	39	33	34	28	25
<b>Not too serious</b>	9	9	8	5	11	10
<b>Not at all serious</b>	10	2	3	3	17	17
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	3	1	2	2

Reflecting their view that global warming poses a threat to the state, a solid majority of Californians (61%) say the state government should act right away to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather than wait for the economy and job situation to improve. Support for immediate state action is lower among likely voters (52% take action now, 42% wait for economy to improve). Support among all adults for taking action right away fluctuated as the state weathered the worst of the recent recession (57% July 2008, 48% July 2009, 53% July 2010, 58% July 2011, 56% July 2012, 65% July 2013, 61% today).

Today voters remain deeply divided along party lines (73% of Democrats say take action right away, 64% of Republicans say wait for the economy to improve). Across regions, about six in 10 residents in Orange/San Diego (63%), the San Francisco Bay Area (63%), the Central Valley (61%), and Los Angeles (60%) say the state should act now; a somewhat lower share (52%) in the Inland Empire agree. Majorities across demographic groups say the state should take immediate action on its plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Latinos (69%) are the most likely across racial/ethnic groups to express this view (63% Asians, 58% blacks, 54% whites). Among those who say that global warming is a very serious threat, 77 percent favor the state acting now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather than waiting for the economy to improve. Among those who consider global warming a somewhat serious threat, 62 percent also favor the state taking steps right away to address it.

### "When it comes to the state government's plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, should it take action right away, or should it wait until the state economy and job situation improve to take action?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Take action right away</b>	61%	73%	30%	59%	52%
<b>Wait for state economy and job situation to improve</b>	35	23	64	37	42
<b>Don't know</b>	4	4	7	4	6

## CALIFORNIA POLICIES ON GLOBAL WARMING

A strong majority of Californians (68%) remain in favor of the state law (AB 32) that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Six in 10 likely voters (59%) favor this law. Support among all adults peaked at 78 percent in July 2007, but strong majorities have favored this law since we first asked about it in July 2006, even during the recession (65% July 2006, 78% July 2007, 73% July 2008, 66% July 2009, 67% July 2010, 67% July 2011, 71% July 2012, 67% July 2013, 68% today). What has shifted over time are the levels of support among partisans. In July 2006, two in three Democrats, Republicans, and independents all expressed support. Since then, support is up 14 points among Democrats (from 67% to 81% today), down 26 points among Republicans (from 65% to 39% today), and down a slight 6 points among independents (from 68% to 62% today).

**“To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	68%	81%	39%	62%	59%
<b>Oppose</b>	23	11	48	30	33
<b>Don't know</b>	9	8	13	8	8

Most Californians not only favor current state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but on a more philosophical level, a strong majority (65%) also support the state government making its own policies to address global warming, separate from the federal government. Since we first asked this question in July 2005, majorities have supported the state government acting independently of the federal government on this issue. Support was lowest in July 2005 (54%) and highest in July 2007 (67%). Among likely voters, 59 percent favor the state making its own global warming policies. Across parties, Democrats (74%) and independents (62%) are much more likely than Republicans (43%) to favor this idea.

One explanation for Californians' unflagging support for state efforts to address global warming is that relatively few think that such efforts will lead to job losses. Most say these efforts will result in more jobs (39%) or will not affect the number of jobs (27%); 26 percent say there will be fewer jobs as the state takes steps to reduce global warming. Last July, 45 percent said more jobs would result, 21 percent said there would be no effect on job numbers, and 24 percent said there would be fewer jobs. Since we first asked this question in July 2010, at least two in three Californians have said either that there would be more jobs or that there would be no change in the number of jobs. Democrats (47%) are more likely than independents (35%) or Republicans (22%) to believe efforts to reduce global warming will result in more jobs for people around the state. Republicans (40%) are the most likely to say these efforts would lead to job losses (13% Democrats, 25% independents).

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>More jobs</b>	39%	47%	22%	35%	34%
<b>Fewer jobs</b>	26	13	40	25	29
<b>Wouldn't affect number of jobs</b>	27	30	32	31	29
<b>Don't know</b>	8	9	6	10	8

## REGULATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

At both the state and federal levels, policies have been enacted or proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A strong majority of Californians favor requiring an increase in energy efficiency for residential and commercial buildings and appliances (73%). More than seven in 10 have expressed support for this policy since we first asked this question in July 2008. Today, 68 percent of likely voters and majorities across parties (83% Democrats, 75% independents, 58% Republicans) and regional and demographic groups favor this idea. Another popular policy is requiring industrial plants, oil refineries, and commercial facilities to reduce their emissions: 77 percent of all adults and 72 percent of likely voters express support. More than three in four adults have favored this idea since July 2008, and it garners bipartisan majority support (89% Democrats, 59% Republicans); 76 percent of independents agree. More than seven in 10 across regions and demographic groups express support.

In June, the Obama administration and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new rules requiring power plants to reduce their emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels. A vast majority of Californians (75%) favor setting stricter emissions limits on power plants, a level of support nearly identical to last year (76%). In a similar question asked by ABC News/Washington Post in early June, 70 percent of adults nationwide expressed support. Among likely voters in our survey, 67 percent favor this idea. Strong majorities of Democrats (87%) and independents (74%) express support, while Republicans are divided (49% favor, 47% oppose). More than two in three across regions and demographic groups favor this idea.

### “How about setting stricter emissions limits on power plants?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	75%	87%	49%	74%	67%
<b>Oppose</b>	21	11	47	23	30
<b>Don't know</b>	3	2	4	3	2

Beginning in 2015, oil companies in California will be required to comply with the state's cap-and-trade rules, either producing transportation fuels with lower emissions or buying emissions allowances or offsets. Some argue this will increase gas prices, while others say any increase would be small. Most Californians (76%) favor requiring oil companies to produce transportation fuels with lower emissions, but support declines to 39 percent if it means an increase in gas prices at the pump. Seventy percent of likely voters favor this requirement (41% favor it even with higher gas prices). Majorities across parties favor the idea in general, but Democrats are the most likely to favor it even if it increases gas prices (52% Democrats, 43% independents, 25% Republicans). Three in four across income groups favor the idea, but it is only among more affluent residents that a majority remain in favor if it means higher gas prices.

### “How about requiring oil companies to produce transportation fuels with lower emissions?” (if favor: “Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in gasoline prices at the pump?”)

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
<b>Favor (total)</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<i>Favor, even if it means an increase in gas prices</i>	39	32	39	54	41
<i>Favor, but not if it means an increase in gas prices</i>	37	45	38	21	29
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

## CAP-AND-TRADE

The state’s efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions include a cap-and-trade system that has taken effect in the past few years; it involves the state enforcing emissions “caps” by issuing permits that can be “traded” among companies at quarterly auctions. Public awareness of this state program has not changed much even as policy discussions about its implementation are taking place. Forty-five percent of California adults have heard a lot (13%) or a little (32%) about cap-and-trade, and 63 percent of likely voters have heard a lot (24%) or a little (39%) about it. Awareness of this program was similar in July 2012 (42% adults, 60% likely voters) and July 2013 (45% adults, 61% likely voters). Today, Republicans (60%) are more likely than others to say they have heard about cap-and-trade, but fewer than one in four across partisan, regional, and racial/ethnic groups have heard a lot about it.

**“How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called ‘cap-and-trade’ that sets limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>A lot</b>	13%	12%	21%	19%	24%
<b>A little</b>	32	36	39	31	39
<b>Nothing at all</b>	55	51	40	50	37
<b>Don’t know</b>	–	–	–	–	–

After being read a brief description, about half of California adults (51%) favor the cap-and-trade system and four in 10 (40%) are opposed. Likely voters are somewhat more likely to oppose than favor it (43% favor, 50% oppose). About half of California adults have also expressed support for cap-and-trade when we asked similar questions in the past (49% 2009, 50% 2010, 54% 2011, 53% 2012). Today, majorities of Democrats (57%) and independents (56%) are in favor while majorities of Republicans (57%) are opposed to the cap-and-trade system. Those who have heard a lot about cap-and-trade are the most likely to oppose it (66%); by contrast, there is majority support for the cap-and trade system among those who have heard a little (56%) or nothing at all (53%) about it.

**“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	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	51%	57%	32%	56%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	40	33	57	38	50
<b>Don’t know</b>	9	10	11	6	8

The revenues being generated by the cap-and-trade program are intended to further the goals of AB 32 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. When asked about the governor and legislature’s recent agreement to spend 25 percent on high-speed rail, 35 percent on affordable housing and other mass transit, and the rest for other purposes, a majority of California adults (59% favor, 35% oppose) and likely voters (51% favor, 44% oppose) are supportive. Majorities of Democrats (68%) and independents (60%) are in favor, while majorities of Republicans (64%) are opposed to this spending plan. Half or more are in favor of the cap-and-trade spending plan across regional, racial/ethnic, and demographic groups.

## CARBON TAX

Although the state government is banking on its cap-and-trade program to help meet the emissions reduction goals set by AB 32, some argue that another effective method is to tax companies for the carbon pollution they emit. About half of Californians (52%) say they have heard a lot (16%) or a little (36%) about the idea of a carbon tax on companies for greenhouse gas emissions. The other half (48%) have heard nothing at all about this idea. Awareness is higher among likely voters (64% heard a lot or a little). Across parties, majorities have heard of the carbon tax idea (55% Democrats, 60% Republicans, 60% independents). Awareness is much higher among whites (61%) and Asians (55%) than among Latinos (40%) or blacks (29%). Men are far more likely than women to say they have heard a lot or a little about a carbon tax (62% to 40%) and awareness increases sharply as education and income levels rise.

**“How much, if anything, have you heard about the idea of a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>A lot</b>	16%	18%	22%	22%	28%
<b>A little</b>	36	37	38	38	36
<b>Nothing at all</b>	48	45	38	39	36
<b>Don't know</b>	1	–	1	1	–

Fifty-eight percent of Californians favor the idea of imposing a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions. Support was similar in earlier surveys (56% July 2009, 60% July 2010, 60% July 2011, 58% today). Among likely voters, 54 percent favor this idea. A carbon tax is a far more popular idea among Democrats (71%) and independents (59%) than among Republicans (34%). At least half of residents across regions favor this idea, with support highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (63%), followed by Orange/San Diego (61%), Los Angeles (57%), the Central Valley (52%), and the Inland Empire (51%). Across racial/ethnic groups, Asians (77%) are much more likely than others (61% Latinos, 56% blacks, 51% whites) to favor a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions. Six in 10 men (58%) and women (59%) express support. Support is much higher among college graduates than among those with less education. Among those who have heard a lot about the idea of a carbon tax, 45 percent favor it; 70 percent of those who have heard a little are in favor, as are 54 percent of those who have heard nothing at all.

Among those who favor the cap-and-trade system, 74 percent also favor a carbon tax. Among those who oppose cap-and trade, 41 percent favor (and 52% oppose) a carbon tax.

**“Would you favor or oppose a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	58%	71%	34%	59%	54%
<b>Oppose</b>	33	20	58	33	39
<b>Don't know</b>	9	9	8	8	7

## ENERGY POLICY

We repeated past survey questions to track trends in public support for five energy policies over time. Overwhelming majorities of Californians (85%) and likely voters (79%) favor requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in the United States. Support for this proposal was similar last July (83% adults, 82% likely voters) and overwhelming majorities have favored this proposal since we started asking this question in 2003. There is strong support across parties, regions, racial/ethnic, and demographic groups.

### “How about requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in this country?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	85%	92%	70%	82%	79%
<b>Oppose</b>	13	7	28	18	20
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	3	–	1

When asked about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast, a slim majority of Californians (51%) say they are opposed, while a slim majority of likely voters (51%) are in favor. Opposition to oil drilling off the California coast today is similar to last July (54% adults). California adults were divided on this issue in 2011 and 2012, while opposition was slightly higher in 2010 (59%), after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Slim majorities of California adults were in favor of more oil drilling in July 2008 (51%) and July 2009 (51%), while slim majorities were opposed to oil drilling off the California coast between July 2003 and July 2007. There is sharp division across party lines today: 68 percent of Democrats are opposed and 70 percent of Republicans are in favor; independents are divided (47% favor, 51% oppose). While a solid majority of Inland Empire residents (61%) favor allowing more oil drilling, majorities in other regions are opposed.

### “How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Favor</b>	46%	44%	41%	42%	46%	61%	51%
<b>Oppose</b>	51	51	56	55	52	36	46
<b>Don't know</b>	3	5	2	4	2	3	3

Majorities of California adults (64%) and likely voters (56%) oppose building more nuclear power plants at this time. Majorities also expressed opposition last July (63% adults, 58% likely voters), and this has been the trend since 2011 after the nuclear power plant disaster in Japan. Californians were closely divided from July 2008 to July 2010, and opposed to building more nuclear plants from July 2005 to July 2007. Today, majorities of Democrats and independents are opposed and Republicans are divided. Majorities across regional, racial/ethnic, and nearly all demographic groups oppose building more nuclear power plants.

### “How about building more nuclear power plants at this time?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	31%	24%	48%	34%	38%
<b>Oppose</b>	64	70	45	63	56
<b>Don't know</b>	5	5	7	3	6

**ENERGY POLICY (CONTINUED)**

More than seven in 10 California adults (78%) and likely voters (73%) favor an increase in federal funding to develop wind, solar, and hydrogen technology. Overwhelming majorities have expressed support for this proposal since we first asked this question in July 2008. Today, majority support is evident across party lines, though Democrats (86%) and independents (79%) are more likely than Republicans (57%) to favor increased federal spending for this purpose. There is also strong majority support for this proposal across regional, racial/ethnic, and demographic groups.

**“How about increasing federal funding to develop wind, solar, and hydrogen technology?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	78%	86%	57%	79%	73%
<b>Oppose</b>	20	11	40	20	25
<b>Don't know</b>	3	3	3	1	2

A state law passed in 2011 calls for a third of California’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2020. Strong majorities of California adults (76%) and likely voters (69%) favor this law. Forty-six percent of adults are in favor of it even if it means an increase in their electricity bills, while 30 percent favor it but not if it costs more. Levels of support were similar in July 2013 (44% favor even with increased electricity bills, 35% do not favor if it increases electricity bills), July 2012 (44% favor even with increased electricity bills, 33% do not favor if it increases electricity bills), and July 2011 (46% favor even with increased electricity bills, 31% do not favor if it increases electricity bills).

Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (86%) and independents (77%) and a slim majority of Republicans (52%) are in favor of this state law. A solid majority of Democrats (61%) are in favor even if it means an increase in their electricity bills, compared to a slim majority of independents (52%) and only about one in four Republicans (27%). Strong majorities favor this policy across regional, racial/ethnic, and demographic groups, but there are differing levels of support if it means an increase in electricity bills. Majorities of San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Orange/San Diego (51%) residents support the law even if it means an increase in their electricity bills, compared to fewer than half in Los Angeles (44%), the Inland Empire (39%), and the Central Valley (35%). Across age groups, the proportion in favor even if it means higher electricity bills is much higher among the youngest adults (57% younger than age 35, 42% age 35 to 54, 40% age 55 and older). Across income groups, the percentage who are in favor even if it means higher electricity bills increases somewhat as annual household income rises (42% under \$40,000, 49% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 54% \$80,000 or more).

**“How about requiring one-third of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2020? Do you favor or oppose this state law?” (if favor: “Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in your own electricity bill?”)**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor (total)</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>69%</b>
<i>Favor, even if it means an increase in electricity bill</i>	46	61	27	52	46
<i>Favor, but not if it means an increase in electricity bill</i>	30	25	25	25	23
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## FRACKING AND KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Fracking to extract oil and natural gas remains controversial in the state; some legislators are calling for a moratorium while others tout the economic and employment benefits of this drilling method. At least half of California adults (54%) and likely voters (50%) are opposed to the increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, for oil and natural gas extraction. The level of opposition to fracking among adults was similar in May (54%), and about half were opposed in our polling last summer (47% May 2013, 51% July 2013, 53% September 2013). Today, 63 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of independents are opposed to the increased use of fracking, while 53 percent of Republicans are in favor of it. Majorities of San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Central Valley (56%), Los Angeles (55%), and Orange/San Diego (55%) residents oppose this idea, while those living in the Inland Empire are divided (43% favor, 42% oppose). In a September 2013 Pew Research Center survey among adults nationwide, 44 percent were in favor of fracking, 49 percent were opposed, and 7 percent were undecided.

**“Do you favor or oppose increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Favor</b>	36%	33%	29%	35%	37%	43%	40%
<b>Oppose</b>	54	56	61	55	55	42	50
<b>Don't know</b>	10	10	11	9	8	14	9

There is also controversy around building the Keystone XL pipeline to transport oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries in Texas. Majorities of California adults (53%) and likely voters (58%) are in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline. Support among Californians for this proposal has increased somewhat since May (46%); however, it was in a similar range last year (53% May 2013, 51% July 2013). Today, an overwhelming majority of Republicans (73%) and a majority of independents (56%) are in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline, while half of Democrats (50%) oppose it (39% favor). Majorities in the Inland Empire (63%), Central Valley (56%), and Orange/San Diego (54%) are in favor, while support falls short of a majority in the San Francisco Bay Area (49%) and Los Angeles (47%). Men (57%) are more likely than women (48%) to favor building the Keystone XL pipeline. Support is higher among those ages 35 and older (55% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older) than those younger than age 35 (46%) and among those with annual household incomes of \$40,000 or more (58% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 56% \$80,000 or more) than those earning less than \$40,000 (47%). Support is higher among whites (56%), Asians (53%), and Latinos (49%) than among blacks (38%). In a Pew Research Center national survey in March, 61 percent of adults supported the building of the Keystone XL pipeline.

**“Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas?”**

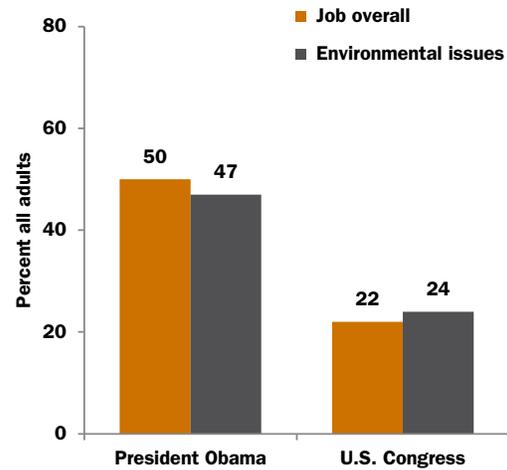
	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	53%	39%	73%	56%	58%
<b>Oppose</b>	37	50	20	36	34
<b>Don't know</b>	10	11	7	8	9

# OVERALL PERCEPTIONS AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

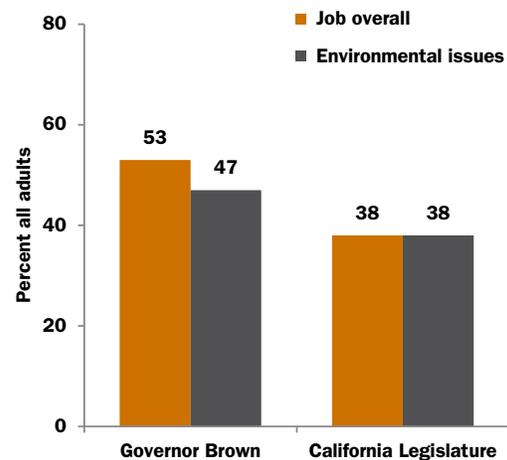
## KEY FINDINGS

- The vast majority of Californians believe global warming is either happening now or will happen in the future. Although most express concern about global warming, just 40 percent are very concerned. *(page 16)*
- A record-high share of Californians say they are very concerned about more-severe droughts as an impact of global warming. Still, Californians are more likely to attribute the current drought to natural weather patterns than to global warming. *(pages 17, 18)*
- Approval ratings of President Obama and the U.S. Congress are at or near their record lows. Approval of their handling of environmental issues tracks their overall approval. *(page 19)*
- Heading into a reelection campaign, a slim majority approve of Governor Brown's job performance, while slightly fewer approve of his handling of environmental issues. About four in 10 approve of the legislature, both overall and for its handling of environmental issues. *(page 20)*
- A plurality of Californians (35%) say water supply is the most important environmental issue; 54 percent say it is a big problem in their part of the state. Three in four would favor their local water district requiring residents to reduce water use. *(page 21)*
- Fifty-one percent of likely voters would support the \$11.1 billion water bond currently on the ballot. Another 8 percent would vote yes if the amount was lower. *(page 22)*
- Most likely voters say environmental positions are important in the governor's race, in which Jerry Brown leads challenger Neel Kashkari by 19 points. *(page 23)*

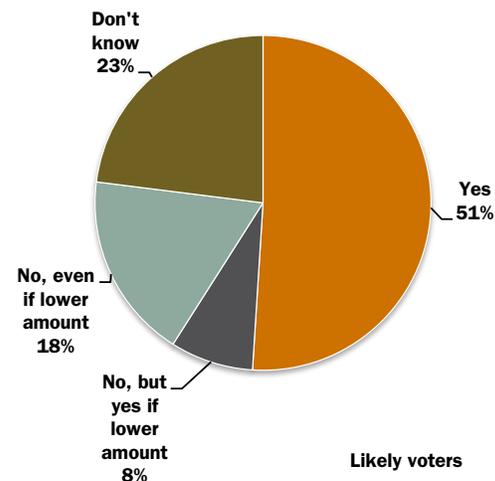
Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



Vote on \$11.1 Billion Water Bond



## ONSET OF GLOBAL WARMING

A solid majority of Californians (62%) say that the effects of global warming have already begun, 23 percent say they will happen at some point in the future (12% say they will affect future generations), and 12 percent say the effects will never occur. Since July 2005, majorities of Californians have said in annual surveys that the effects of global warming have already begun. Today, Californians in our survey (62%) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide in a March Gallup poll (54%) to say global warming’s effects have already begun (27% sometime in the future, 18% will never happen).

Solid majorities of Democrats (75%) and independents (63%) say the effects of global warming have already begun, while among Republicans only 35 percent hold this view and 26 percent say they will never happen. Majorities across regional and demographic groups believe that the effects have already begun. The share holding this view is higher in Orange/San Diego (68%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (67%) than in the Central Valley, Los Angeles (59% each), or the Inland Empire (57%). Asians (71%) and Latinos (67%) are more likely than blacks (58%) and whites (57%) to say global warming’s effects have begun. Women (66%) are somewhat more likely than men (58%) to hold this view.

**“Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen—they have already begun to happen; they will start happening within a few years; they will start happening within your lifetime; they will not happen within your lifetime, but they will affect future generations; or they will never happen?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Have already begun to happen</b>	62%	75%	35%	63%	57%
<b>Within a few years</b>	4	4	3	3	3
<b>Within lifetime</b>	7	5	9	7	5
<b>Will affect future generations</b>	12	9	24	8	12
<b>Will never happen</b>	12	4	26	16	19
<b>Don’t know</b>	3	4	3	3	3

Three in four Californians are either very (40%) or somewhat concerned (34%) about global warming; only one in four are not concerned (11% not too, 15% not at all concerned). Democrats (58%) are far more likely than independents (32%) and Republicans (17%) to be very concerned; 58 percent of Republicans are not too or not at all concerned. Asians (51%) are somewhat more likely than Latinos (44%), blacks (41%), and whites (35%) to be very concerned. Across regions, about four in 10 say they are very concerned about global warming. Compared with Californians in our survey (40% very concerned), adults nationwide are somewhat less likely to be very concerned (32%) about global warming, according to a May CBS News poll (34% somewhat, 16% not too, 17% not at all concerned).

**“How concerned are you about global warming?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Very concerned</b>	40%	39%	43%	39%	37%	42%	40%
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	34	30	34	35	42	28	27
<b>Not too concerned</b>	11	14	9	9	11	10	12
<b>Not at all concerned</b>	15	15	13	17	11	20	21
<b>Don’t know</b>	–	1	–	–	–	–	–

## IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

Majorities of Californians are at least somewhat concerned about four possible impacts of global warming in the state. More than six in 10 adults are very concerned about droughts (64%) and wildfires (61%) that are more severe. Fewer Californians express this level of concern for heat waves that are more severe (44%) or rising sea levels (32%). The share saying they are very concerned about droughts that are more severe is up 15 points since last July (49%) and is at a new high (previously 60% in July 2007). Concern about more-severe wildfires was similar in the past. (This is the first time that we have asked about heat waves that are more severe and rising sea levels.)

**“I am going to name a few of the possible impacts of global warming in California, and I would like you to tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one. How about...?”**

	Droughts that are more severe	Wildfires that are more severe	Heat waves that are more severe	Rising sea levels
<b>Very concerned</b>	64%	61%	44%	32%
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	23	25	29	32
<b>Not too concerned</b>	5	6	15	19
<b>Not at all concerned</b>	8	8	12	16
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	1	2

In each of these areas, Democrats are more likely than independents and Republicans to be very concerned. Across regions, Central Valley residents (72%) are the most likely, and Inland Empire residents (57%) the least likely, to be very concerned about droughts. Concern declines as income levels rise. Blacks, Latinos, Los Angeles and Central Valley residents, and lower-income residents are more likely than others to be very concerned about wildfires. Blacks, Latinos, and Central Valley and lower-income residents are most likely to be very concerned about heat waves. Blacks are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to be very concerned about rising sea levels.

<i>Percent saying very concerned</i>		Droughts that are more severe	Wildfires that are more severe	Heat waves that are more severe	Rising sea levels
<b>All adults</b>		64%	61%	44%	32%
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	77	71	54	46
	<b>Republicans</b>	42	41	21	9
	<b>Independents</b>	66	55	39	28
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Asians</b>	65	56	40	38
	<b>Blacks</b>	68	74	61	46
	<b>Latinos</b>	69	69	60	37
	<b>Whites</b>	61	55	32	25
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	72	65	51	33
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	63	55	41	31
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	60	66	43	34
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	68	59	41	26
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	57	54	44	30
<b>Household income</b>	<b>Under \$40,000</b>	69	70	53	36
	<b>\$40,000 to under \$80,000</b>	62	56	43	28
	<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	58	51	30	32

**IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING (CONTINUED)**

What do Californians think is the primary cause of the state’s current severe drought? Half of Californians (51%) believe that it is mostly due to natural weather patterns, nearly four in 10 (38%) say it is due to global warming, and about one in 10 volunteer that it is because of both (7%) or neither (1%) of these things. Californians held similar views during the state’s last drought (July 2008: 46% weather patterns, 37% global warming). Eight in 10 Republicans (80%) attribute the current drought to natural weather patterns, as do half of independents (51%, 40% global warming). Democrats are about as likely to blame weather patterns (41%) as they are to blame global warming (45%). Across regions, residents are more likely to say that the current drought is due to weather patterns than to global warming. A solid majority of whites (62%) say weather patterns are to blame, while a majority of Asians (56%) point to global warming. Among blacks (46% weather, 46% global warming) and Latinos (43% weather, 46% global warming), similar shares point to each cause.

**“From what you’ve read and heard, please tell me which of these statements is closer to your view. The state’s current drought is mostly a result of global warming, or mostly a result of natural weather patterns.”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Global warming</b>	38%	45%	15%	40%	32%
<b>Natural weather patterns</b>	51	41	80	51	59
<b>Both (volunteered)</b>	7	9	4	4	5
<b>Neither (volunteered)</b>	1	1	1	4	2
<b>Don’t know</b>	2	5	1	2	2

As for the state’s current wildfires, 55 percent of Californians say they are mostly due to natural weather patterns, three in 10 (31%) say global warming, and 11 percent volunteer both (6%) or neither (5%). Findings were similar in July 2008 (56% weather patterns, 27% global warming). Today, a slightly higher share of likely voters (64%) than all adults (55%) blame weather patterns. Most Republicans blame weather patterns (77%) as do half of independents (53%) and Democrats (50%). Across regions, Inland Empire (59%) residents are the most likely, and Central Valley residents (52%) the least likely, to say weather patterns are the cause of current wildfires. Solid majorities of blacks (67%) and whites (64%) say current wildfires are mostly due to weather patterns, while Asians and Latinos are as likely to say they are due to weather patterns as they are to say they are due to global warming.

**“From what you’ve read and heard, please tell me which of these statements is closer to your view. The state’s current wildfires are mostly a result of global warming, or mostly a result of natural weather patterns.”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Global warming</b>	31%	32%	12%	32%	22%
<b>Natural weather patterns</b>	55	50	77	53	64
<b>Both (volunteered)</b>	6	8	4	5	6
<b>Neither (volunteered)</b>	5	4	5	6	4
<b>Don’t know</b>	4	6	1	3	4

Twenty-three percent of Californians say that both wildfires and the current drought are mostly due to global warming and 41 percent say they are both mostly due to natural weather patterns.

## APPROVAL RATINGS OF FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Obama’s approval rating (50%) is at its record low and near the previous lows reached in May, last December, and September 2011 (51% each time). Approval was at 61 percent last July and has declined since then (55% September, 51% December, 53% January, 52% March, 51% May, 50% today). Among likely voters, approval is at 47 percent. Nationally, in a July Pew Research Center poll, 44 percent approved of the president (49% disapproved). In our survey, partisan differences hold, with 74 percent of Democrats approving and 79 percent of Republicans disapproving of President Obama; independents are divided (43% approve, 49% disapprove). Blacks (83%) and Asians (78%) are far more likely than Latinos (51%) and whites (37%) to approve of President Obama.

Since July 2010, about half of Californians have approved of President Obama’s handling of environmental issues (49% 2010, 47% July 2011, 51% July 2012, 53% July 2013, 47% today). In a recent CNN/ORC poll, adults nationwide gave similar approval ratings to President Obama on his handling of environmental policy (49% approve, 45% disapprove). In California, 67 percent of Democrats approve of President Obama on this issue, 73 percent of Republicans disapprove, and independents are divided. Blacks (72%) and Asians (60%) are more likely than Latinos (52%) and whites (36%) to approve.

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>His job as president of the United States</i>	Approve	50%	74%	18%	43%	47%
	Disapprove	46	23	79	49	50
	Don't know	4	3	3	8	3
<i>Environmental issues in the United States</i>	Approve	47	67	19	41	45
	Disapprove	42	23	73	47	46
	Don't know	11	10	8	13	8

The U.S. Congress continues to have low approval ratings among Californians (22%). Last July, approval was at 30 percent (28% September 2013, 18% December 2013, 26% January, 19% March, 24% May, 22% today). Approval ratings of the U.S. Congress are lower among likely voters (15%). Nationally, 14 percent of adults nationwide approved of the U.S. Congress in a June CBS News/New York Times poll (78% disapprove). When it comes to the U.S. Congress’ handling of environmental issues, fewer than three in 10 Californians have approved since July 2011 (25% July 2011, 27% July 2012, 29% July 2013, 24% today). Fewer than one in four across parties approve of its handling of environmental issues today. Approval is lowest among whites (13%), those earning \$40,000 to \$79,000 (18%), those with at least some college education (18%), those age 55 and older (15%), and Central Valley residents (17%).

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>Its job</i>	Approve	22%	22%	15%	11%	15%
	Disapprove	72	75	82	85	83
	Don't know	6	4	3	5	2
<i>Environmental issues in the United States</i>	Approve	24	24	15	13	16
	Disapprove	65	70	76	74	78
	Don't know	11	6	9	13	5

## APPROVAL RATINGS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Brown has the approval of majorities of Californians (53%) and likely voters (56%). Approval among adults today is similar to May (50%) and last July (48%). With the exception of January 2014 (58%), his approval has been about 50 percent since December 2012. Democrats (76%) are far more likely than independents (51%) to approve of the governor, and Republicans are more likely to disapprove (54%) than approve (31%). Central Valley (43%) and Inland Empire (44%) residents are the least likely—and San Francisco Bay Area residents (66%) the most likely—to approve of Governor Brown.

When it comes to the governor’s handling of environmental issues, 47 percent of adults and 46 percent of likely voters express approval. Approval among adults has increased 8 points since last July (39%). Once again, Democrats (65%) are far more likely than independents (42%) and Republicans (26%) to approve. Across regions, approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%), followed by Los Angeles (48%), the Central Valley (45%), Orange/San Diego (45%), and the Inland Empire (44%).

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>His job as governor of California</b>	<b>Approve</b>	53%	76%	31%	51%	56%
	<b>Disapprove</b>	28	12	54	31	34
	<b>Don't know</b>	19	13	16	18	9
<b>Environmental issues in California</b>	<b>Approve</b>	47	65	26	42	46
	<b>Disapprove</b>	29	18	48	36	36
	<b>Don't know</b>	23	17	26	22	18

About four in 10 Californians (38%) continue to approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job, as they have throughout 2014. Approval was similar last July (36%). Three in 10 likely voters (31%) express approval, similar to May (36%) and last July (33%). About half of Democrats (48%) approve of the legislature; far fewer independents (26%) and Republicans (18%) do. About four in 10 residents in Orange/San Diego (44%), Los Angeles (42%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (42%) approve of the legislature; fewer Inland Empire (35%) and Central Valley (29%) residents do.

Approval of the legislature’s handling of environmental issues in California is identical to its overall approval (38% each). Similarly, Democrats (47%) are far more likely than independents (29%) and Republicans (22%) to approve. Across regions, San Francisco Bay Area residents (47%) are most likely—and Central Valley residents (34%) are least likely—to approve of the legislature on environmental issues.

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Its job</b>	<b>Approve</b>	38%	48%	18%	26%	31%
	<b>Disapprove</b>	46	36	72	59	56
	<b>Don't know</b>	16	16	10	15	13
<b>Environmental issues in California</b>	<b>Approve</b>	38	47	22	29	33
	<b>Disapprove</b>	44	37	62	52	52
	<b>Don't know</b>	17	17	16	19	16

## WATER POLICY

In an open-ended question about the most important environmental issue facing California today, 35 percent name water supply or drought—an increase of 27 points since July 2011. Fourteen percent mention air pollution—a decrease of 13 points in the same time period. Today’s finding marks the first time in 12 surveys, dating back to 2000, in which air pollution is not the top issue. Still, in a separate question, six in 10 Californians say air pollution in their part of California is a big (27%) or somewhat of a problem (33%).

Amid reports of worsening drought conditions this summer, 54 percent of Californians say water supply is a big problem in their part of California; another 25 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. Only 21 percent say it is not much of a problem. The share saying water supply is a big problem was similar in May (59%) and March (55%) of this year, while just 31 percent held this view in December 2012. Central Valley residents (63%) are the most likely to say water supply is a big problem, followed by those in the San Francisco Bay Area (55%), Orange/San Diego (54%), Inland Empire (51%), and Los Angeles (44%). Those living on California’s coast (52%) are about as likely as inland residents (58%) to say water supply is a big problem. Whites (62%) are far more likely than Asians, blacks, and Latinos (46% each) to hold this view. The perception that water supply is a big problem rises sharply as age increases.

**“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	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Big problem</b>	54%	63%	55%	44%	54%	51%	61%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	25	24	26	29	26	16	24
<b>Not much of a problem</b>	21	12	18	26	18	32	15
<b>Don’t know</b>	1	–	–	1	3	1	1

As localities discuss how to deal with the current drought and the State Water Resources Control Board takes the unprecedented step of declaring certain types of water waste a criminal infraction, how do Californians view the idea of their local water district making it mandatory for residents to reduce their water use? Overwhelming majorities of Californians (75%) and likely voters (70%) favor this idea. Residents across the state are in favor, with support highest in Los Angeles (80%) followed by the Inland Empire (75%), the San Francisco Bay Area (75%), Orange/San Diego (73%), and the Central Valley (69%). Both inland (72%) and coastal (76%) residents are in favor of mandatory water reductions.

More than two in three across racial/ethnic groups favor mandatory reductions of water use by residents. But Latinos (82%) and Asians (79%) are more likely than whites (70%) and blacks (69%) to be in favor. There is support across age, education, and income groups and among men and women. Among those who name water supply as the most important environmental issue, 77 percent are in favor.

**“As you may know, the state is currently in a drought. Would you favor or oppose your local water district making it mandatory for residents to reduce their water use?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Favor</b>	75%	69%	75%	80%	73%	75%	70%
<b>Oppose</b>	23	27	22	18	26	24	28
<b>Don’t know</b>	2	3	3	3	1	1	2

**WATER POLICY (CONTINUED)**

With California mired in a severe drought, state lawmakers are considering alternative proposals to the \$11.1 billion state bond measure for water projects that is currently on the November ballot. The general sentiment in the state capitol is that this bond amount is too large to pass. The governor has stated that he would prefer a bond of about \$6 billion. However, the legislature has not yet agreed upon a smaller amount. Although the statutory deadline (June 26) has passed, the legislature still has options to replace the current measure. When asked about the \$11.1 billion bond measure, 61 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters would vote yes, while about one in four adults (22%) and likely voters (26%) would vote no. In March, support was similar among adults (60%) and likely voters (50%); it was lower in March 2013 (44% adults, 42% likely voters). In March 2012, 54 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters favored it. When asked about an approximately \$6.5 billion bond measure, at least half of adults (55% yes, 33% no) and likely voters (50% yes, 38% no) favored it in September 2013.

Today, Democrats (65%) are more likely than independents (55%) and far more likely than Republicans (44%) to express support for the \$11.1 billion bond. Support is highest in the Inland Empire (65%) and the Central Valley (64%) followed by Orange/San Diego (61%), Los Angeles (59%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (57%). When those who would vote no are asked how they would vote if the amount were lower, support increases by 8 points both for adults (69% yes, 14% no) and likely voters (59% yes, 18% no).

**“The legislature is considering an approximately \$11.1 billion bond measure for the November 2014 ballot to pay for state water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on this state water bond?” (if no: “What if the state water bond was a lower amount, would you vote yes or no?”)**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>No (total)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<i>No, but would vote yes if it was a lower amount</i>	8	8	11	7	8
<i>No, even if it was a lower amount</i>	14	11	21	18	18
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>

Three in four Californians say it is very (46%) or somewhat important (30%) that voters pass the state water bond measure. Three in four also held this view in March 2014 (52% very, 25% somewhat important), March 2013 (39% very, 36% somewhat important), and March 2012 (42% very, 32% somewhat important). Findings among likely voters are similar. Central Valley residents (55%) are the most likely—and San Francisco Bay Area residents (42%) are the least likely—to say it is very important that voters pass the measure. Democrats (49%) are much more likely than independents (36%) and Republicans (35%) to view the measure’s passage as very important.

**“How important is it that voters pass the state water bond measure— is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Very important</b>	46%	55%	42%	48%	44%	44%	44%
<b>Somewhat important</b>	30	22	32	33	32	28	24
<b>Not too important</b>	5	5	4	5	4	9	5
<b>Not at all important</b>	7	7	10	6	8	8	12
<b>Don't know</b>	10	11	11	8	12	11	16

## GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

With the gubernatorial election quickly approaching, about half of likely voters are very (11%) or fairly closely (42%) following news about the candidates. Attention to the news today is lower than it was in July 2010 (22% very, 48% fairly)—or in July 2006 (19% very, 49% fairly), the last election with an incumbent.

On the heels of record-low turnout in the primary election, in which Governor Brown received 54 percent of the vote, the governor now leads Neel Kashkari by a 19 point margin (52% to 33%) among likely voters. In his quest for an unprecedented fourth term as governor of California, Jerry Brown enjoys the support of eight in 10 Democrats (80%) and half of independents (52%). Neel Kashkari has the support of seven in 10 Republicans (70%). Latino likely voters (74%) overwhelmingly support Governor Brown while white likely voters are divided (41% Brown, 44% Kashkari).

Governor Brown has majority support of likely voters in Los Angeles (63%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (55%). A plurality of likely voters in Orange/San Diego support Brown (48% Brown, 40% Kashkari), while a plurality of Inland Empire likely voters support Kashkari (40% Brown, 48% Kashkari). Likely voters in the Central Valley are divided (45% Brown, 43% Kashkari). Two in three likely voters with household incomes under \$40,000 (67%) support Brown. Majorities of those with incomes \$40,000 or more (48%) and likely voters across age and education groups as well as men and women support Brown.

**“If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for Jerry Brown, a Democrat, or Neel Kashkari, a Republican?”**

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity*	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
<b>Jerry Brown, a Democrat</b>	52%	80%	18%	52%	74%	41%
<b>Neel Kashkari, a Republican</b>	33	11	70	28	19	44
<b>Would not vote for governor (volunteered)</b>	4	1	2	9	2	2
<b>Don't know</b>	11	8	10	11	5	12

\* Sample sizes for Asian and black likely voters are too small for separate analysis.

When asked how important the candidates' positions on the environment are in determining their vote, nearly all likely voters say they are very (40%) or somewhat important (45%). Findings were similar in July 2010 (41% very, 38% somewhat) and in July 2006 (44% very, 41% somewhat). Half of Democrats (52%) say these positions are very important, compared to about one in three Republicans (31%) and independents (35%). Of those supporting Brown for governor, 43 percent say the candidates' positions on the environment are very important; 35 percent of Kashkari supporters hold this view. Likely voters in the Central Valley (50%) are the most likely to hold this view, followed by those in Los Angeles (46%), the Inland Empire (35%), the San Francisco Bay Area (32%), and Orange/San Diego (31%). Notably, the share saying candidate positions on the environment are very important (40%) is much lower than the share that said positions on K-12 education were very important (58%) in April.

**“In thinking about the California governor's election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote?”**

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Gubernatorial vote choice	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Jerry Brown	Neel Kashkari
<b>Very important</b>	40%	52%	31%	35%	43%	35%
<b>Somewhat important</b>	45	38	53	44	47	49
<b>Not too important</b>	14	9	15	18	8	15
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	1	3	1	1

# REGIONAL MAP

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# METHODOLOGY

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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 Sonja Petek, project manager for this survey, Dean Bonner, associate survey director, and Jui Shrestha, survey research associate. This survey, *Californians and the Environment*, is supported with funding from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell 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 1,705 California adult residents, including 1,109 interviewed on landline telephones and 596 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from July 8–15, 2014.

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, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender.

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, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. 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.

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

Abt SRBI uses the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010–2012 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 SRBI used 2012 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 2013 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  $\pm 3.7$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,705 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.7 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,408 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 4$  percent; for the 984 likely voters, it is  $\pm 4.7$  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. In several places, we refer to coastal and inland counties. The “coastal” region refers to the counties along the California coast from Del Norte County to San Diego County and includes all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. All other counties are included in the “inland” region.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites 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 Asians, who make up about 14 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic blacks, 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 by their responses to voter registration survey questions, 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 ABC News/Washington Post, CBS News, CBS News/New York Times, CNN/ORC, Gallup, and the Pew Research Center. 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

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## CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

July 8–15, 2014

1,705 California Adult Residents:  
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR  $\pm 3.7\%$  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
  - 28 disapprove
  - 19 don't know
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Brown is handling environmental issues in California?
  - 47% approve
  - 29 disapprove
  - 23 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
  - 38% approve
  - 46 disapprove
  - 16 don't know
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling environmental issues in California?
  - 38% approve
  - 44 disapprove
  - 17 don't know
5. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?
  - 66% yes *[ask 5a]*
  - 34 no *[skip to 6b]*
- 5a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?
  - 44% Democrat *[ask q6]*
  - 29 Republican *[skip to q6a]*
  - 6 another party (specify) *[skip to q7]*
  - 22 independent *[skip to q6b]*
6. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?
  - 56% strong
  - 42 not very strong
  - 2 don't know

*[skip to q7]*
- 6a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?
  - 55% strong
  - 42 not very strong
  - 3 don't know

*[skip to q7]*
- 6b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?
  - 23% Republican Party
  - 44 Democratic Party
  - 26 neither (volunteered)
  - 7 don't know

**[questions 7 to 9 reported for likely voters only]**

7. **[likely voters only]** If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for **[rotate]** (1) Jerry Brown, a Democrat, **[or]** (2) Neel Kashkari, a Republican?

- 52% Jerry Brown, a Democrat
- 33 Neel Kashkari, a Republican
- 4 would not vote for governor  
(volunteered)
- 11 don't know

8. **[likely voters only]** How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2014 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 11% very closely
- 42 fairly closely
- 31 not too closely
- 15 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

9. **[likely voters only]** In thinking about the California governor's election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 40% very important
- 45 somewhat important
- 14 not too important
- 1 don't know

10. Next, what do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?

**[code, don't read]**

- 35% water supply, drought, reservoirs
- 14 air pollution, vehicle emissions, smog
- 5 global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases
- 5 water pollution of ocean, rivers, lakes, streams, beach pollution
- 4 energy, fossil fuels, solar, nuclear, wind, alternative energy, oil drilling
- 4 pollution in general
- 3 immigration, immigrants
- 3 jobs, economy, budget, taxes
- 3 too much government regulation, politicians, environmentalists
- 2 fracking, hydraulic fracturing
- 2 gas prices
- 2 traffic, congestion, transportation, transit
- 9 other
- 9 don't know

11. 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 much of a problem in your part of California?

- 27% big problem
- 33 somewhat of a problem
- 39 not much of a problem
- don't know

12. 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?

- 54% big problem
- 25 somewhat of a problem
- 21 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

13. The legislature is considering an approximately \$11.1 billion bond measure for the November 2014 ballot to pay for state water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on this state water bond? (**if no:** “What if the state water bond was a lower amount, would you vote yes or no?”)

- 61% yes
- 22 total no
  - 8 no, but would vote yes if it was a lower amount
  - 14 no, even if it was a lower amount
- 17 don't know

14. How important is it that voters pass the state water bond measure—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 46% very important
- 30 somewhat important
- 5 not too important
- 7 not at all important
- 10 don't know

14a. As you may know, the state is currently in a drought. Would you favor or oppose your local water district making it mandatory for residents to reduce their water use?

- 75% favor
- 23 oppose
- 2 don't know

15. 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?

- 62% already begun
- 4 within a few years
- 7 within your lifetime
- 12 not within lifetime, but will affect future generations
- 12 will never happen
- 3 don't know

16. How concerned are you about global warming—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 40% very concerned
- 34 somewhat concerned
- 11 not too concerned
- 15 not concerned at all
- don't know

17. 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?

- 49% very serious
- 31 somewhat serious
- 9 not too serious
- 10 not at all serious
- 1 don't know

18. When it comes to the state government's plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, should it **[rotate]** (1) take action right away **[or should it]** (2) wait until the state economy and job situation improve to take action?

- 61% take action right away
- 35 wait until state economy and job situation improve
- 4 don't know

Now I am going to name a few of the possible impacts of global warming in California, and I would like you to tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one.

**[rotate questions 19 to 21a]**

19. How about droughts that are more severe?

- 64% very concerned
- 23 somewhat concerned
- 5 not too concerned
- 8 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

20. How about wildfires that are more severe?

- 61% very concerned
- 25 somewhat concerned
- 6 not too concerned
- 8 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

21. How about heat waves that are more severe?

- 44% very concerned
- 29 somewhat concerned
- 15 not too concerned
- 12 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

21a. How about rising sea levels?

- 32% very concerned
- 32 somewhat concerned
- 19 not too concerned
- 16 not at all concerned
- 2 don't know

Next, from what you've read and heard, please tell me which of these statements is closer to your view.

**[rotate questions 22 and 23; rotate responses in same order]**

22. The state's current drought is **[rotate]** (1) mostly a result of global warming, **[or]** (2) mostly a result of natural weather patterns.

- 38% global warming
- 51 natural weather patterns
- 7 both (*volunteered*)
- 1 neither (*volunteered*)
- 2 don't know

23. The state's current wildfires are **[rotate]** (1) mostly a result of global warming, **[or]** (2) mostly a result of natural weather patterns.

- 31% global warming
- 55 natural weather patterns
- 6 both (*volunteered*)
- 5 neither (*volunteered*)
- 4 don't know

24. Next, to address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?

- 68% favor
- 23 oppose
- 9 don't know

25. 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?

- 65% favor
- 30 oppose
- 5 don't know

26. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming will cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, will cause there to be fewer jobs, or won't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?

- 39% more jobs
- 26 fewer jobs
- 27 won't affect the number of jobs
- 8 don't know

Next, officials in the state and federal governments are discussing ways to address global warming. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**[rotate questions 27 to 30]**

27. How about requiring an increase in energy efficiency for residential and commercial buildings and appliances?

- 73% favor
- 24 oppose
- 3 don't know

28. How about setting stricter emissions limits on power plants?

- 75% favor
- 21 oppose
- 3 don't know

29. How about requiring industrial plants, oil refineries, and commercial facilities to reduce their emissions?

- 77% favor
- 21 oppose
- 2 don't know

30. How about requiring oil companies to produce transportation fuels with lower emissions? (**if favor:** "Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in gasoline prices at the pump?")

- 76% total favor
  - 39 favor, even if it means an increase in gasoline prices
  - 37 favor, but not if it means an increase in gasoline prices
- 20 oppose
- 3 don't know

31. How much, if anything, have you heard about the idea of a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

- 16% a lot
- 36 a little
- 48 nothing at all
- 1 don't know

32. Would you favor or oppose a carbon tax on companies for their greenhouse gas emissions?

- 58% favor
- 33 oppose
- 9 don't know

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

- 13% a lot
- 32 a little
- 55 nothing at all
- don't know

34. 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?

- 51% favor
- 40 oppose
- 9 don't know

35. The governor and legislature recently agreed on a plan for how to spend the revenues generated by California's cap-and-trade program. The plan includes spending 25 percent of the revenues on high-speed rail, 35 percent on affordable housing and other mass transit projects, and the rest on projects related to natural resources, energy efficiency, and transportation. In general, do you favor or oppose this spending plan?

59% favor  
35 oppose  
6 don't know

36. Changing topics, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

50% approve  
46 disapprove  
4 don't know

37. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Obama is handling environmental issues in the United States?

47% approve  
42 disapprove  
11 don't know

38. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

22% approve  
72 disapprove  
6 don't know

39. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States?

24% approve  
65 disapprove  
11 don't know

Next, do you favor or oppose the following proposals?

**[rotate questions 40 to 43]**

40. How about requiring automakers to significantly improve the fuel efficiency of cars sold in this country?

85% favor  
13 oppose  
1 don't know

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

46% favor  
51 oppose  
3 don't know

42. How about building more nuclear power plants at this time?

31% favor  
64 oppose  
5 don't know

43. How about increasing federal funding to develop wind, solar, and hydrogen technology?

78% favor  
20 oppose  
3 don't know

44. How about requiring one-third of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, by the year 2020? (**if favor:** "Do you still favor this state law if it means an increase in your own electricity bill?")

76% total favor  
46 favor, even if it increases electricity bill  
30 favor, but not if it increases electricity bill  
20 oppose  
3 don't know

**[rotate questions 45 and 46]**

45. Do you favor or oppose increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?

36% favor  
54 oppose  
10 don't know

46. Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas?

53% favor  
37 oppose  
10 don't know

47. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

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

9% very liberal  
23 somewhat liberal  
29 middle-of-the-road  
23 somewhat conservative  
13 very conservative  
3 don't know

48. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

20% great deal  
36 fair amount  
33 only a little  
11 none  
– don't know

**[d1 to d19 demographic questions]**

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