

# The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

August 20, 2021  
by Lewis Consulting Group



## **New PPIC Poll**

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the Public Policy Institute of California released its latest California survey titled "Californians and the Environment". The key takeaway is the increased awareness of the severity of drought in California. 25% of those surveyed listed water and drought as their #1 environmental concern edging out wild fires at 17%. The survey was conducted July 6-14 with a sample size of 1,569 Californian adults and yields a margin of error of +/- 3.4%.

What do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?

- 25% water supply, drought, reservoirs
- 17% loss of forests, forest fires, wildfires
- 13% global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases
- 6% air pollution, vehicle emissions, smog
- 5% pollution in general
- 4% landfills, garbage, sewage, waste, recycling
- 4% water pollution of ocean, rivers, lakes, streams, beach pollution
- 3% government regulation—too much, over regulation, politicians, environmentalists
- 2% energy, fossil fuels, solar, nuclear, wind, alternative
- 2% traffic congestion, transportation, transit
- 15% other
- 2% don't know

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?

- 63% big problem
- 29% somewhat of a problem
- 8% not much of a problem

Would you say that you and your family have taken steps to reduce water use recently in response to the current drought?

- 41% yes, done a lot to reduce water use
- 39% yes, done a little to reduce water use
- 20% no, have not taken steps

Compared with other issues, would you say addressing global climate change is a top concern to me personally, one of several important concerns to me, or not an important concern to me?

- 25% top concern to me personally
- 56% one of several important concerns to me
- 19% not an important concern to me

How serious of a threat is climate change 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?

- 50% very serious
- 33% somewhat serious
- 9% not too serious
- 7% not at all serious

How about droughts that are more severe? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about that as an impact of climate change in California?

- 63% very concerned
- 26% somewhat concerned
- 7% not too concerned
- 3% not at all concerned

How about wildfires that are more severe? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about that as an impact of climate change in California's future?

- 63% very concerned
- 27% somewhat concerned
- 7% not too concerned
- 3% not at all concerned

Do you favor or oppose the state law that requires 100 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045?

- 70% favor
- 28% oppose
- 1% don't know

How about Governor Newsom's executive order banning the sale of all new gasoline powered vehicles by 2035? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 49% favor
- 49% oppose
- 2% don't know

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

- 45% willing
- 55% not willing
- 1% don't know

How about allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

81% favor  
15% oppose  
3% don't know

How about building desalination plants on the California coast? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

68% favor  
27% oppose  
5% don't know

## **LAFCO AUGUST MEETING**

### **Santa Margarita Water District Wins Approval**



It was five years in the making, but it only took about 30 minutes of testimony and deliberations for the Santa Margarita Water District to win unanimous approval from the LAFCO Board to annex the City of San Juan Capistrano's water and wastewater utilities. Supervisor Bartlett noted that on occasion "the City had been water challenged" as she argued for an affirmative vote. A number of representatives of the City and district praised the level of cooperation and collaboration. Chairman Davert summed it up by saying "this is what good government is". The action must still wait out a 30 day protest period.

In other action, the committee honored a request and delayed by one year the recording of annexation of 290 acres in Tonner Hills to the City of Brea.



## **Update**

### **Board of Supervisors Meetings July 27 and August 10**

The two most recent Board of Supervisor meetings were largely non-substantive. The August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was short by Board meeting standards, was largely consumed by the comments of the public over questioning the efficacy of masks or vaccines. Their opinions fell on deaf ears. This meeting again featured verbal jousting between Chairman Andrew Do and the newest Supervisor Katrina Foley. Supervisor Foley appears to be attempting to differentiate herself from the style and policies of the other Board members.

## COVID-19 Echo Hits Orange County








The delta variant has become a painful reminder that COVID-19 is still amongst us. This time though, the threat of large number of deaths has been lessened because so many of the most vulnerable (the elderly, obese and immune compromised) have been vaccinated. So infections are on the rise and O.C. hospitalizations (571) and those in ICU (133) are up from single digits a few weeks ago. The swell in numbers are mostly younger and unvaccinated patients.

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 8/19/2021	AS OF 6/10/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	278,417	255,570
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	5,169	5,092
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	4	2
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	4,534,970	3,993,911
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	12,644	6,824
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	571 *	53 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	133	14
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	256,640 *	249,521 *

\* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

## Is Recall Turning?

Through mid-June every poll, save two Republican polls, showed the recall effort going down to defeat. However, with a worsening drought, crime on the rise and the Delta COVID-19 variant creating renewed fear, previously reliable NO ON RECALL voters may be less enthused about voting. The NEW CBS poll (see next page) taps into that sentiment.

Poll source	administered	size <sup>[a]</sup>	of error	on recall	on recall	Undecided
YouGov 	Aug 6–12, 2021	1,585 (RV)	± 3.4%	46%	54%	–
		1,534 (LV)	± 3.8%	48%	52%	–
SurveyUSA 	Aug 2–4, 2021	613 (LV)	± 5.0%	51%	40%	9%
Emerson College 	Jul 30 – Aug 1, 2021	1,000 (LV)	± 3.0%	46%	48%	6%
Core Decision Analytics 	Jul 27–29, 2021	804 (RV)	± 3.5%	41%	52%	7%
		~728 (LV)	± 3.6%	44%	51%	5%
Berkeley IGS 	Jul 18–24, 2021	5,795 (RV)	± 2.0%	36%	51%	13%
		3,266 (LV)	± 2.5%	47%	50%	3%
Emerson College 	Jul 19–20, 2021	1,085 (RV)	± 2.9%	43%	48%	9%
Change Research (D) 	Jun 11–16, 2021	1,085 (RV)	± 3.0%	40%	54%	6%



## Recall Race Tightens, Elder Leads Replacement Candidates

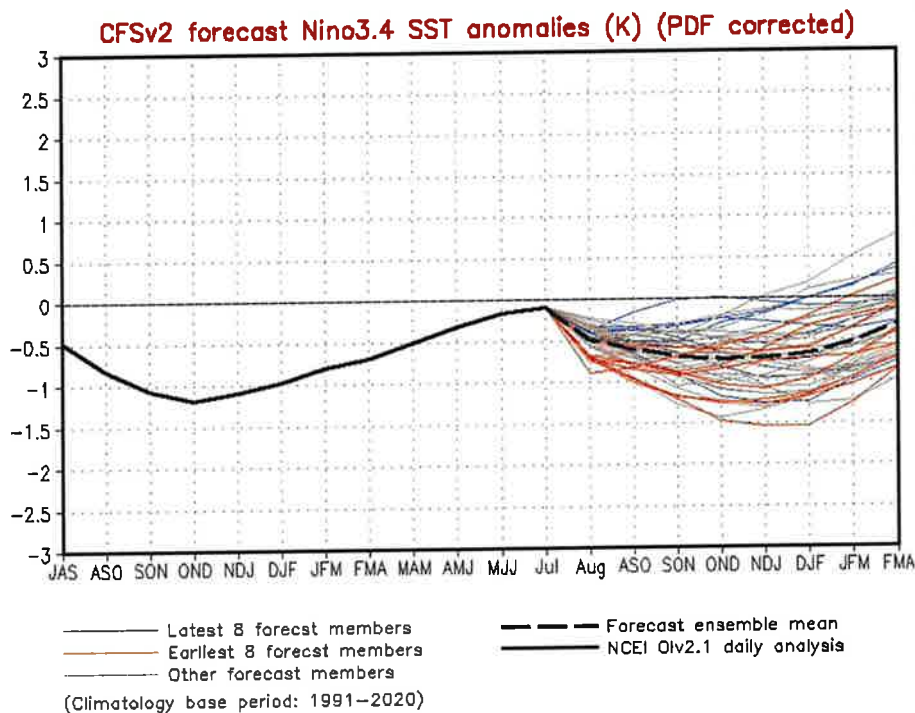
A recent poll conducted by CBS indicates a tightening race in the Gavin Newsom recall and good news for GOP candidate Larry Elder.

The poll of 1,534 likely voters was conducted August 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. The poll found growing discontent with Governor Newsom's performance in dealing with a number of California issues. As a result, 48% of Californians support the recall effort, while 52% oppose. The poll also found Republican media commentator Larry Elder with a lead among the 46 candidates who appear on the recall ballot.

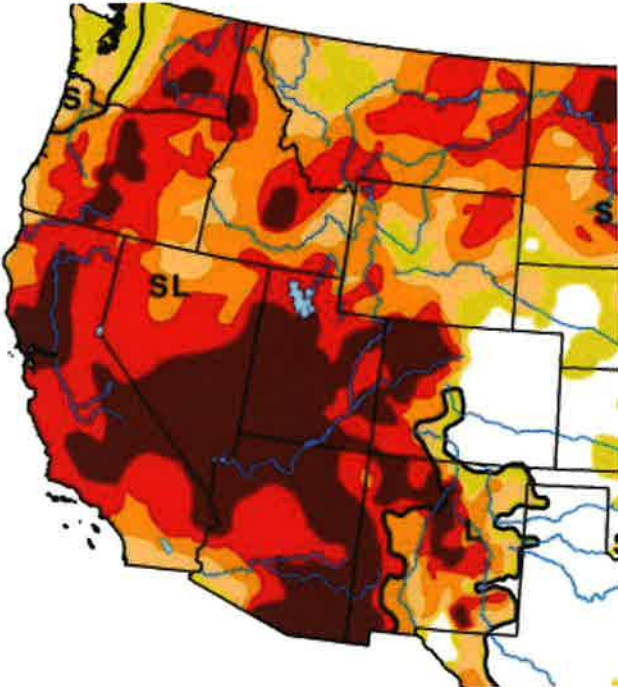
**WHICH CANDIDATE WOULD YOU VOTE FOR TO REPLACE GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM IF HE IS RECALLED?**

JOHN COX	3%
LARRY ELDER	23%
KEVIN FAULCONER	3%
CAITLYN JENNER	2%
KEVIN KILEY	3%
KEVIN PAFFRATH	13%
OSE	2%
UNDECIDED	51%

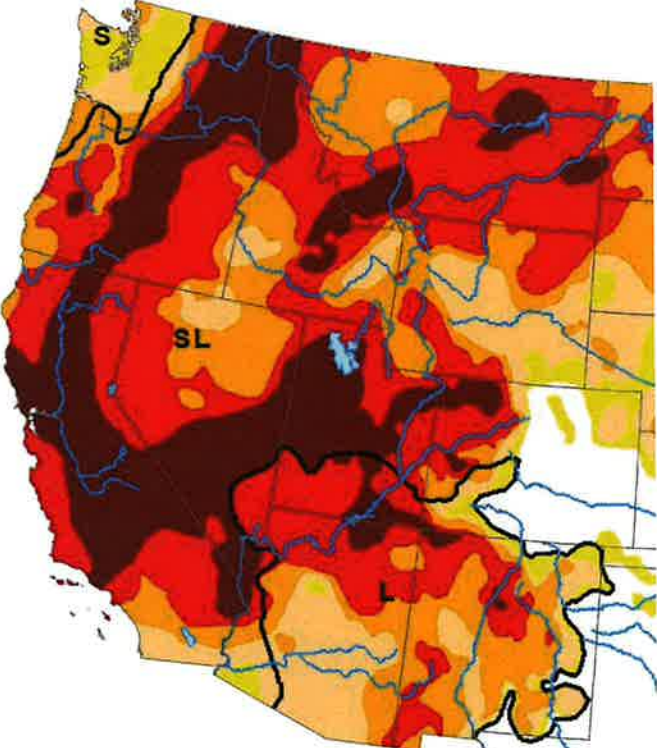
## NOAA Predicts Return of La Niña



**Monsoonal Conditions Help Arizona & New Mexico. . .**  
**California, Not So Much**



JULY 17, 2021



AUGUST 19, 2021