

# The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

April 23, 2021

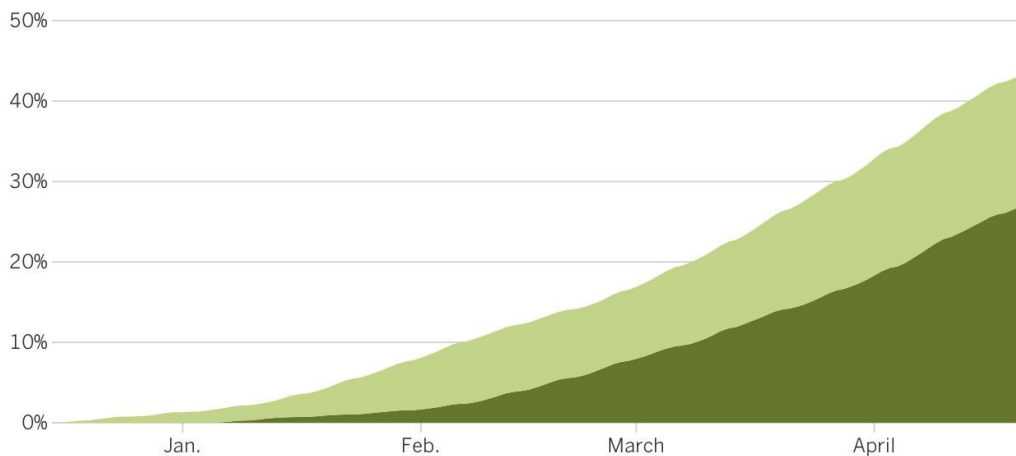
by Lewis Consulting Group

## **June 15<sup>th</sup> End of Tiers For Fears**

Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced that his new plan is to lift nearly all COVID-19 health restrictions in California by June 15, 2021. Orange County will most certainly embrace the re-openings which will mean businesses, including bars and restaurants, will be allowed to operate at 100% capacity. However, the State will still impose a mask mandate.

The reversion to near normalcy is largely a result of the state's increasing success with vaccine distribution. As of April 21, 2021, over 26 million doses of vaccines have been administered in California. Over 43% of residents have received at least one dose. In Orange County, 44% of County residents have received one dose, while 28% of the County population is fully vaccinated.

Percentage of Californians who are partially or fully vaccinated



California Department of Public Health

The single dose vaccine by Johnson & Johnson accounts for 10% of vaccines in California, although its use is currently suspended.

Share of completed vaccinations by Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson

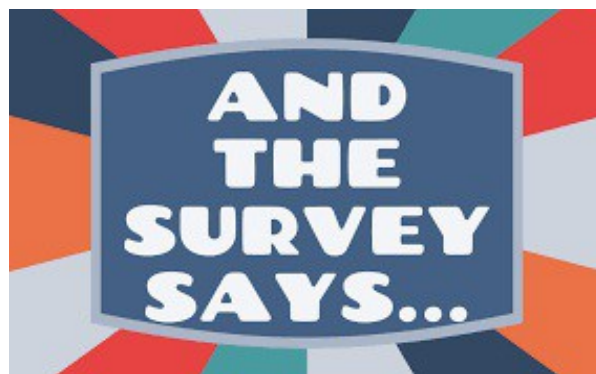


## **MWDOC Requests Legislative Support**

The Municipal Water District of Orange County at its April 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting voted to oppose unless amended, two identical bills SB342 (Gonzalez) and AB1296 (Kamlagen). The bills as drafted would increase the size of the South Coast Air Quality Management District by two seats by requiring the appointment of two environmental justice representatives to the Board. MWDOC's opposition centers around the expansion of the Board, noting that there are three Sacramento political appointments that could accommodate this goal if so desired. MWDOC announced that they are hoping local districts will also express their opposition to these two measures.



The April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8:15 a.m.



## **New PPIC Poll Released**

The PPIC (Public Policy Institute of California) recently released the results of their most recent poll. Of great interest, this is the third consecutive poll that shows if the election was held today, Governor Newsom would survive the looming recall against him. Perhaps anger over the French Laundry scandal has subsided.

The poll of 1,174 likely voters was conducted March 14-23, 2021 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.9% with a confidence level of 95%. The poll clearly reaffirms California's reputation as progressive in their political attitudes.

Below are some of the poll questions and the results:

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?

54% approve  
36% disapprove  
10% don't know

There is an effort under way to remove Governor Gavin Newsom from office in a recall election. If a special election to recall Governor Newsom were held today, would you vote yes to remove Newsom as governor or no to keep Newsom as governor?

40% yes, remove Newsom  
56% no, keep Newsom  
5% don't know

Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not?

61% YES  
25% - yes, serious recession  
24% - yes, moderate recession  
10% - yes, mild recession  
2% - yes, don't know  
34% NO, not in an economic recession  
5% don't know

Recently, the California legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a \$7.6 billion COVID relief package that includes a one-time \$600 payment to qualifying lower-income Californians, as well as \$2.1 billion in immediate relief for small businesses, and over \$400 million in stipends for state subsidized child care and preschool. Do you favor or oppose this relief package?

75% favor  
20% oppose  
5% don't know

When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?

30% much more  
27% somewhat more  
36% about the right amount  
4% less than you should  
3% don't know

In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more [1] I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services OR [2] I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

- 52% higher taxes and more services
- 44% lower taxes and fewer services
- 4% don't know

Does the cost of your housing make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now? "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?")

- 43% YES
  - 8% - yes, elsewhere in California
  - 33% - yes, outside the state
  - 2% - yes, other
- 56% NO
- 1% don't know

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

- 65% approve
- 30% disapprove
- 5% don't know

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job?

- 42% approve
- 51% disapprove
- 6% don't know

As you may know, in response to the coronavirus outbreak Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a bill that would provide \$1.9 trillion dollars in economic aid to businesses, individuals, and state and local governments. All in all, do you favor or oppose this bill?

- 73% favor
- 25% oppose
- 2% don't know

Which comes closer to your view about where the US stands in the coronavirus outbreak: [1] the worst is behind us OR [2] the worst is yet to come?

- 74% the worst is behind us
- 21% the worst is yet to come
- 4% don't know

Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California?

- 66% favor
- 31% oppose
- 3% don't know

## Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 4/22/2021	AS OF 3/18/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	253,275	251,611
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	4,910	4,810
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	8	19
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	3,578,578	3,428,287
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	10,511	13,998
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	110 *	113 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	22	28
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	245,666 *	243,910 *

\* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

## Where Orange County Ranks [as of 4/22/2021]

LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	3,624,838	59,992
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	1,189,530	23,729
<b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>	<b>3,228,519</b>	<b>253,275</b>	<b>4,910</b>
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	290,049	4,572
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	286,299	4,388
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	275,632	3,681



## Snowpack Again Disappoints

The Department of Water Resources conducted their April 1<sup>st</sup> measurement of the California snowpack and reported that water content is just 59% of average for this time of year. This is down from 61% as measured on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is however an improvement from the 53% measurement from April 1, 2020. The next snowpack measurement will take place April 29, 2021.

## Waning La Niña Still Leaves It's Mark

As the current La Niña weakens, it still shoulders much of the blame for California's recent parched conditions. The change in weather patterns caused by La Niña shifted plentiful amounts of rain from the Golden State to Oregon and Washington. Another interesting fact about the current La Niña is the effect on worldwide temperatures. This March the world's temperatures dropped to 1/100 of a degree below the last 30 year world temperature average. The dropping temperatures have been a lagging effect of this La Niña.

## ENSO METER

