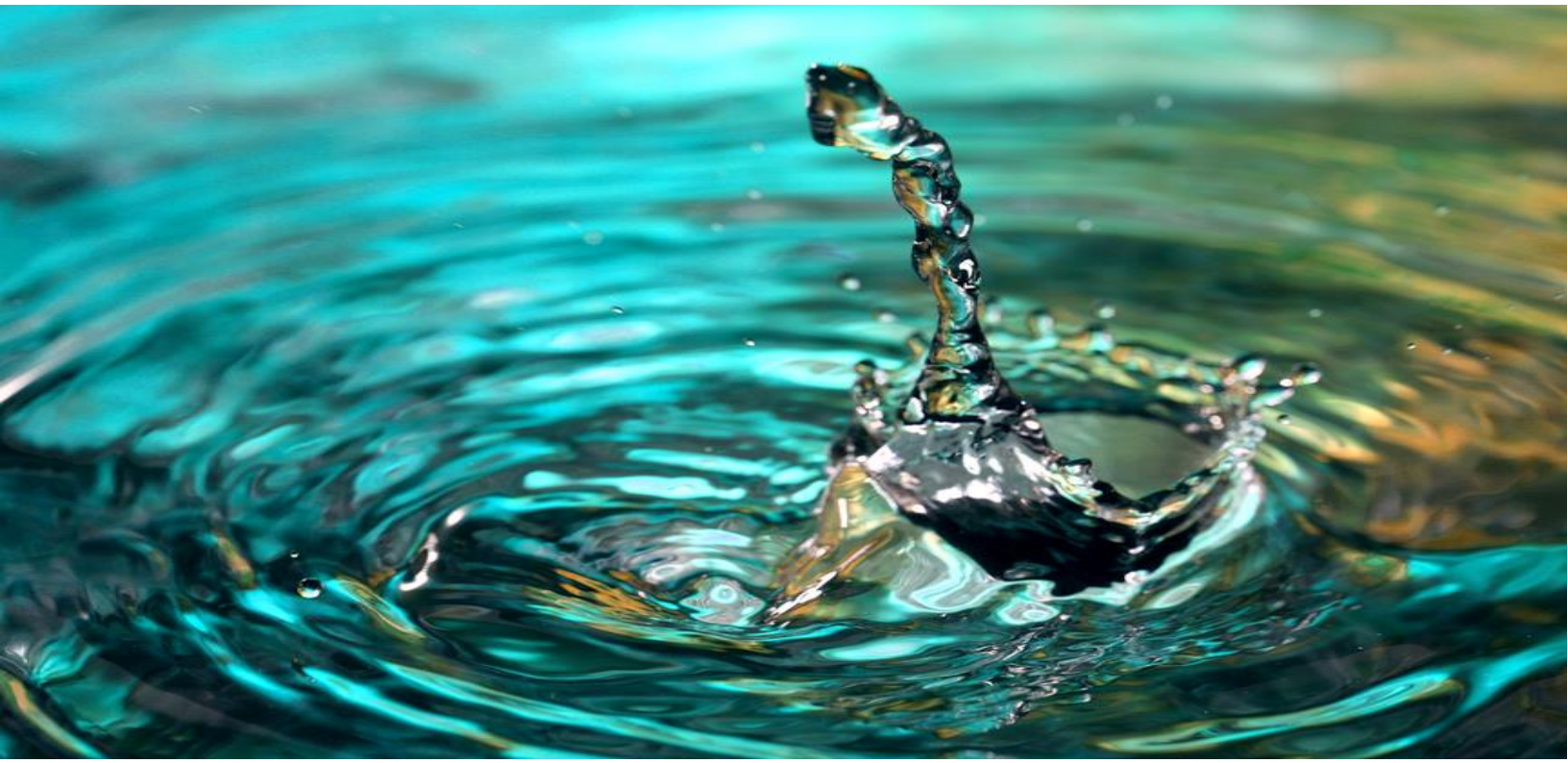


2018 Fresno State-Friant Water Authority Valley Water Attitudes Survey



Fresno State | Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

In cooperaton with Friant Water Authority and the California Water Institute

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INTRODUCTION

The Institute for Leadership and Public Policy conducted a survey of likely voters in the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) on water issues. The survey was done in cooperation with Friant Water Authority and the California Water Institute and is intended to be the start of an ongoing collaboration between these organizations to examine current and future water issues in the Valley.

The survey sampled 486 likely voters from October 9-15, 2018 in the San Joaquin Valley, which includes the following eight counties: Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin. Respondents were asked about their attitudes toward the importance of water to the region, threats to the water supply, and their support for Proposition 3, an \$8.9 billion water bond on the November 2018 ballot. We anticipate that this will be the first of many surveys that query residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in the Valley on water issues.

Dr. Jeff Cummins
Co-Director, Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked two questions about the importance of water to the San Joaquin Valley. The results showed consistently high recognition that water is an important resource for the region. On a question about the importance of water to the future of jobs and services in their community (Table 1), 90 percent of respondents said that it is “very important” and 8 percent said “somewhat important”. Across all demographic categories except one, 90 percent or more of respondents indicated that water is important to jobs and services in their community. The one exception was independent and third-party likely voters where those indicating that water is very important dropped to 81 percent. Another question asked whether water is as important to the San Joaquin Valley as high technology is to the Silicon Valley (Table 2). Overall, 94 percent of respondents agreed that water is as important to the San Joaquin Valley as high technology is to Silicon Valley. This sentiment was similar across all likely voter groups.

Table 1. How important do you think water is to the future of the jobs and services in your community?

	All	Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Very important	90%	90	91	91	89	91	91	88	90	90	96	81
Somewhat important	8	7	9	9	11	6	6	12	10	10	4	12
Not too important	2	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	7

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 2. Do you think that water is important to the overall health of the San Joaquin Valley as high technology is to the Silicon Valley?

	All	Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Yes	94%	93	96	96	95	93	94	96	96	95	96	91
No	4	5	2	2	2	5	4	2	3	3	1	9
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	1

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The survey also asked respondents what they believe is the greatest threat to water in the San Joaquin Valley (Table 3). Drought was reported as the greatest threat to water (38 percent), followed by policies made from Sacramento (23 percent), lack of water storage (17 percent), over pumping of groundwater (9 percent), policies made from Washington D.C. (6 percent), and damaged water infrastructure and canals (5 percent). There are some differences among different age groups. While drought was the most commonly cited threat among the three different age groups, respondents in the youngest age category (18-34) identified lack of water storage (21 percent) as the second greatest threat to water in the region. Damaged water infrastructure and canals came in fourth for the youngest category, while it was sixth for the two older age groups.

The ranking of threats to water also varies by race and ethnicity. Latino likely voters were more likely to identify lack of water storage (26 percent) as the second largest threat to water rather than policies made from Sacramento (29 percent for whites and 19 percent for non-white, non-Latinos). A higher percentage (14 percent) of independent and third-party respondents than white (6 percent) or Latino (3 percent) respondents indicated that policy made from Washington D.C. is the greatest threat to water in the Valley.

Regarding party affiliation, Democrats (44 percent) and independent/third party (49 percent) likely voters were the most likely to say that drought is the greatest threat to water, while Republicans identified drought as the second greatest threat (26 percent). For Republican respondents, the greatest threat is policies made from Sacramento, which is also the second greatest threat for independent/third party likely voters. Lack of water storage is the second largest threat for Democrats (15 percent)

Table 3. What do you believe is the greatest threat to water in the San Joaquin Valley?

	All	Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Drought	38%	36	39	36	36	39	37	40	35	44	26	49
Policies made from Sacramento	23	24	22	15	28	24	29	11	19	13	36	18
Lack of water storage	17	18	15	21	17	15	13	26	15	15	21	13
Over pumping of groundwater	9	13	5	10	8	9	9	8	9	12	8	6
Policies made from Washington D.C.	6	5	6	4	4	7	6	3	14	6	6	5
Damaged water infrastructure/canals	5	2	8	11	4	4	4	8	6	6	4	7
Other	2	1	4	3	2	2	2	4	3	5	0	1

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Another question on the survey asked how important it is to have federal, state, and local government representatives that fight for Valley-friendly water policy (Table 4). Overall, 84 percent of respondents said that it was “very important” and 14 percent indicated it was “somewhat important.” More than 80 percent of respondents across different demographic groups reported that it was very important to have representatives that will fight for Valley-friendly water policy. The one exception where the level of importance dropped below 80 percent is independent and third-party likely voters; 71 percent indicated that it is very important to have representatives fight for favorable water policy for the region.

Table 4. How important do you think it is to have federal, state and local government representatives who will fight for Valley-friendly water policy including more water storage and dams, funding to fix canals, and Delta water supply reliability?

	All	Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Very important	84%	82	86	82	84	85	85	82	87	84	91	71
Somewhat important	14	14	14	17	16	12	12	18	13	16	9	20
Not too important	2	4	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	9

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

In terms of what can be done to protect water in the San Joaquin Valley, building more water storage and dams received the most support (Table 5). Thirty-eight percent of likely voters said that more water storage should be built. Fixing damaged water infrastructure and canals came in second at 22 percent, followed by increasing water conservation (17 percent), restoring Delta water reliability (15 percent), and preventing over pumping of groundwater (6 percent). Support for different options varies substantially by different voter characteristics. Male likely voters are more supportive of building more water storage than female likely voters (45 percent to 32 percent), while females are more supportive of fixing damaged water infrastructure and canals. Among different age groups, likely voters whose age is 18-34 reported that fixing water infrastructure is the most important thing for protecting water in the Valley.

With regard to racial and ethnic groups, building more water storage received the most support among white (41 percent) and Latino likely voters (33 percent), while fixing damaged water infrastructure and canals ranked first among non-white, non-Latino respondents (31 percent). There are also some significant differences among those affiliated with different parties. The top choice for Democrats and independent/third party likely voters is fixing damaged water infrastructure and canals (31 percent and 32 percent, respectively), while a strong majority of Republicans favor building more water storage (60 percent). Increasing water conservation ranked second for Democrats (23 percent) and independent/third-party respondents (25 percent), while restoring Delta water reliability came in second for Republicans (17 percent).

Table 5. What do you believe is the most important thing that can be done to protect water in the San Joaquin Valley?

	All	Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Build more water storage	38%	45	32	28	36	43	41	33	32	22	60	25
Fix damaged water infrastructure/canals	22	17	27	30	24	18	20	24	39	31	9	32
Increase water conservation	17	16	17	20	13	18	19	13	13	23	6	25
Restore Delta water reliability	15	15	16	12	17	16	15	17	9	15	17	13
Prevent over pumping of groundwater	6	6	5	8	8	3	4	9	4	6	6	4
Other	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	1

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

On the November 6, 2018 ballot, voters will get a chance to weigh in on Proposition 3, which is an \$8.9 billion water bond that will help fund various water and environmental projects throughout the state. One of these projects includes \$750 million to repair the damage to the Friant-Kern canal, which distributes water to residents, businesses, and the agricultural industry in the San Joaquin Valley. Survey respondents were asked how they would vote on the measure if the election were held today (Table 6). A strong majority of likely voters, 64 percent, indicated that they would support Proposition 3. Ten percent said that they would not vote for it, while 26 percent of respondents did not know which way they were going to vote. There is a small difference in the level of support for the bond among respondents from the North San Joaquin Valley and the South San Joaquin Valley. Sixty-eight percent of respondents from the North Valley support it, while 62 percent of likely voters in the South Valley do.

Somewhat surprisingly there are not many differences in support for Proposition 3 among different demographic groups. Female likely voters are slightly more supportive of Proposition 3 than males (66 percent to 62 percent), while those in the oldest age category, 55 and above, are the least supportive of the measure (60 percent). There are larger differences among ethnic and racial groups, but all are still in favor of the bond. Latinos and non-white, non-Latinos are the most supportive of the bond (74 percent and 80 percent, respectively), while whites are the least supportive at 59 percent. In terms of party affiliation, Democrats favor the measure by a 6-point margin over Republicans (69 percent to 63 percent). Independents and third-party respondents are the least supportive with 57 percent who would vote in favor of it.

Table 6. Proposition 3 will appear on the November 6, 2018, statewide ballot and will authorize the state to issue an \$8.9 billion bond to fund projects for Water Supply and Quality, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Water Conveyance, and Groundwater Sustainability and Storage. If the election were held today, how would you vote on Proposition 3?

	All	Region		Gender		Age			Race/Ethnicity			Party Affiliation		
		No	So	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Latino	Other	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Yes	64%	68	62	62	66	69	69	60	59	74	80	69	63	57
No	10	11	9	12	7	5	7	13	12	5	4	8	6	19
Don't know	26	22	29	25	27	26	24	27	30	21	17	23	30	24

Note: For race and ethnicity, other includes blacks and Asians. For party affiliation, Ind/Other includes declined to state (Independents) and those affiliated with a third party. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. For region, North Valley represents respondents residing in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera counties. South Valley is respondents residing in Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern counties.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

Likely Voters, San Joaquin Valley
N=486, +/- 4.4% Margin of Error

1. How important do you think water is to the future of the jobs and services in your community?

- 90% Very important
- 8 Somewhat important
- 2 Not too important

[ROTATED QUESTIONS #2-6]

2. Do you think that water is as important to the overall health of the San Joaquin Valley as high technology is to the Silicon Valley?

- 94% Yes
- 4 No
- 2 Don't Know

3. What do you believe is the greatest threat to water in the San Joaquin Valley?

- 38% Drought
- 23 Policies made in Sacramento that don't reflect the importance of the Valley
- 17 Lack of water storage such as reservoirs
- 9 Over pumping of groundwater
- 6 Policies made in Washington D.C. that don't reflect the importance of the Valley
- 5 Damaged water infrastructure and canals used to move water where it needs to go
- 2 Other

4. How important do you think it is to have federal, state and local government representatives who will fight for Valley-friendly water policy including more water storage and dams, funding to fix canals, and Delta water supply reliability?

- 84% Very important
- 14 Somewhat important
- 2 Not too important

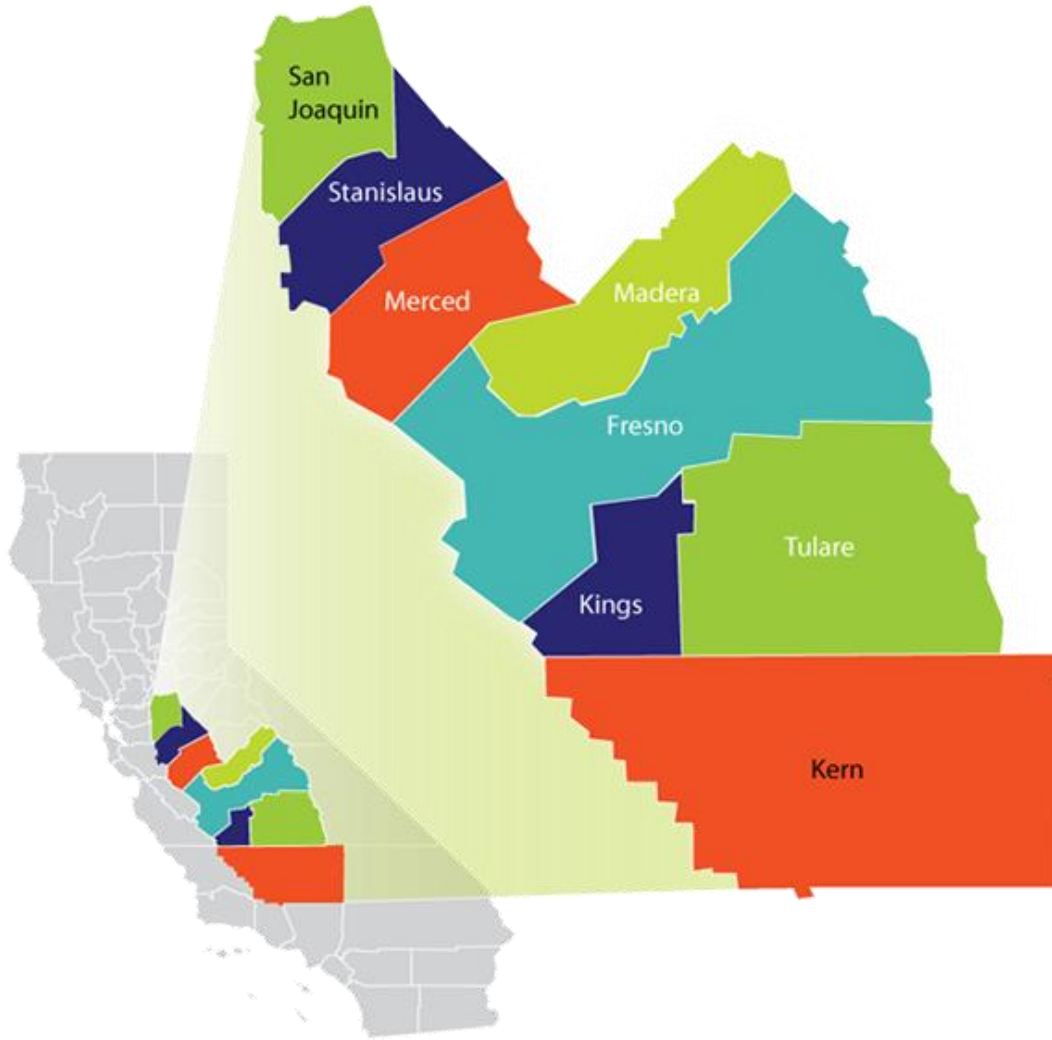
5. What do you believe is the most important thing that can be done to protect water in the San Joaquin Valley?

- 38% Build more water storage and dams
- 22 Fix damaged water infrastructure and canals
- 17 Increase water conservation
- 15 Restore reliability of Delta water supply
- 6 Prevent over pumping of groundwater
- 2 Other

6. Proposition 3 will appear on the November 6, 2018, statewide ballot and will authorize the state to issue an \$8.9 billion bond to fund projects for Water Supply and Quality, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Water Conveyance, and Groundwater Sustainability and Storage. If the election were held today, how would you vote on Proposition 3?

64%	Yes
10	No
26	Don't know

MAP OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



Map Credit: Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

METHODOLOGY OF SURVEY

The findings in this report are based on a survey of an online panel of registered voters from the San Joaquin Valley, which includes eight counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. A total of 503 registered voters completed interviews in English, however results presented in this report are limited to the 486 respondents who answered all questions in the survey, were 18 years of age or over, registered to vote, identified as likely voters, and lived in one of the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley. All respondents completed the survey online. Data was collected by SoapBox sample, which manages an online panel via ISA Corp. Interviewing took place from October 9-15, 2018.

Survey respondents are part of a proprietary panel created by SoapBox Sample and were invited to take the survey via email request. A total of 22,396 invites were sent out. Based on the American Association for Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) Standard Definitions, Version 4 (web) (2016), we had a response rate of 4.25% (RR2). The final sample was weighted by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and party registration to match the characteristics of the likely voter population in the San Joaquin Valley for the 2018 general election. The Institute used likely voter data from Political Data, Inc. (18G5) to calculate benchmarks for age, gender, race/ethnicity and party registration. The margin of error for the survey is ± 4.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the weighted sample of 486 adults. That is, we are 95 percent confident the results will reflect the population's responses ± 4.4 percentage points, if all likely voters in the San Joaquin Valley were interviewed. There are other possible sources of error beyond sampling variability, such as question wording, question sequencing, and survey timing. Additional information about our methodology is available upon request from Dr. Lisa Bryant at lbryant@mail.fresnostate.edu or 559.278.7612.

About the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

Under the College of Social Sciences, the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy is dedicated to conducting policy-relevant research and offering student training and career development to inspire public leadership in the San Joaquin Valley. Financial support for the Institute has been provided by a generous gift from PG&E and Chevron.

For more information, contact Dr. Jeff Cummins at 559.278.6693, Co-Director of the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy or Dr. Lisa Bryant, Survey Director, at 559.278.7612.