



April 19, 2021

President Bob Kuhn and the Board of Directors
Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Via email to naguirre@tvmwd.com and mlitchfield@tvmwd.com

RE: Public Opinion Poll Results – TVMWD Service Area

Dear President Kuhn and Members of the Board:

The Building Industry Association of Southern California Baldy View Chapter (BIA) recently contracted [Global Strategy Group](#), a nationally respected public opinion polling company based in Washington DC, to conduct a public opinion poll within the Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) service area. As you know, our commitment to meeting the surging demand for housing in Southern California includes significant efforts to support water supply reliability projects, as homes cannot be built unless there are adequate water supplies to meet new demand created by the homes.

The telephone poll of 800 registered voters was conducted between March 9 and March 16, 2021. Care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of the sample matched the registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including race, gender, age, education, and region. The poll's margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.5%.

Here is a summary of some of the main findings of the poll:

Having Enough Water is Ratepayers' Highest Concern

The poll asked respondents to rank over 10 priorities indicating what should be the Board's top priority or one of its major priorities. The graph below shows what Three Valley's customers think should be your top five priorities. Ensuring the District has safe, clean water is their most cited top concern, followed by ensuring reliable water, accessible water and affordable water. Ratepayers also wanted you to prevent shortages. All these items polled over 53% as a Top Concern and over 91% as a combined high concern.

The poll also found that less than half (47%) believe that making sure projects are environmentally friendly should be your top concern, demonstrating that ratepayers do want you to evaluate options and consider their impact on the environment, but to also prioritize ensuring that supply options are available.

	Top Concern	Major Concern	Total High Concern
Ensuring that water is safe and clean	72%	26%	98%
Providing reliable water service	63%	32%	95%
Preventing water shortages	60%	35%	95%
Ensuring underserved communities have equal access to clean, safe and affordable water	58%	33%	91%
Providing affordable water service	53%	42%	95%

This ranking of priorities validates that your customers support the Three Valleys Board staying focused on its core mission of enhancing local water supplies in a reliable and cost-effective manner.

Ratepayers Largely Reject the “Hard Environmentalist” Viewpoint

The poll asked respondents to self-identify with one of three statements, one reflecting a “hard environmentalist” viewpoint, one a “hard economic” viewpoint, and one a balanced viewpoint. Nearly half (48%) self-identified as “balanced.” Together with those self-identifying as “hard economic” (24%), they represent 72% of the District’s ratepayers. Only 20% self-identified as “hard environmentalist.”

“Balanced” 48%: We should allow smart economic development that balances the need for local economic benefits and its environmental impact. We shouldn’t be blocking development without conducting the proper scientific research to measure and assess the environmental impact of each project.

“Hard-Line Economic” (24%): We need to prioritize economic development and push for greater economic growth for our region. Hard line environmental regulations have created too much red tape and blocked economic growth in our region.

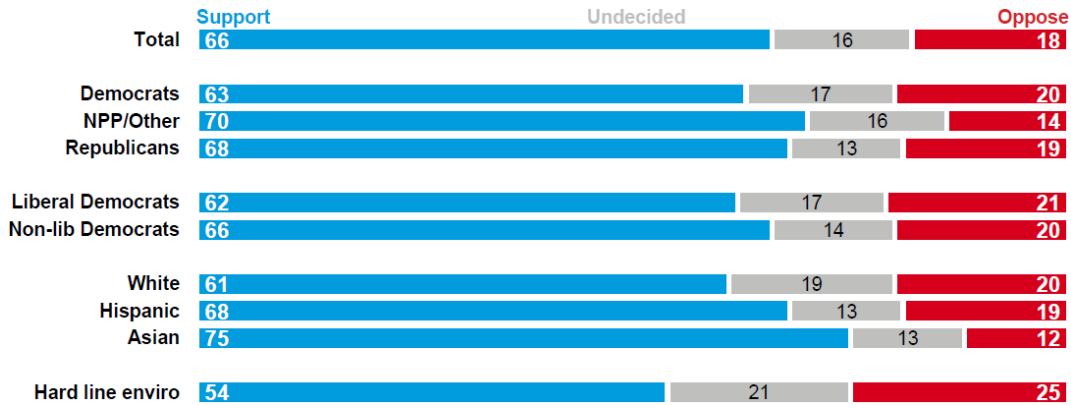
“Hard-Line Environmentalist” (20%) We have to strictly manage development and prioritize stronger environmental laws. Our environment is fragile, and too much economic development will cause environmental harm.

By More than 3-to-1, Ratepayers Support Continuing the Study Even “Hard-Line Environmentalists” Support Continuation by More than 2-to-1

Even the minority (20%) who self-identified as hard-line environmentalists support continuing the study by more than two-to-one (54% support/25% oppose). [Support for continuing the study is strong across every political persuasion and race – overall, 66% support continuing the study versus 18% who do not.](#)

As you may know, the Three Valleys Municipal Water district board is a public agency whose mission is to supply affordable and reliable water to your local utility or the company that provides water to your home. This district board approved conducting a comprehensive scientific study of a water aquifer underneath the

Mojave Desert to determine its viability as a new water resource for the district. The study would also determine if such a project would have any adverse effects on the desert ecosystem, specifically the desert springs. **Do you support or oppose continuing to conduct the water project study?**



Support for the Study is Strong in Every Division

When answers to the question above are broken out by Division, [strong support for continuing the study is found in all seven of TVMWD’s electoral Divisions.](#) Opposition to the study never reaches 25% in any of the Divisions.



By More than a 2-1 Margin, Ratepayers will Vote for Candidates Who Support Water Supply Reliability Over Candidates Who Support Stronger Environmental Protections

Finally, we asked respondents to look ahead to the next election and consider two candidates, one who “supports increased access to clean and affordable water” or one who “supports stronger environmental laws.” The results show that Directors who support water supply reliability will fare better at the polls.

Who are you more likely to vote for:	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	Combined
A candidate who supports increased access to clean, affordable water	37%	25%	62%
A candidate who supports stronger environmental laws	12%	14%	26%

Conclusion

The poll was designed to provide an accurate analysis of the current thinking of the people you serve. What it shows – overwhelmingly – is that the vast majority of your constituents across all Divisions, demographics and party affiliations support your continued commitment to the Bonanza Spring study and your continued focus on securing the region’s water supply for today and the future. It shows that a strong majority are much more likely to vote for a Director who supports the Study as part of a thorough analysis of potential new water sources, while a Director who does not take this position would be much less likely to fare well. The majority’s view is one shared by the BIA and the other members of the San Gabriel Valley Coalition for a Secure Water Future.

We urge you to not only pay attention to what the poll shows, but to also to support your ratepayers by voting in support of continuation of the Bonanza Spring study.

We trust you found this information useful. What I have shared is representative of the overall survey results but reflects only a portion of them. If you are interested in a more complete briefing on the survey results we would be happy to meet with you live or via Zoom. You can call me on my cell at 909/641-4630 or my email, carlos@biabuild.com to arrange a briefing.

Sincerely,



Carlos Rodriguez, Executive Officer
BIA Baldy View Chapter

CC:

Ray Baca, Engineering Contractors Association
John Hakel, Rebuild SoCal Partnership
Tracy Hernandez, LA County BizFed
Bill Manis, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
Jon Preciado, Southern California District Council of Laborers
Mike Lewis, CA Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality
Ron Sikorski, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 12