

## Memorandum

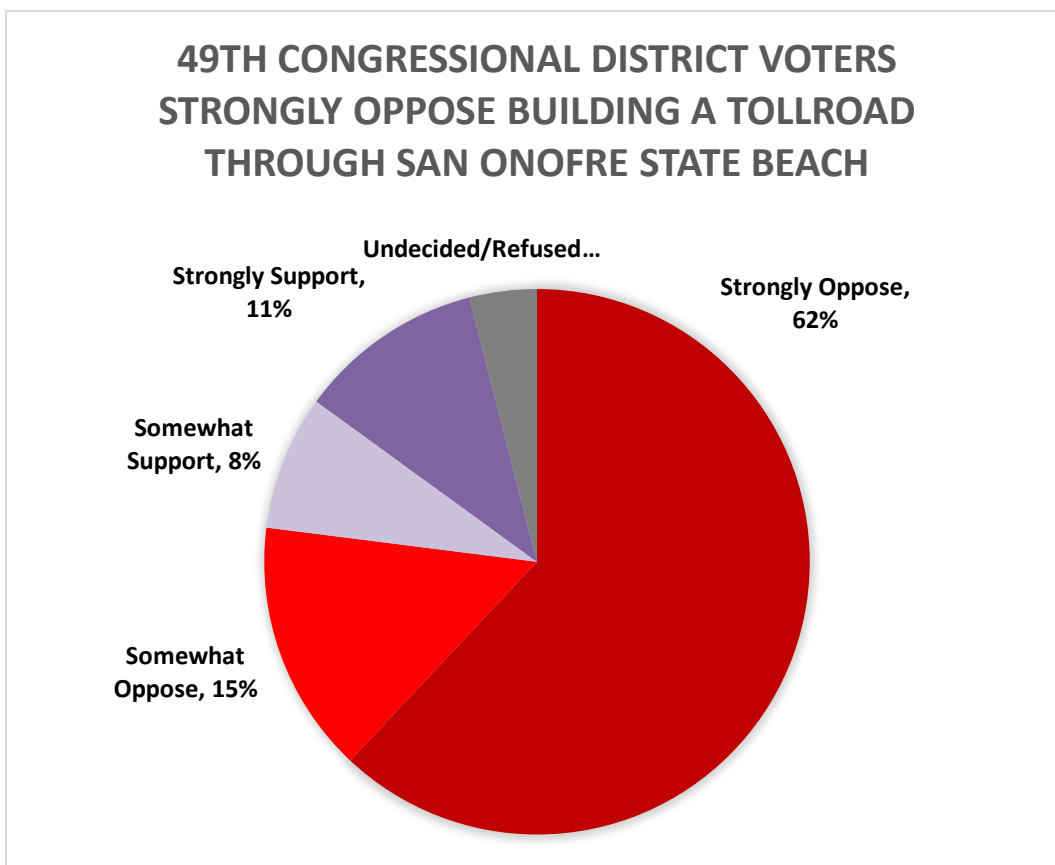
**From:** Jan R van Lohuizen

**Date:** 12/18/2017

**Re:** Voters continue to strongly oppose building a toll road through San Onofre State Beach

Voter Surveys and Consulting conducted a survey of voters in California's 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which includes portions of southern Orange County and northern San Diego County on public attitudes towards road construction in the area, including a proposed road in San Onofre State Beach.

The survey's principal finding shows that voters in California's 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District continue to strongly oppose building a toll road through San Onofre State Beach. Only 19% supported the proposal while 77% opposed it.



We initially asked if voters had heard of a proposal “to build a toll road through a state park to connect the 241 toll road with I-5 just south of San Clemente”, 44% said they had heard of it while 55% said they had not. Among the people who were aware of the proposal 65% said they were opposed to this plan, while only 28% said they supported it.

We then asked the entire sample two general questions about building toll roads through state parks. The survey found that opposition to toll roads in state parks is broadly based and not limited to the 241 extension through San Onofre State Beach. For instance, 74% said they were opposed to the general idea:

In general, do you support or do you oppose construction of toll roads through state parks?						
	Overall	San Clemente	San Diego	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<b>Strongly support</b>	11	8	9	19	4	7
<b>Somewhat support</b>	8	11	7	13	3	10
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	16	12	16	13	19	14
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	58	61	61	45	71	62

Further, when we asked which was more important between building toll roads to relieve congestion and protecting state parks and beaches, voters chose protection of state parks and beaches by a very wide margin:

Of the following two which is more important to you (ROTATE)						
	Overall	San Clemente	San Diego	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<b>To build additional toll roads to help relieve congestion</b>	16	17	14	21	7	20
<b>Or</b>						
<b>To protect state parks and beaches so they continue to be available for public use</b>	77	70	80	64	89	76

As was the case with the specific question about extending the 241 through San Onofre State Beach, we found a broad consensus on these questions across regional and demographic groups. Focusing on the question immediately above, for instance, 64% of Republicans preferred protection of parks and beaches, compared to 89% of Democrats and 76% of Independents.

When we gave voters more detail about the proposed toll road through San Onofre State Beach, only 19% supported the proposal while 77% opposed it. The entire sample was asked this question:

Let me give you more detail on one of the proposals, the toll road through the state park. It would extend the 241 toll road from Rancho Margarita in Orange County to Interstate 5 in northern San Diego County just below San Clemente. The toll road would go through San Onofre State Park causing closure of 60% of the park. The toll road would cost \$1.7 billion and be paid for by charging a toll to toll road users. Based on this description, do you support or oppose this proposal?

	Overall	San Clemente	San Diego	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<b>Strongly support</b>	11	16	9	21	4	7
<b>Somewhat support</b>	8	6	7	10	3	11
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	15	8	16	12	16	16
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	62	65	63	53	74	62

Information about the position of the California Coastal Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Regional Water Quality Control Board based on potential environmental damage proved to be another important consideration:

Approval of the toll road just described was turned down by the California Coastal Commission, the US Department of Commerce under President George W. Bush and the Regional Water Quality Board because of the environmental damage the road could cause. In view of this information please tell me whether you support or oppose a toll road through the state park?

	Overall	San Clemente	San Diego	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<b>Strongly support</b>	10	20	8	20	2	7
<b>Somewhat support</b>	9	5	7	8	5	15
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	11	9	12	14	8	10
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	67	65	70	56	82	67

The same holds true for a question getting voter reaction to efforts to invalidate a settlement agreement that protects San Onofre State Beach. When informed that Congressman Issa might try to invalidate that settlement agreement the reaction was negative by a very large margin, which held across different voter groups. Overall, 73% of voters in the 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District opposed Congressman Issa taking this action while 20% supported this action. The table below details the question wording and the results for different partisan affiliations and geographies:

<b>Specifically, Congressman Darrell Issa supports building the toll road through the state park and says he may try to invalidate the settlement agreement that protects the state park. Do you support Congressman Issa taking this action or oppose Congressman Issa taking this action?</b>						
	Overall	San Clemente	San Diego	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<b>Strongly support</b>	13	25	10	24	1	12
<b>Somewhat support</b>	7	7	5	7	3	10
<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	9	10	9	9	8	9
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	64	49	70	48	84	64

Findings are based on a telephone survey of 400 likely voters in the 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; in addition, 100 interviews were conducted with voters residing in San Clemente. The interviews were conducted between 10/1 and 10/5/2017. One half of the interviews were conducted on cellphones. The margin of error associated with the overall results is +/- 4.9%.

Voter / Consumer Research  
 CA 49<sup>th</sup> CD  
 VSC17023  
 Sample: 404 + 100 over in San Clemente  
 10/1-10/5/2017

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ with VSC. We're a national survey research company doing a public opinion survey in your area. Could I please speak with the youngest (male / female) available now. This person must be registered to vote at this address.

Q01. Of the following list of issues in your part of (COUNTY) which are the most important to you? (RANDOMIZE, RECORD UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

	CA49	San C	San D
1 Education	28	28	28
2 Jobs and the economy	21	20	22
3 Local government taxes and spending	26	29	25
4 Crime	19	22	20
5 Traffic congestion	29	33	31
6 The environment	23	25	23
7 The cost of housing	32	24	35
8 Other (DNR)	4	2	4
9 None (DNR)	1	1	1
10 All (DNR)	4	4	4
11 Don't know (DNR)	-	-	-
12 Refused (DNR)	1	2	1

Q02. A number of proposals have been discussed over the years to relieve traffic congestion by building additional toll roads or toll lanes in southern Orange and northern San Diego counties. One of the proposals was to build a toll road through a state park to connect the 241 toll road with I-5 just south of San Clemente. Have you heard about this plan or had you not heard about this plan?

1 Heard	44	91	30
2 Not heard	55	9	69
3 Don't know (DNR)	1	-	1
4 Refused (DNR)	-	-	-

Q03. (IF HEARD) And based on what you've heard, do you support this plan or do you oppose it? (IF ANSWERED ASK) And is that strongly support / oppose or just somewhat support / oppose?

<b>Support</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>70</b>
1 Strongly support	19	20	15
2 Somewhat support	10	4	13
3 Somewhat oppose	10	8	9
4 Strongly oppose	55	65	61
5 Don't know (DNR)	6	4	1
6 Refused (DNR)	1	1	1

Q04. In general, do you support or do you oppose construction of toll roads through state parks? (PROMPT) And do you strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat (support / oppose)?

	CA49	San C	San D
<b>Support</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>77</b>
1 Strongly support	11	8	9
2 Somewhat support	8	11	7
3 Somewhat oppose	16	12	16
4 Strongly oppose	58	61	61
5 Don't know (DNR)	6	7	7
6 Refused (DNR)	1	1	*

Q05. Of the following two which is more important to you (ROTATE)

1 To build additional toll roads to help relieve traffic congestion / or /	16	17	14
2 To protect state parks and beaches so they continue to be available for public use	77	70	80
3 Neither / other (DNR)	6	9	5
4 Don't know (DNR)	2	3	2
5 Refused (DNR)	*	2	-

Q06. Let me give you more detail on one of the proposals, the toll road through the state park. It would extend the 241 toll road from Rancho Margarita in Orange County to Interstate 5 in northern San Diego County just below San Clemente. The toll road would go through San Onofre State Park causing closure of 60% of the park. The toll road would cost \$1.7 billion and be paid for by charging a toll to toll road users. Based on this description, do you support or oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat (support / oppose)?

<b>Support</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>
1 Strongly support	11	16	9
2 Somewhat support	8	6	7
3 Somewhat oppose	15	8	16
4 Strongly oppose	62	65	63
5 Don't know (DNR)	3	3	4
6 Refused (DNR)	1	1	1

Q07. Approval of the toll road just described was turned down by the California Coastal Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce under President George W. Bush, and the Regional Water Quality Board because of the environmental damage the road could cause. In view of this information, please tell me whether you support or oppose building a toll road through the state park? And do you strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat (support / oppose)?

<b>Support</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>82</b>
1 Strongly support	10	20	8
2 Somewhat support	9	5	7
3 Somewhat oppose	11	9	12
4 Strongly oppose	67	65	70
5 Don't know (DNR)	2	1	2
6 Refused (DNR)	1	-	*