

The 2006 Sacramento State Annual Survey of the Region

Executive Summary

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September 2006

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Sponsors: College of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2006 Sacramento State Annual Survey of the Region is our fifth annual poll. The objective of this study is to assess the opinions of residents in the Sacramento region regarding their overall quality of life and important local, state, and national issues. For the purposes of this project, the Sacramento region includes Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, and El Dorado counties¹. The 2006 survey covers the following significant issues:

- Major concerns in the region, including traffic congestion, affordable housing and health care, public education, air-pollution, and population growth
- Overall quality of life and future economic conditions in the region
- Affordable housing
- Flood awareness and protection in the region
- New arena and the Sacramento Kings
- Governor Schwarzenegger and the Governor's race in 2006
- National security and civil liberties
- The war in Iraq

This study is based on a computer-assisted telephone interview of 1112 randomly selected adult residents age 18 or over in the Sacramento region. More than 20 students conducted the phone interviews in English and Spanish from February 4 to March 5, 2006, at the Institute for Social Research, California State University, Sacramento. The sample is representative of the four counties in the Sacramento region and is comparable to the 2000 U.S. Census (68% residents in the Census vs. 65.4% in the sample in Sacramento County, 14% in the Census vs. 16.3% in the sample in Placer County, 9% in the Census vs. 8.2% in the sample in Yolo County; and 9% in the Census vs. 10.1% in the sample in El Dorado County). The margin of error for the survey is approximately ± 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The error for group comparisons in the Sacramento region would be higher than ± 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

This research has compared the Sacramento region findings with those from other California regions, the state, and the nation. Data regarding the state and other California regions come from the Public Policy Institute of California's Statewide Surveys (PPIC). Nationwide data are from Gallup polls. Findings from this survey are also compared to the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 annual surveys in the Sacramento region. The following is the executive summary.

¹ This project has been funded by the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS) at California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State), and California State University, Office of Community Service Learning. This study is directed by Dr. Amy Qiaoming Liu, professor of Sociology and project director, the Institute for Social Research, California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Liu is an expert in public opinion polls, and has conducted over 20 surveys in the past nine years. Dr. Joseph Sheley and Dr. Otis Scott have provided a great deal of support and advice for this study. For more information on the project and results about specific counties, political party affiliations, or household incomes in the Sacramento region, please contact Dr. Amy Q. Liu, Department of Sociology, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J. Street, Sacramento CA 95819-6005; 916-278-7572 (phone); 916-278-6281 (fax); amyliuus@yahoo.com.

Major Issues in the Sacramento Region

Sacramento has become one of the fastest-growing regions in California, as measured by its percentage gain of population. This tremendous growth has brought serious challenges to the community, including population growth, traffic congestion, lack of affordable housing, flood control issues, and public education.

Traffic congestion: A top problem since 2002

Sacramento region residents have some serious concerns regarding a wide range of issues, with traffic congestion on major roads topping the list. An overwhelming majority (94%) view traffic congestion as a problem, with 70 percent thinking it is a big problem and 24 percent considering it somewhat of a problem. Respondents felt traffic congestion is more problematic than affordable housing (51%), quality of public education (46%), population growth and development (45%), air pollution (42%), and affordable healthcare (41%). In fact, traffic congestion has consistently remained at the top of Sacramento region residents' list of concerns, although the level of concern has fluctuated slightly over the past five years (70% in 2006, 66% in 2005, 67% in 2004, 58% in 2003, and 73% in 2002, Liu, Hofer, and Sheley 2005). This is equal to the situation observed in the Bay Area where traffic has often been regarded as the number one concern (Bay Area Council Poll 2006). Please see the report by Liu, Hood, Matessino, Pyara, and Smith (2006) for more details.

Increased awareness of flood risk after declaration of a state of emergency for the levees

Sacramento's growth has been fueled largely by the relocation of a large number of Bay Area residents seeking more affordable housing. According to the 2006 Bay Area Council poll, 40 percent of Bay Area residents were thinking about moving away, and 70 percent claimed high housing costs as the major reason. To meet the increasing demand for affordable housing, a large number of new homes in the Sacramento region have been built. However, those new developments are often located in areas likely to flood. With the devastating flood in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency of the levees on Feb. 24th, 2006, many area residents have realized that flood protection is a very important regional issue. Before Feb. 24, a majority of the people in the region were not too concerned about flood control. Only 38 percent thought flood control was a big problem. Thirty-seven percent regarded it as somewhat a problem, 20 percent believed it is not a problem, and five percent didn't know. This perception has changed since Feb. 24. A majority of the residents (54%) are now very concerned about flood control and think it is a big problem. Thirty-two percent regard it as somewhat a problem. Only 11 percent believe it is not a problem, and three percent don't know. Flood control has become the second most important regional issue (54%) after traffic congestion (70%), and is considered more problematic than issues of affordable housing (51%), quality of public education (46%), population growth and development (45%), air pollution (42%), and affordable healthcare (41%).

Deep concerns about other growth related issues

Rapid population growth in the Sacramento region has also increased pressure on other growth related issues of concern to the public in the Sacramento region, including lack of affordable housing (51%), population growth and development (45%), and air pollution (42%).

Affordable housing

The majority of Sacramento residents (77%) believe lack of affordable housing is a problem, with 51 percent viewing it as a big problem and 26 percent considering it somewhat of a problem. For the fifth year in a row, the availability of affordable housing has remained one of the top concerns (51% in 2006, 48% in 2005, 50% in 2004, 51% in 2003, and 47% in 2002). Although this level of concern has fluctuated slightly over the past four years, it has consistently remained as the second or third top concern among region residents, who view it as more problematic than the quality of public education (46%), population growth and development (45%), air pollution (42%), or affordable healthcare (41%).

Population growth and development

Sacramento region residents are more concerned about population growth and development than other Californians (45% in the Sacramento region vs. 27% in California, Baldassare December 2005). Concern over this issue has increased five percent from the last few years except for 2003 (45% in 2006, 40% in 2005, 40% in 2004, 43% in 2003, and 39% in 2002). Perceptions regarding this issue don't differ significantly by race or income, but do vary by length of residence in the region, age, party affiliation, and county of residence. Residents who have lived in the region 20 or more years (53%) are much more likely to have serious concerns about population growth and development than those who have lived here 7 to 19 years (39%) or 6 years or less (30%). People who are age 65 and older (52%), Democrats (51%), and residents from El Dorado (49%), Sacramento (46%), and Yolo (45%) counties are more likely to regard population growth as a big problem. Please see the report by Liu, Hood, Matessino, Pyara, and Smith (2006) for more details.

Air pollution

Concerns about air pollution have remained quite consistent among region residents over the past five years (42% in 2006 and 2005, and 43% in 2004, 2003, and 2002). However, there are significant differences by political party affiliation, age, length of residence, and gender. Among the registered voters, Democrats (51%) are much more concerned about air pollution than Republicans (33%) or other voters (42%). Among the general public, middle aged residents (41 years old to 64, 47%), people who have lived in the region 7 or more years (44%), females

(44%), and residents from Yolo (46%) or Sacramento (44%) counties are more likely to view air pollution as a big problem than those residents 65 or older (35%), those 40 or younger (37%), people who have lived in the region 6 or fewer years (35%), males (38%), and residents from Placer (33%) or El Dorado (37%) counties.

Increased worry about affordable healthcare

Concern about affordable healthcare in the region has fluctuated over the past five years (41% in 2006, 38% in 2005, 46% in 2004, 49% in 2003, and 42% in 2002). Compared to last year (38% in 2005), residents in the Sacramento region are somewhat more likely to view affordable healthcare as a major problem (41%). However, this level of concern remains about the same as five years ago (42%).

Income, age, and political party affiliation significantly affect the public's perception of affordable healthcare. People with a household income less than \$75,000 per year (47% for less than \$30,000 and 48% for \$30,000 to less than \$75,000) and people who are under 65 (45% for those between 41 to 64 years old, and 42% for those 40 years or younger) express more concern over this issue. In addition, Republican voters (31%) are much less likely than Democrats (45%) and other voters (39%) to consider the availability of affordable healthcare as a big regional problem. Please see the report by Liu, Hood, Matessino, Pyara, and Smith (2006) for more details.

Quality of public education: A constant challenge

People in the Sacramento region are just as concerned over public education (46%) as they were in 2005 and 2004 (46%). Although this level of concern is slightly lower than that seen in 2003 (50%), it is much higher than that from 2002 (37%). Moreover, half of the middle aged residents (41 to 64 years old, 50%) and those people who have lived in the region for 20 or more years (50%) consider the quality of public education to be a big problem. However, compared to other Californians, residents of the Sacramento region are less worried about this issue (58% in California vs. 46% in the Sacramento region) (Baldassare April 2006). Please see the report by Liu, Hood, Matessino, Pyara, and Smith (2006) for more details.

Quality of Life in the Sacramento Region

Satisfied with life in the Sacramento region

Despite all these worries, the vast majority of Sacramento region residents (83%) are satisfied with the overall quality of life in the region, with 29 percent stating they are very satisfied and 54 percent indicating they are somewhat satisfied. This level of satisfaction is similar to the levels seen in 2005 (85%), 2004 (85%) and 2003 (84%), although it has decreased slightly from the high of 89 percent reported in 2002 (Liu and Sheley 2004; Liu, Hofer, and Sheley 2005).

Happy with the direction the Sacramento region is heading

Almost two thirds (60%) of the public in the Sacramento region also believe that things in the Sacramento region are going in the right direction. This perception does not differ significantly from that reported in 2005 (62%), 2004 (60%) or 2003 (58%). Despite a slight dip in 2003 (58%) from 2002 (65%), the Sacramento region has gradually recovered from the low of 58 percent observed in 2003 (Liu, Hofer, and Sheley 2005).

Residents in the Sacramento area are much happier with the direction the region is heading, compared to California as a whole (59% in Sacramento vs. 32% in California) (Baldassare February 2006). This positive regional outlook on the future contrasts sharply with that observed statewide (35% in 2005, 35% in 2004, 28% in 2003, and 56% in 2002) (Baldassare April 2005, Baldassare February 2004; Baldassare February 2003; Baldassare February 2002; Liu, Hofer, and Sheley 2005; ; Liu, Sheley, Scott, Carrigan, Edwards, Gonzales, Gutierrez, Hofer, Livingston, and Sumati 2005; Liu and Sheley 2004; Liu and Sheley 2003; Liu 2002).

Optimistic about future economic conditions in the region

Sixty percent of Sacramento region residents think that financially, during the next twelve months, the region will have good times. This is five percent lower than 2005 (65%), the same as 2004 (60%) and remains a dramatic increase from 2003 when only 32 percent thought the region would have good times in the next 12 months (Liu, Hofer, and Sheley 2005). Moreover, compared to residents in California as a whole (42%, Baldassare February 2006), the public in the Sacramento region (60%) are much more optimistic about their future economic conditions. For more details on this topic, please see the report by Liu, Hood, Matessino, Pyara, and Smith (2006).

Affordable Housing in the Sacramento Region

Sacramento has enjoyed one of the biggest five-year percentage gains in housing price in the nation even after the housing market slowdown since last summer: a 112 percent increase in the past 5 years, and the region is ranked 25th nationally (Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight 2006). The median home price was \$169,310 in March 2002 and jumped to \$376,010 in March 2006 (California Association of Realtors 2001 and 2006).

In sharp contrast, during the same period, increases in the average annual salary in the Sacramento region have not kept pace. In fact, many jobs in Sacramento County still pay an annual salary that qualifies as low income, including firefighters and school counselors. According to the federal government, a family is considered “low income” if, after adjusting for family size, the annual household income is below 80 percent of an area’s median income (AMI). Using this standard, a family of four with an annual household income of \$51,300 or less in Sacramento County in 2004 was regarded as low income. Housing is considered affordable by the federal government if it consumes no more than 30 percent of a household’s income, so that families will have enough money left over for other basic necessities such as food, child care,

health care, and transportation. Many working people in the region are struggling to support their families. This is especially the case for low income households that need to afford to buy or rent a place to live² (California Budget Report 2005; Sacramento Housing Alliance 2006).

To meet the housing needs of many working families, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted an affordable housing ordinance in December of 2004. The program requires developers of residential housing designate 15 percent of new units be affordable to individuals who earn less than \$13,000 or families who earn less than \$51,000 per year, who are designated as extremely low-income or low-income individuals and families³ (Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency 2006).

In response to this ordinance, the Building Industry Association filed a lawsuit against the County of Sacramento in an attempt to overturn it. Shortly thereafter, a coalition of low-income citizens and affordable-housing advocacy groups filed a motion seeking dismissal of the lawsuit. The attorney general's office later joined in that motion. Finally, in March 2006, the legal battle came to a halt after a judge threw out the building industry's lawsuit that had challenged Sacramento County's affordable-housing ordinance. However, the fight is not over yet. Builders may appeal and/or reopen the debate any time.

How many people in Sacramento County support the low-income housing ordinance? Do residents from the other three counties in the region also endorse this kind of affordable housing program? How many residents are seriously considering relocating due to the high housing cost?

More than 90 percent think low-income families deserve to live in their community

Nine in ten residents (91%) in the Sacramento region think families earning less than \$51,000 per year should have opportunities to live in their community. Only six percent oppose this position while three percent have not yet formed an opinion. This overwhelming support holds true regardless of whether they live in Sacramento (90%), Yolo (93%), Placer (90%), or El Dorado (95%) County, they are white (90%) or residents from other racial groups (93%), they are men (89%) or women (92%), or they own a home (94%) or not (90%). Please see the report by Liu and Sumati (2006) for more details.

Seventy percent support a portion of new homes as affordable housing

More than two-thirds of the residents (70%) in the Sacramento region think 15 percent of new homes built in their county should be priced as low-income, affordable housing. Twenty-two percent oppose the position while eight percent have not yet formed an opinion. Support for the

² For more information about this topic, please visit the website: <http://www.sachousingalliance.org/>.

³ For more detailed information about the ordinance, please visit the website: <http://www.shra.org/Content/Housing/HousingDevelopment/CountyAfford.htm>.

low-income, affordable housing program is strong among residents regardless of whether they live in Sacramento (69%), Yolo (74%), Placer (69%), or El Dorado (72%) counties.

However, support for this specific low-income affordable measure (70%) is much lower than the general principle that those families earning less than \$51,000 should be able to have a chance to live in their community (91%). Moreover, endorsement for this specific low-income affordable ordinance also varies a great deal more among the registered voters. Democrats (82%) support this program more than other voters (66%), which in turn show more support than Republicans (57%). Please see the report by Liu and Sumati (2006) for more details.

Nearly one-third of the public forced to consider relocation due to high housing cost

The persistent high cost of housing in the Sacramento region has made 30 percent of area residents seriously consider moving away from the part of the Sacramento region where they are now living. This is very similar to the situation a year ago, when 33 percent were thinking about relocation (Liu and Livingston 2005). High housing costs are especially hard for non-homeowners, with half (50%) of them being forced to think about moving. Among residents who are thinking about relocation, the majority are considering leaving the state (70%). Please see the report by Liu and Sumati (2006) for more details.

Flood Awareness and Protection in the Region

If levees break in a big storm, many areas in the Sacramento region may become submerged under deep water. On February 24 after inspecting levees in the region and the Central Valley with federal and local officials, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for the levees in the Central Valley. While these levees are intended to protect the Sacramento region, many pose the risk for a Katrina like disaster. What do the residents in the Sacramento region think about Governor Schwarzenegger's flood control efforts? Are the people in the region ready for a big storm? What does the public think we should do to protect ourselves and our community?

Many residents unaware of flood risks for their homes

Seventy-three percent of the residents indicate that their homes are not located in flood plains. Seventeen percent know for sure that they live in flood-prone areas, and 10 percent of the households in the region don't know whether their homes are located in flood areas or not.

County of residence significantly affects the awareness of potential homes at risk of flooding. Residents in Sacramento and Yolo counties are more likely to live in flood areas. They are also more uncertain whether they live in flood-prone areas or not. Non-white residents and those who are 40 or younger are also more likely to live in flood areas or don't know whether their homes are at risk for flood. Non-home owners, those who moved into the region in the past 6 years, and

those with household income less than \$30,000 are much less likely to know whether their homes are located in a flood plain or not.

Half have no evacuation plan, and even fewer carry flood insurance

If a major disaster occurs in the Sacramento region, only 49 percent of the families have an evacuation plan. Fifty percent don't have one, and one percent don't know. Household income and gender don't have any significant impact on this issue. Compared to white residents (48%) and homeowners (48%), other racial groups (55%) and non-homeowners (54%) are less likely to have an evacuation plan for their families in case of major flooding. Furthermore, almost half (47%) of those who know their homes are located in the flood plains don't have any emergency evacuation plan.

An overwhelming majority of the people in the Sacramento region (77%) have no flood insurance. In fact, more than 80 percent of the residents in Yolo (81%), El Dorado (87%), and Placer (91%) counties, non-homeowners (87%), and households with income less than \$30,000 (86%) do not have any flood insurance for their families. Moreover, one-third (34%) of the residents living in flood areas and a majority of the residents (76%) who have no idea whether their homes have flood risks also carry no flood insurance.

Approval of the Governor's flood protection efforts increased

The Governor declared a state of emergency for the levees in the Central Valley on Feb. 24, 2006. Since then, the approval rating for how he is dealing with flood control has increased. Before Feb. 24, 37 percent approved the way he was dealing with flood control, 36 percent held the opposite view, and 27 percent didn't know how he was handling this important issue. However, since his declaration on Feb. 24, a majority of the residents (53%) approve of what he is doing to protect California from flood, and only 15 percent have no idea about his performance in this area.

Almost half of the area residents support the Governor's flood protection bond measure, while one-third don't know

Many proposals have been offered to deal with flood control in California since the flooding by Hurricane Katrina. In his January State of the State speech, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a strategic growth plan for California with \$222.6 billion for schools, transportation, flood control, and other public projects. This includes spending \$35 billion for flood control and water supply in the next 10 years. To achieve this goal, he planned to put a \$3 billion bond measure for flood protection on the ballot this year. Nearly half (49%) of the residents in the Sacramento region would endorse the Governor's \$3 billion bond measure for flood control projects in California, 20 percent would vote no, and about one-third (31%) don't know. Residents in the Sacramento region don't seem to have a strong support for this bond measure, because a large percentage of the residents (31%) don't quite understand or have not formed an

opinion on this bond. Therefore people need to be better informed about this bond measure if the Governor wants to get much stronger support for it in the coming election.

Support for this flood bond varies significantly by county, income, and age. Residents in Sacramento and Yolo counties (52%) are much more likely to vote yes than the public living in Placer and El Dorado counties (41%). Households making \$50,000 or more (53%) and those who are older than 40 (52%) are much more likely to favor this bond measure than those with household income less than \$50,000 (46%) and those who are 40 or younger (45%). Please see the report by Liu, Scott, and Bowerman (2006a) for more details.

Eighty-eight percent support limiting new housing construction in flood areas

Nearly nine out of ten (88%) residents in the Sacramento region think local governments should limit the construction of new homes in places with inadequate flood protection. Only eight percent take the opposite position, and four percent have not yet formed an opinion. Such strong support for restricting growth in flood prone areas is shared by an overwhelming majority of the general public no matter which county they live in (89% from Yolo, El Dorado, and Placer counties and 87% from Sacramento County). This proposal is also endorsed by a majority of registered voters in the region regardless of whether they are Democrats (90%), Republicans (88%), or other voters (89%). The Governor's declaration of a state of emergency for the levees in the Central Valley on Feb. 24 hasn't affected the level of support (88% support restricting housing construction both before and after the declaration).

More than two-thirds endorse building elevated housing in flood areas

If new houses have to be built in flood areas, more than two thirds of residents (70%) think local governments should encourage building new homes with living spaces that are elevated above potential flood levels to speed cleanup and reduce damages, 19 percent are against the idea, and 11 percent don't know. Those 65 or older (62%), those with household incomes of \$30,000 or less (69%), and those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more (68%) show less support for building this kind of housing in flood prone areas than people who are younger than 65 (73%) and those with household incomes between \$30,000 and less than \$75,000 a year (77%). Those who don't live in flood areas (72%) are much more likely to support building elevated housing than those who live in the flood areas (66%) or those who don't know whether their houses are located in the flood areas (67%). The Governor's declaration of a state of emergency for the levees on Feb. 24 has not affected residents' views on this important issue (70% before and after the declaration).

Seventy-two percent favor requiring local governments to share liability costs with the state government

More than 70 percent (72%) of residents in the Sacramento region also favor the proposal that would require local governments that have approved housing projects in flood prone areas to share liability costs with the state government if flooding occurs. In contrast, only 16 percent

oppose such an idea, and 12 percent haven't made up their mind on this issue yet. People in Sacramento, Yolo, and Placer counties (74%), those households that make less than \$75,000 a year (75%), and those who perceive flood control as a big or somewhat of a problem in the region (74%) show more support for the plan than residents from El Dorado County (64%), families with household incomes of \$75,000 or more (68%) and those who don't know or don't perceive flood control as a problem in the region (66%). Residents' opinions on this proposal haven't been affected by the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency for the levees on Feb. 24 (72% before and after the declaration).

Eighty-seven percent require developers to pay development fees for flood control projects

Nearly ninety percent of the residents in the Sacramento region (87%) favor the proposal that would require developers to pay a development fee for flood control projects if they build in areas likely to flood. Only seven percent oppose the plan, and six percent have yet to form an opinion. This proposal has received strong support from the general public no matter which county they live in (90% in Yolo County, 88% in Placer County, and 86% in El Dorado and Sacramento counties). An overwhelming majority of registered voters also endorse this idea, regardless of whether they are Democrats (92%), Republicans (88%), or other voters (86%). The Governor's declaration of a state of emergency, on Feb. 24, for the levees in the Central Valley has not directly affected the support for this plan (87% of support before the declaration and 88% of support after the declaration).

Two-thirds want property owners to buy flood insurance

Two-thirds of residents in the Sacramento region (66%) endorse the proposal that would require all property owners protected by levees to buy flood insurance, 22 percent oppose it, and 12 percent don't know. Support for this proposal, however, varies a great deal in the region, particularly depending on locations of residence and household incomes. More than two-thirds of the people in El Dorado (73%), Placer (71%) and Sacramento (66%) counties support the idea. In contrast, only 45 percent in Yolo County like it. More than two-thirds of residents who don't live in flood areas (68%) favor the proposal. Sixty four percent who live in the flood areas (64%) also support it, whereas only half (51%) of those who don't know whether they live in the flood areas are for the plan. Compared to those with household incomes between \$30,000 and less than \$75,000 (67%) and those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more (70%), those whose households make less than \$30,000 a year (54%) are much less likely to support the proposal to require all property owners to buy flood insurance. Please see the report by Liu, Scott and, Bowerman (2006b) for more details.

New Arena and the Sacramento Kings

The Kings moved to Sacramento in 1985, and began playing basketball in a brand new facility, Arco Arena, in 1988. Eighteen years have passed since they claimed Arco Arena as their home. Do the Kings need a new arena now? Who should fund the project if a new facility were to be

built? Is the team going to leave the region for another city? How would residents feel if that happens?

Few residents think the Sacramento Kings need a new arena

Arco Arena has been a celebrated home for the Sacramento Kings. It seems that there is a lot of attachment to the facility. Only 27 percent of the public in the Sacramento region think the Sacramento Kings need a new arena. The majority (59%) believe a new arena is unnecessary, and 14 percent are undecided or don't know. Support for building a new arena in the region (27%) has decreased five percentage points from a year ago (33% support in 2005, Liu and Sumati 2005). The strongest support for a new facility comes from fans (39%) and those who think the Kings will relocate in three years (34%). However, even a majority of the fans (53%) and 60 percent of those who believe the Kings are likely to move do not feel the Kings need a new arena. Please see the report by Liu, Hayes, Kile, Marable, Smith, and Kafouros (2006) for more details.

Majority of residents oppose using public tax dollars to pay for a new arena for the Kings

If a new arena were to be built, only one percent of the public think the funding should come strictly from public tax dollars. More than half (54%) claim it should be paid for by private money only. Thirty-four percent say a combination of private and public funding would be acceptable, 7 percent prefer other means, and 4 percent have no opinion.

Majority of residents and registered voters are Kings' fans

Many people in the region like the Kings. Over half of the residents (53%) identify themselves as Kings' fans. This is especially the case for residents in Placer (56%), El Dorado (54%), and Sacramento (54%) counties. A majority of registered voters also claim to be Kings' enthusiasts, regardless of whether they are Republicans (57%), Democrats (55%), or other voters (55%).

Most residents think the Kings will relocate in three years

There is rising anxiety that the Kings may look for a new home in another city. Fifty-three percent of those surveyed feel it is very or somewhat likely that the Kings will leave the Sacramento region for another city in the next three years, 28 percent don't think so, and 19 percent have no idea what the Kings plan to do.

Majority of residents feel disappointed if the Kings move

If the Kings relocate in the next three years, a large portion of the public (53%) would feel very or somewhat disappointed. This is especially the case for the fans (83% disappointed), even though a majority of the fans (60%) were not satisfied with the Kings' performance at the time of

the survey (February 2006). Please see the report by Liu, Hayes, Kile, Marable, Smith and Kafouros (2006) for more details.

Governor Schwarzenegger and the Governor's Race in 2006

Governor Schwarzenegger is more popular than the specific issues he addresses

Residents in the Sacramento region like the way that the Governor does his job more than specific issues he has to handle. Nearly half of the public in the Sacramento region (49%) approve of the way that the Governor is handling his job, but they are much less positive about some of the specific issues that he has to deal with, especially public education (59% disapprove), affordable housing (52% disapprove), and the state budget (50% disapprove). This is almost the same as two years ago when approximately two-thirds of the people (65%) approved of his job performance as Governor, but a lower percentage of residents favored how he handled the state budget (51% approve), taxes (51% approve), public education (45% approve), public transportation (32% approve), or affordable housing (22% approve, Liu and Meyer 2004).

Governor Schwarzenegger enjoys more support in the Sacramento region than in California

Area residents also support the Governor more than residents of the state as a whole. Compared to Californians (35%, Baldassare February 2006), a larger percentage of people in the Sacramento region (49%) approve of the way that the Governor is handling his job even though they are pessimistic about how he has addressed affordable housing (22% approve), public education (31% approve), the state budget (37% approve), public transportation (39% approve), and taxes (44% approve). This is consistent with the pattern we observed in 2004 when 65 percent of the public in the Sacramento region were optimistic about his overall job performance whereas only 55 percent of Californians shared this positive view (Baldassare February 2004; Liu and Meyer 2004).

Deep political divide over Governor's job performance and his reelection

The region's perceptions of the Governor and support for him vary by county of residence, race, income, gender, and age though those differences are less pronounced when we examine only the responses of registered voters. Compared to Democrats (28%) and other voters (41%), Republicans (79%) are more likely to approve of the overall job performance of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Contrary to Democrats, a majority of Republicans like how the Governor deals with taxes (68% Republican vs. 28% Democrat), the state budget (63% Republican vs. 21% Democrat), public education (53% Republican vs. 14% Democrat), public transportation (53% Republican vs. 30% Democrat), and flood protection (53% Republican vs. 33% Democrat). Moreover, Republicans (67%) are much more likely to vote for Arnold Schwarzenegger in the

coming election this year than Democrats (10%) and other voters (26%) would. Please see the report by Liu, Hayes, Breeding, and Papin (2006) for more details.

National Security and Civil Liberties

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked America, and more than 3,000 innocent people died. Since then, a great deal of legal and administrative changes have taken place to protect our national security, including Congress passing the "USA PATRIOT Act" (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) in October 2001. Many other executive orders, policies, and practices have been enacted, such as the executive order signed by President Bush just after September 11 that permits the National Security Agency (NSA) to intercept vast quantities of international telephone communications without court approval.

The Fourth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States maintains, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized" (<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment04/>). Many Americans have argued that some of the recent legal and administrative modifications have sacrificed this fundamental right and undermined our freedom and civil liberties. How concerned are residents in the Sacramento region? Do they care more or less about civil liberties and/or the government's regular surveillance of both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens four years after September 11?

Majority of Sacramento residents concerned more about civil liberties

We asked area residents in 2002, 2003, and 2006, "Which concerns you more right now: that the government will fail to enact strong anti-terrorism laws, or that the government will enact new anti-terrorism laws which excessively restrict ordinary Americans' civil liberties?" We have found a majority of Sacramento region residents are anxious that new anti-terrorist laws will excessively restrict Americans' civil liberties (56%). This level of concern stays almost the same since the last time the question was asked (57% in 2003), which is slightly less than 2002 (60% in 2002). However, fear of government's failure to enact strong anti-terrorism laws has increased slightly since 2002 (33% in 2002, 38% in 2003, and 37% in 2006, Liu 2002; Liu 2003). Please see the report by Liu, Hayes, Bennett, and Burton (2006) for more details.

Registered voters deeply divided over national security and civil liberties

The region's concerns for civil liberties vary by county of residence, race, income, age, and gender, yet those concerns are less pronounced when we examine the responses of registered voters. Democrats (72%) overwhelmingly worry about civil liberties. In sharp contrast, the majority of Republicans (60%) are fearful of weak anti-terror laws, which has increased steadily

over the past four years (36% in 2002, 51% in 2003, and 60% in 2006), even though it has decreased among Democrats (32% in 2002, 32% in 2003, and 23% in 2006, Liu 2002; Liu 2003).

Mixed views on government's surveillance of emails and phone calls of U.S. and non-U.S. citizens

The majority of residents (66%) in the Sacramento region don't want the government to monitor phone calls and emails of ordinary American citizens on a regular basis. This holds true regardless of race, gender, income, age, or county of residence. However, more than half of the area residents (52%) are willing to allow government agencies to regularly monitor non-citizens, including foreign students and visitors, and permanent residents living in America. Support has also increased in the past four years for the monitoring of telecommunications of both non-U.S. citizens (49% in 2002 vs. 52% in 2006) as well as American citizens (23% in 2002 vs. 30% in 2006, Liu 2002).

An overwhelming majority of Democrats (83%) and about two-thirds of other voters (65%) are reluctant to allow the government to regularly monitor phone calls and emails of American citizens. However, Republican voters are divided on the issue: 50 percent unwilling vs. 46 percent willing, which is quite different from four years ago, when the majority of registered voters were reluctant to allow the government to monitor ordinary Americans, regardless of political party. Regarding government surveillance of non-citizens, a majority of Democratic voters (61%) are *unwilling* to allow monitoring of telephone calls and emails, while over three-quarters of Republicans (76%) are *willing* to allow the monitoring. Please see the report by Liu, Hayes, Bennett, and Burton (2006) for more details.

The War in Iraq

Opposition to the war has increased as violence escalates in Iraq

On March 19, 2003, the United States initiated military action against Iraq. Support for the war has dropped significantly in the Sacramento region in the past three years, from a high of 52 percent in 2003 to a low of 35 percent after the blast of a Shiite shrine on Feb. 22, 2006. Since then the percentage of residents who think it was not worth going to war has increased to 62 percent. Compared to other Americans, area residents are less likely to support the war. According to a recent CNN/*USA Today*/Gallup poll, 46 percent of Americans think the war was worth going, compared to only 36 percent in the Sacramento region (Moore January 17, 2006).

Residents in Placer (46%) and El Dorado (46%) counties are more likely than people from Sacramento (33%) and Yolo (29%) counties to report that it was worthwhile to take the initial military action against Iraq. Whites (38%), men (40%), and those with household incomes of \$50,000 or more (43%) show more support for the war than other racial groups (29%), women (33%), and those with household incomes less than \$50,000 (28%). The largest division, however, is found among registered voters in the Sacramento region. Sixty-nine percent of Republican voters believe it was worth going to war, while 84 percent of Democrats and 59

percent of other voters hold the opposing view. Please see the report by Liu and Pyara (2006) for more details.

Pessimism also increases about U.S. future in Iraq

As the war in Iraq drags on, residents in the Sacramento region have become increasingly less optimistic about the outcome. In 2004, nearly half (47%) predicted that the U.S. future in Iraq would become better in a year (Liu and Hofer 2004), that number decreased to 36 percent in 2005 (Liu and Hofer 2005), and in 2006 only 26 percent maintain such an optimistic view.

Residents in El Dorado (38%) and Placer (32%) counties are more likely than residents in Sacramento (23%) and Yolo (23%) counties to be optimistic about the future in Iraq. Men (29%), white residents (28%), and those with household incomes of \$50,000 or more (29%) are more likely to think so than women (24%), other racial groups (18%), and those whose households are making less than \$50,000 a year (19%).

There are large differences among registered voters in the way they perceive the U.S. future in Iraq. But all groups have decreased in optimism over the years. Republican optimism has decreased from 68% in 2004 to 59% in 2005, to just 53% in 2006. Democratic optimism has plummeted from its high of 33% in 2004 to 19% in 2005, to only 7% in 2006. Please see the report by Liu and Pyara (2006) for more details.

Split over when to withdraw American troops from Iraq

Sacramento region residents are divided on what course of action is best for the American troops in Iraq: half of the area's residents (50%) favor the establishment of a timetable to withdraw troops from Iraq, 43 percent want to keep the troops there, and seven percent don't know or haven't formed an opinion yet. These findings are similar to those of a recent CNN/Gallup poll (Moore January 2006).

Support for setting a timetable varies across the four counties in the Sacramento region. Sacramento County (56%) has a higher support for setting a timetable than Yolo (46%), Placer (41%), and El Dorado (35%) counties. Other racial groups (64%), lower income households (58%), and women (56%) also support this more than white residents (46%), higher income households (47%), and men (43%). Republicans and Democrats hold opposing views: more than two-thirds of Democrats (69%) support setting a timetable, while the same percentage of Republicans (69%) wants to keep the troops there until the U.S. achieves its goals regardless of how long that takes. Please see the report by Liu and Pyara (2006) for more details.

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