The PPIC Statewide Survey: Lessons Learned on Growth and Land Use

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PPIC Statewide Survey Mission

• Provide timely, relevant, objective public opinion data on policy preferences and political, social, and economic attitudes

• Make survey information readily available to state and local officials, the public, media, and decisionmakers in nonprofit and private sectors

• Inform debate on California policy options related to growth and change
Purpose of PPIC/HIP Series

- Hewlett, Irvine, Packard Foundations collaboration with PPIC on a survey series

- Purpose: To focus attention on growth, land use, and environment issues
  - Raise public awareness
  - Inform policymakers
  - Stimulate public discussion and civic engagement

- PPIC Statewide Survey series of 2,000 CA adults from 2001 through 2004
Regions Have Growth-Related Problems

Percentage of Californians who see an issue as a “big problem” in their region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Housing Affordability

% who consider lack of affordable housing a “big problem”

- All: 44%
- Central Valley: 28%
- SF Bay Area: 59%
- Los Angeles: 44%
- Other Southern CA: 41%
Air Pollution

% who consider air pollution a “big problem”

- All: 27%
- Central Valley: 37%
- SF Bay Area: 18%
- Los Angeles: 38%
- Other Southern CA: 24%
What do you think is the single biggest factor causing the state’s population to grow?

- Immigration from other countries: 55%
- Migration from other states: 25%
- Children born to current residents: 8%
- State and local policies: 7%
Lack of Consensus on the Causes and Solutions of Regional Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public funding</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>8</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solutions</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public funding</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceived Inequality in Private Development by Race

Are low-income and minority neighborhoods less likely to have new housing and commercial development than other neighborhoods?

![Bar chart showing percentages of yes responses by race.]

- White: 63%
- Asian: 68%
- Latino: 76%
- Black: 81%

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Perceived Inequality in Infrastructure Repairs by Race

Do you think low-income and minority neighborhoods are more likely to have roads and other transportation infrastructure in need of repair and replacement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Development Tradeoffs: Ambivalence about Sprawl vs. Density

Local government should …

- Allow growth in undeveloped areas: 44%
- Steer growth to developed areas: 50%
- Don't know: 6%
Housing Tradeoff: Housing Size or Commute Length?

Would you choose to live in a ...

- Large home with a long commute: 47%
- Small home with a short commute: 49%
- Don't know: 4%
Neighborhood Tradeoff: Residential or Mixed-Use?

Would you choose to live in a …

- Residential-only neighborhood and drive: 50%
- Mixed-use neighborhood and walk: 47%
- Don't know: 3%
Governance Issues: Strong Preference for Regional Planning

Local governments should work …

- Together: 74%
- Independently: 22%
- Don't know: 4%
Governance Issues:
Strong Preference for Local Initiatives

Who should make local land use and development decisions?

- Voters: 77%
- Local Officials: 18%
- Don't know: 5%
Regional Infrastructure Priorities

What type of Infrastructure should have top priority for public funding?

- Schools: 48%
- Transportation: 23%
- Water: 16%
- Sewers: 5%
- Airports: 3%
Surface Transportation Priorities

What type of transportation projects should have top priority for public funding?

- Freeways & highways: 36%
- Public transit: 31%
- Streets & roads: 24%
- Walkways & bike paths: 7%
State Funding for Infrastructure

How do you prefer state government pay for roads and other infrastructure?

- Set aside % of state budget: 42%
- Issue state bonds: 18%
- Surplus budget funds: 12%
- Increase user fees: 10%
- Increase taxes: 8%
Supermajority Vote for Local Taxes and Transportation Projects

Requiring a two-thirds majority vote instead of simple majority …

- Good thing: 69%
- Bad thing: 25%
- Don't know: 6%

Would you vote to change two-thirds majority to 55% majority for sales tax?

- Yes: 45%
- No: 49%
- Don't know: 6%
Implications

- **Focus:** Regional growth-related problems are perceived and vary by region

- **Equity issues:** Development and infrastructure are not evenly distributed within regions

- **Ambivalence:** Sprawl versus smart growth, regional governance and local initiatives

- **Distrust:** Earmarking of state funds and supermajority vote for local infrastructure