



San Onofre Survey Release Southern California Edison Service Area

Summary

A recently conducted survey showed that voters in the Southern California Edison service area strongly support shutting down the San Onofre nuclear power plant and replacing its power with renewable energy and conservation.¹ After receiving a brief statement of information about the plant, even more support shutting down the plant.

Initially, prior to any information providing, 50% of voters in the service area support shutting down the San Onofre nuclear power plant and only 30% oppose the shut down. 20% say they are unsure.

After a summary statement fairly describing the situation, support for the shut down increases from 50% to 58%, with 26% more supporting than opposing the shut down.

Support for the shut-down is widespread, with voters across all counties and ethnicities showing support for the nuclear plant-down and favoring replacing its power with renewable energy and conservation.

Other key findings from the survey:

- ✓ A strong majority – 58% -- want California to rely less on nuclear power for its energy needs in the future, with 35% saying they want California to use **much** less nuclear power. Only one-third (32%) say California should rely more on nuclear power in the future, with 10% unsure.
- ✓ Nearly three-fourths (73%) express at least some concern about a nuclear accident at the San Onofre nuclear power plant. 55% think that nuclear power reactors are operating safely in California and 30% say they are unsafe.
- ✓ While nearly all respondents – 93% – think Southern California Edison *should* put safety before profits, more respondents say that they think the company currently puts profits over safety. 47% say Southern California Edison puts profits first, while 41% say they put safety first, and 12% are unsure.
- ✓ Only one-third of voters in the service hear have heard some or a lot of information about the San Onofre nuclear power plant. But of those that have heard anything about the plant, 42% say they have heard mostly negative information and nearly half have heard a mix of positive and negative information.

As you may have heard, the two nuclear reactors at the San Onofre nuclear power plant have been offline since January due to an accident that released radiation into the environment and the discovery of unexpected wear on scores of steam generator tubes that carry radioactive water and steam. A three-month federal probe blamed a significantly flawed computer analysis of major generator design changes which ultimately resulted in heavy wear to the alloy tubing. The operator, Southern California Edison, has yet to determine how to correct the problem.

¹ David Binder Research surveyed 700 registered voters that live in the area served by Southern California Edison. Interviews were conducted between September 11th and 17th, 2012, with a margin of error of ±3.7%.