The County of Orange Report  
Prepared for the Mesa Water District  

February 18, 2021  
by Lewis Consulting Group

**Dueling Polls - Governor Newsom Won’t/Might Be Recalled**  
As proponents of recalling Governor Gavin Newsom are inching ever closer to qualifying the recall effort, two different polls have varying conclusions on how that might fare at the ballot box.

Berkeley IGS Poll [Institute of Governmental Studies] taken January 23-29 with a sample size of 10,000 registered voters and a margin of error +/- 2%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trend of voter opinions of Gavin Newsom's job performance as Governor (among California registered voters)</th>
<th>Late-January 2021 %</th>
<th>September 2020 %</th>
<th>June 2019 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approve strongly</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approve somewhat</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove somewhat</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove strongly</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Policy Institute of California poll [PPIC] taken January 21-31 with a sample of 1,703 adults and a margin of error +/- 3.3%.

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2021?  
- 43% COVID-19, coronavirus  
- 13% jobs, economy  
- 5% homelessness  
- 4% housing costs, availability
4% immigration, illegal immigration
3% education, schools, teachers
3% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties
3% health care, health insurance
3% state budget, deficit, state spending
3% environment, pollution, global warming
11% other
5% don't know

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?
54% approve
36% disapprove
10% don't know

Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not?
72% yes
32% yes, serious recession
28% yes, moderate recession
10% yes, mild recession
2% yes, don't know
23% no, not in an economic recession
6% don't know

When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?
43% definitely get the vaccine
25% probably get the vaccine
11% probably not get the vaccine
13% definitely not get the vaccine
5% already got the vaccine
2% don't know

Do you think that climate change is a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat to the well-being of the United States?
60% major threat
21% minor threat
16% not a threat
3% don't know

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
The February LAFCO meeting was one of the shortest meetings in memory, lasting 30 minutes. It marked the first meeting for Yorba Linda Mayor Peggy Huang, a new City Commissioner.

During the meeting, there was some free flowing discussions regarding legislative attempts to allow for the dismemberment of small water agencies without LAFCO approval. There was also discussion about San Diego Water’s attempt to utilize the LAFCO process to rein in the Metropolitan Water District.

The most important agenda item was the 2nd Quarter Comprehensive Report, however it was a non-discussed consent calendar item. One of the highlighted items is a more robust communication plan utilizing social media platforms, web-based resources and an improved agency media kit.

A review of OCLAFCO’s budget was also included. The total approved budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 is $1,257,510. The vast majority of LAFCO’s revenue, $1,124,500 comes from funding agencies apportionments. The balance comes from fees, interest income and the additional drawing down of reserves. The largest expenditures are salaries and hourly employees $547,220 along with benefits and insurance $327,880.

Update

The February 9, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors did not differ from the types of meetings held the last several months. The meeting featured an agenda again devoid of controversy, as there were no split votes.

The meeting again was highlighted by the County’s ongoing response to COVID-19. Although there are still many complaints regarding the County’s website Othena, it appears that most of the early trouble is behind it. As of now, there are over 600,000 people signed up through Othena. Now the bigger problem is receiving sufficient vaccines to keep the vaccination pods running at full capacity. The State also keeps a
more comprehensive list of those vaccinated, but Supervisor Bartlett noted when they have transferred the data, it does not include zip codes.

In recognition of the fact that 75% of the Orange County deaths are among those 65 and older, the County has been heavily promoting vaccines for those in this age category. Currently, 100,000 seniors have been vaccinated. Going forward, the County will utilize the following vaccination locations:

- 2 large PODS - Disneyland and Soka University
- 2 medium PODS - Santa Ana College and Christ Cathedral
- 5 mobile PODS - concentrating on the under served communities, especially Santa Ana and Anaheim

So far, somewhere between 10%-13% of Orange Countians have been vaccinated.

### Orange County COVID-19 Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS</th>
<th>AS OF 2/18/2021</th>
<th>AS OF 1/21/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE</td>
<td>243,665</td>
<td>217,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE</td>
<td>3,685</td>
<td>2,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEATHS REPORTED TODAY</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE</td>
<td>2,913,132</td>
<td>2,494,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESTS REPORTED TODAY</td>
<td>13,950</td>
<td>20,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED</td>
<td>663 *</td>
<td>1,935 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE</td>
<td>220,609 *</td>
<td>149,396 *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = INCLUDES ICU CASES

### Where Orange County Ranks

[as of 2/18/2021]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>CONFIRMED CASES</th>
<th>DEATHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>40,129,160</td>
<td>3,421,720</td>
<td>47,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</td>
<td>10,247,557</td>
<td>1,139,786</td>
<td>19,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE COUNTY</td>
<td>3,228,519</td>
<td>243,665</td>
<td>3,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVERSIDE COUNTY</td>
<td>2,468,145</td>
<td>276,289</td>
<td>3,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</td>
<td>3,370,418</td>
<td>254,177</td>
<td>3,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY</td>
<td>2,217,398</td>
<td>278,461</td>
<td>2,457</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The BIG Chill
The Great Lakes are rapidly freezing after an extremely slow start. Record low temperatures encompassed the South. Most Americans are bundling up. Numerous cold temperature records are being set as some sites report temperatures 50 degrees below normal. All of this is attributed to an Arctic outbreak, as cold air has escaped the North Pole and invaded the United States.

February 18-25, 2021 Average of Departure from Normal Temperatures

Temperature anomaly 2m (°C)

Mid-afternoon February 18, 2021