

# The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

May 18, 2021  
by Lewis Consulting Group



## Update

### **Board of Supervisors Endure Massive Public Criticism**

The proposed development of a QR code registering proof of vaccination in Orange County elicited about a 1,000 people to show up at the May 11, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting to protest in STRONG opposition. In addition, according to Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, 743 people signed up to give verbal messages of opposition during public comments. Nobody testified in favor of the plan.

In an attempt to streamline the meeting (it didn't work), Board Chair Andrew Do announced that he was proposing "a pause on the development" of the Othena based program. Quickly, three of his colleagues joined him in support of the proposal. Only Supervisor Katrina Foley wanted to proceed with the program immediately.

So what describes the potential effort? Is it merely a matter of convenience for those who have been vaccinated? Or is it an assault on privacy and the creation of a "vaccine passport" as proponents contend? As often is the case, the truth is somewhere in the middle.

The State of California is already allowing "bonus attendance" for venues that demand proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. Opponents believe that adopting the program could lead to supermarkets, stores, modes of transportation and venues of entertainment requiring proof of vaccination enabled by the digital record.

Those testifying heaped scorn upon the Supervisors. Threats of recall were repeatedly mentioned. The program was compared by some to the identification of Jews in Nazi Germany. Others recited concerns on behalf of those who medically can't tolerate the vaccine or the possible future discrimination against the elderly who might not own a smart phone.

With the dust settled, the Board did vote 4-1 to pause the proposed program. All of this was happening against a backdrop of the County's impending promotion from the Orange tier to the least restrictive Yellow tier. It is estimated that such a move could take place on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Yellow tier however, may be short-lived, because Governor Newsom has proposed the end of the tier system and the opening up of California on June 15, 2021.

# CNN National Poll

72% oppose vaccine requirement for the grocery store

52% oppose vaccine requirement for returning to the workplace

51% oppose vaccine requirement for sporting events or concerts.

THIS POLL WAS CONDUCTED IN LATE APRIL 2021 AND HAS A MARGIN OF ERROR OF +/- 3.6%



# GALLUP Survey National Poll

## Americans' Preferences for Requiring Proof of Vaccination for Participation in Activities

Would you favor or oppose businesses requiring people to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to do the following over the next several months?

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Travel by airplane	57	43
Attend events with large crowds, such as sporting events or concerts	55	45
Go to your worksite to do your job*	45	55
Stay in a hotel	44	56
Dine in at a restaurant	40	60

\*Among those employed full or part time.

GALLUP PANEL, APRIL 19-25, 2021



## **May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

This monthly LAFCO meeting kicked off with a welcoming of new County Alternate member Katrina Foley. Also on the agenda, was the final adoption of the OCLAFCO 2021/2022 budget. The final step in the process had been the dissemination of budget information and dues to the County, 34 cities and 27 Independent Districts. LAFCO received no comments from any of the contacted entities. In other action, LAFCO's legislative agenda reinstated opposition to SB 55, SB 274, AB 339 along with a support position of AB 361. The commission also voted a "watch" position on AB 1053, a bill that presently relaxes quorum requirements for the Los Angeles County city selection committee.

OCLAFCO adopted a support position on AB 1581, the annual LAFCO omnibus bill and support for SB 273, a measure that streamlines the ability of municipal water agencies to manage water and dry weather runoff. SB 403, a measure granting State Water Resources Control Board additional authority to consolidate public water systems received an oppose position for OCLAFCO.

## **PPIC Releases New California Poll**

The PPIC (Public Policy Institute of California) on May 7, 2021 released its latest survey of Californian's political attitudes. The poll was conducted from April 1<sup>st</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>.

Key questions and results are as follows:

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Newsom is handling the issue of jobs and the economy?

- 56% approve
- 41% disapprove
- 4% don't know



How much, if at all, has your life been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak? Would you say a lot, some, just a little, or not at all?

- 31% a lot
- 41% some
- 22% just a little
- 6% not at all
- don't know

How worried, if it all, are you that the coronavirus will have a negative impact on the personal finances of you and your family? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

- 20% very worried
- 33% somewhat worried
- 31% not too worried
- 15% not at all worried
- don't know

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system?

- 57% approve
- 41% disapprove
- 3% don't know

How much of a problem is the quality of education in California's K–12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 33% big problem
- 54% somewhat of a problem
- 11% not much of a problem
- 2% don't know

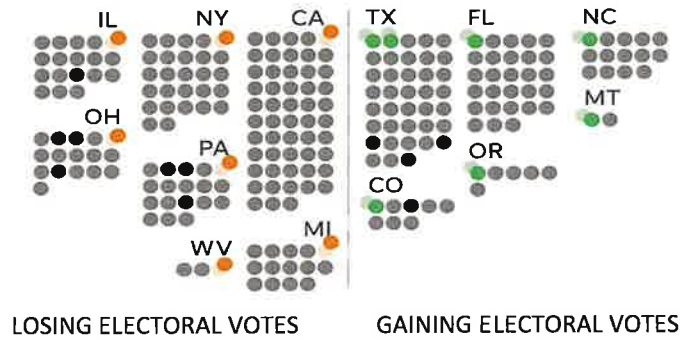
## Tracking The Recall



POLL	DATES	YES ON RECALL	NO ON RECALL
BERKELEY IGS	APRIL 29-MAY 5	36%	49%
SURVEY USA	APRIL 30 - MAY 2	36%	47%

## Electoral College Shift - Minor Republican Gains

Under newly released U.S. Census figures, six states gained electoral votes, including Texas [2], and seven states lost one electoral vote, including California. The net result is among states carried by President Trump, there is a net gain of three electoral votes with a corresponding net loss of three electoral votes for states carried by President Biden. Predicting shifts in the House of Representatives is much more complex due to the redistricting process in each of the 50 states.



## Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 5/18/2021	AS OF 4/22/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	254,831	251,611
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	5,031	4,810
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	0	19
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	3,814,553	3,428,287
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	6,145	13,998
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	78 *	113 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	14	28
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	248,148 *	243,910 *

\* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

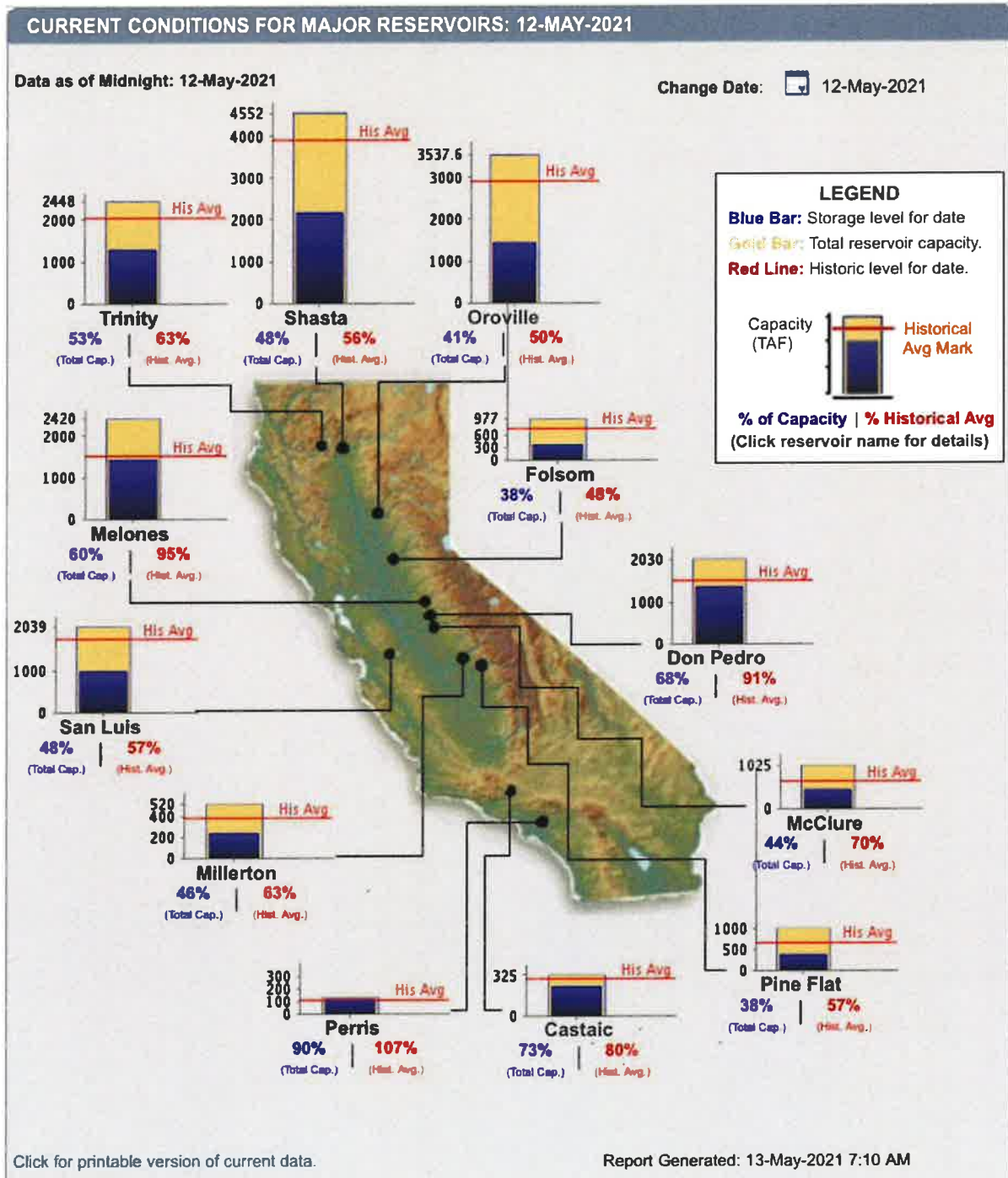
## Where Orange County Ranks [as of 5/18/2021]

LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	3,666,591	61,513
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	1,196,556	24,123
<b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>	<b>3,228,519</b>	<b>254,831</b>	<b>5,031</b>
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	291,989	4,724
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	288,304	4,433
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	279,146	3,742



# Drought Intensifies

## California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



Elevation & Content	Water Inflow Data	Glen Canyon Dam Release Data
Lake Powell is 139.02 feet below Full Pool (Elevation 3,700)	Total inflows for water year 2021: 1,956,352 acre feet	Total releases for water year 2021: 5,051,205 acre feet
By content, Lake Powell is 34.53% of Full Pool (24,322,000 af)	This is 42.04% of the May 12th average of 4,653,166 acre feet	This is 67.35% of the minimum required of 7,500,000 acre feet
<b>During WY 2021, water storage has fallen by 2,958,788 AF and total outflows have exceeded total inflows by 3,094,853 AF</b>		
<b>The 28 tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 70.88% of capacity. <a href="#">Click for Details</a></b>		
<b>Inflows for WY 2021 are 55.07% of WY 2020. <a href="#">Rivers feeding Lake Powell are running at 18.67% of the May 13th avg. Click for Details</a></b>		

**Lake Powell is down -39.96 feet from one year ago. Lake Powell is at low for water year and down 34.85 feet from the high.**

**For May 13th, 2021**  
**Snowpack is 57% of avg**  
**Total Precip is 72.00% of avg**

**Lake Powell is currently**  
**428.98 feet deep at the dam**