



Date: February 25, 2003
To: Interested Parties
From: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

RE: New Mexico Polling Data on Water and Electricity

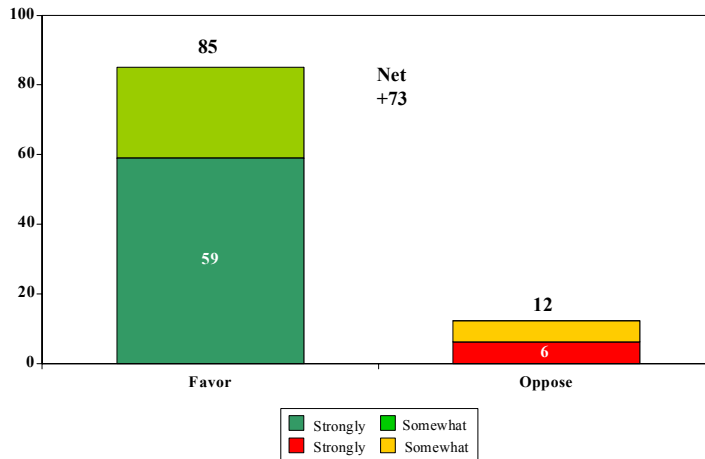
New Mexicans strongly embrace two proposals aimed at reducing power plants' water use and increasing renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power. Amid intense concerns about the state's water shortages, voters are eager for initiatives that will shift New Mexico's electricity production from coal power plants, which consume large amounts of water and cause global warming, to more efficient technologies that reduce water use and expand cleaner energy sources.

The following are key findings from a statewide survey of 509 registered voters in New Mexico, conducted February 13-17 by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council:

- With the leadership change in Santa Fe, voters are enthusiastic about the direction in which New Mexico is heading. After several years of pessimism about their state, New Mexico voters have a new confidence that their state is moving in the right direction. A majority (53 percent) believes New Mexico is headed in the right direction, while only 34 percent feel that the state is seriously off on the wrong track.
- However, in large part due to water shortage issues, voters in New Mexico have real concerns about the environment. By nearly 4-to-1, voters believe the quality of New Mexico's environment is getting worse, rather than better.
- There is broad and diverse support for a law that requires utility companies in New Mexico to generate 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar power by 2011. Voters in New Mexico favor the proposal by a margin of 85 percent to 12 percent.



Support for Renewable Portfolio Standards



“Now let me ask you about something else. Eighty-eight percent of New Mexico’s electricity currently comes from coal. Less than one percent comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar power. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has approved a proposal that would require utility companies in New Mexico to generate ten percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar power by 2011. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

As the table below illustrates, there is broad support for this proposal across partisan, ethnic and geographic groups.

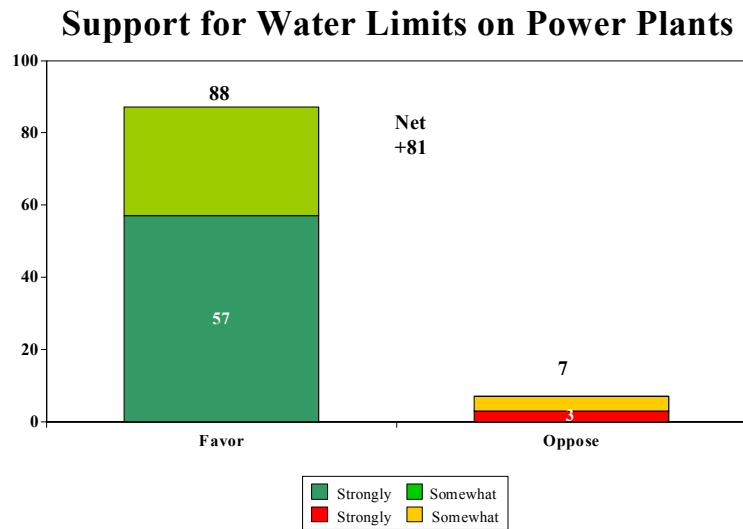
Support for 10% Renewable Energy by 2011

	Favor	Oppose
Total	85	12
Hispanics	86	12
Anglos	84	14
Democrats	90	8
Independents	87	10
Republicans	77	20
Albuquerque and North Central	87	7
South, East and Northwest	89	5

- Water is of paramount importance in New Mexico. Voters view water shortages as a more serious problem (64 percent very serious, 94 percent total serious) than lack of good jobs (43 percent very serious, 86 percent total serious) and poor performing schools (47 percent very serious, 87 percent total serious), two issues that traditionally top New Mexico voters’ list of concerns.



- There is bipartisan support across the state for limiting power plants' use of water. Overall, nearly 9 of 10 New Mexico voters (88 percent) favor a proposal that would require new power plants in New Mexico to use less water than existing power plants use.



“Now let me ask you about another proposal. The legislature in Santa Fe is considering a proposal that would require new power plants in New Mexico – ones that have not been built yet-- to use less water than existing power plants use. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

As with the renewable energy proposal, large majorities of Democrats and Republicans, Anglos and Hispanics, and different regions of the state support this proposal.



Support for Water Limits on Power Plants

	Favor	Oppose
Total	88	7
Hispanics	87	6
Anglos	88	6
Democrats	93	4
Independents	84	8
Republicans	84	8
Albuquerque and North Central	87	7
South, East and Northwest	89	5