Northern Colorado Voters Continue to Strongly Support NISP

Ciruli Associates Follow-up Poll Shows Unwavering Approval of Water Supply Project

After five years of extended Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) studies, public support for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) remains steady. A survey conducted in July 2013 with 900 voters in Larimer, Weld and Morgan counties shows voter support for the project at 72 percent. The 2013 survey follows a survey conducted in August 2008 with 800 Larimer and Weld county voters that showed NISP had combined county support of 70 percent.

The NISP project would build two new reservoirs, along with necessary pump stations and pipelines in Larimer and Weld counties.

The project would store runoff from the Poudre River. A draft supplemental EIS is due in 2015.

Ciruli Associates conducted both surveys for the consortium of water providers proposing the Northern Integrated Supply Project. The latest telephone survey, conducted in July 2013 with 900 registered voters in Larimer (400), Weld (300) and Morgan (200) counties, has a statistical range of accuracy of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for the entire sample.

NISP Maintains Support of Super Majority of Northern Colorado Voters – 72%

Question:
NISP has been proposed by 15 water providers in northern Colorado and would build two new water storage reservoirs, called Glade in Larimer County and Galeton in Weld County, and associated pump stations and pipelines. The project’s primary purpose is to store runoff for use by cities and towns. The project is currently being studied by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in an environmental impact process. Based on what you know at this time, would you say you strongly favor the project, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the project? (2013)
**NISP Support Among Urban Voters**

Voters in the largest cities in each county are as supportive of the project as their county counterparts. Support in Fort Collins, at 60 percent, is three points higher than five years ago. The City of Fort Morgan’s voters are even more supportive than voters across Morgan County.

### NISP Support in Northern Colorado Counties and Major Cities: Intensity of Support and Opposition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voter Position</th>
<th>Larimer</th>
<th>Fort Collins</th>
<th>Weld</th>
<th>Greeley</th>
<th>Morgan</th>
<th>Fort Morgan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ciruli Associates, N400 Larimer, N300 Weld, N200 Morgan, 2013*

**EIS – Long Enough**

Nearly three-quarters of the public (73%) believes the EIS process has had “sufficient time” for study. The EIS process began in 2004, and an additional supplemental study has been underway since 2009.

The 11-year study has cost $15 million to date. The U.S. Corps of Engineers, who have conducted the study, have said it will be completed in 2015.

### Sufficient Time for Study – 73% Region-wide

**Question:**

As I mentioned, the NISP project has been in an EIS since 2004. An additional or a supplemental study has been conducted since 2008. After nine years, the study has cost 12 million dollars. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who is conducting the study, has said it will be done next year in 2014. Do you believe 10 years is sufficient time for study or do you believe additional time for study is required?

Governor John Hickenlooper wrote to the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 2012 requesting the process be expedited. The public strongly agrees (84%) that the Governor was correct in writing the Corps and urging it to finish the study as soon as possible.