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ORANGE COUNTY VOTERS REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO TOLL ROAD THROUGH STATE PARK

**Strong Majority Does *Not* Think Coastal Commission's Rejection of
Toll Road Should Be Overturned By Bush Administration**

LOS ANGELES – A bipartisan team of pollsters, Dr. Jan van Lohuizen (Voter/Consumer Research) and David Binder (David Binder Research), today released new findings from an Orange County public opinion survey regarding the proposed Foothill South toll road through San Onofre State Beach. The survey research's central finding reaffirms that a large majority of Orange County Voters surveyed (63 percent) opposes a toll road through the state park.

The updated survey illustrates that while Orange County voters may support toll roads, once they learn the implications of the proposed Foothill South Toll Road and the negative impact it would have on San Onofre State Beach, the more strongly they oppose it.

The findings show that, compared to a poll conducted by the same team of pollsters last year, there has been no erosion whatsoever in public opposition to the toll road, and indeed there is some additional movement of public opinion in Orange County against the road, though within the poll's margin of error.

Equally important, when queried about the California Coastal Commission's 8 to 2 vote against the toll road because of the environmental damage it would do the state park and the California coast, strong majorities oppose either the Commerce Department or the Bush Administration overturning the Coastal Commission's decision.

"We continue to see strong public opposition to the toll road," stated Jan van Lohuizen. "This survey reconfirms that as the public learns more about the Transportation Corridor Agency's plan to build the toll road through the state park, opposition (63 percent) to the proposed route continues to be overwhelming. Just as they did in 2007, Orange County voters still want an alternative."

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Orange County Voters Continue To Oppose Toll Road Through State Park

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“Perhaps driven by concerns about higher gas prices, 65 percent of those surveyed indicated that it’s time to end our dependence on foreign oil, to think about transportation in different ways and to solve traffic congestion without destroying natural resources like San Onofre state park,” added David Binder.

“Similar to last year, the findings in this year’s survey are clear and compelling, and should send a chilling message to the politicians who run the Transportation Corridor Agency,” stated Elizabeth Goldstein, president of the California State Parks Foundation, which commissioned the poll. “They intensified their efforts to pave over this park in the past 12 months, and they have failed to move opinion. This toll road makes no sense to the people these politicians represent, period. It’s time for them to listen and explore alternatives.”

“San Onofre State Beach, the 5th most visited state park, should not be viewed as a right-of-way for a \$1.3 billion boondoggle. San Onofre’s open spaces, pristine waters and popular camping grounds should remain as they are and be available to all Californians to enjoy now and for future generations. Other, more viable and less environmentally harmful options exist and the TCA should pursue them,” added Goldstein.

Other relevant survey research findings include:

- 70% of Orange County voters are aware of plans to build a toll road to connect the 241 with I-5 south of San Clemente ('08Q2). Last year, 58% of those surveyed indicated awareness ('07Q2).
- When asked about the proposed toll road and with no information provided, 52% of voters support this plan ('08Q3). Last year, 51% of voters supported the toll road ('07Q3).
- When informed that the new toll road would go through San Onofre State Beach and would come close to Trestles Beach, support for the toll road drops precipitously – 33% supporting and 63% opposing or strongly opposing ('08Q5). Last year, 28% supported/strongly supported and 66% opposed or strongly opposed ('07Q7).
- 68% of those surveyed indicate that the Bush Administration should support the Coastal Commission decision and not over-ride it ('08Q7).

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- When asked which plan they agreed with more, 26 percent of those surveyed indicated that because Southern California will continue to grow, we need to complete projects like the toll road, even if it runs through a state park. But, 65 percent indicated that it's time to end our dependence on foreign oil, think about transportation in different ways and solve traffic congestion without destroying natural resources like San Onofre State Park (Q20).

The survey, commissioned by the California State Parks Foundation, was conducted between August 18 and August 21, 2008. In total, 400 Orange County voters were interviewed. The survey has a margin of error of 5%.

About Voter/Consumer Research

Voter/Consumer Research was founded in 1991 by Dr. Jan van Lohuizen and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Having earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Rice University in 1978, Dr. van Lohuizen's area of expertise is in public policy and elections research. He has conducted opinion research for hundreds of political campaigns since then, culminating with his selection as one of two consultants overseeing the Bush Campaign's polling in 2000. Following the 2000 election, Voter/Consumer research has managed all polling for the White House and the Republican National Committee during President Bush's term, and provided research and strategy for Bush Cheney 2004. California clients include Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, the California Teachers Association and the California Chamber of Commerce.

About David Binder Research

David Binder Research (DBR) has been a source of innovative research for 25 years. DBR provides high-quality polling, focus group and media research services to clients throughout California, the West Coast and the United States. Our clients include a wide range of political, government, media and private sector organizations that need more than just raw numbers and written reports. We develop a customized research strategy for each project using unique, often proprietary methodologies based on traditional research techniques. We provide clear insights to the data and work as a strategic partner to help implement action.

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Editor's Note: To receive a copy of the 2008 Orange County survey research questionnaire with results, or to interview Jan van Lohuizen, David Binder or Elizabeth Goldstein, contact Matt Klink at (310) 283-6267 or Sandra Halgrimson at (323) 466-3445.