



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2004-IV-06]

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ARIZONA WATER SOURCES THOUGHT POLLUTED;  
MAJORITY RATE MARICOPA AIR AS "VERY POLLUTED;"  
OFFICIALS GET LOW MARKS ON POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS

Phoenix, Arizona, December 2, 2004. Arizona lakes, ground water supplies and the lower Colorado River, below Hoover Dam, are viewed by six of ten Phoenix-area residents as already seriously polluted or becoming polluted.

Nine of ten believe the same is true of the air people breathe in Maricopa County, including 55 percent who rate the air here as "very polluted."

Additionally, few believe public officials in Arizona are doing a good job in their efforts to protect air and water supplies from pollution. By more than a two-to-one ratio, residents here give officialdom poor marks on air pollution (40% to 19%) and by 28 percent to 25 percent, the public gives negative ratings on the work public officials have done to ensure clean water supplies.

Valley residents also appear to be of very different opinions about the degree to which the Colorado River above and below the Hoover Dam is polluted. Nearly six of ten (57%) say the lower Colorado is already seriously polluted or becoming polluted, compared to 37 percent saying the same of the upper Colorado. Concern about lake and ground water supplies are also at high levels: 68 percent label Arizona lakes as polluted and 59 percent believe Maricopa County ground water supplies are already polluted.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 600 adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between November 16 and November 22, 2004, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

-30-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2004-IV-06) is based on 600 telephone interviews conducted from November 16 through November 22, 2004, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.1 percent of what they would have been had the entire voter population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**BELOW:** Statistical data

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP 2004-IV-06

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*“Next, from what you know, read or hear, would you say that each of the following in Arizona are already seriously polluted, are becoming polluted or are they not polluted?”*

	ALREADY SERIOUSLY POLLUTED	BECOMING POLLUTED	NOT POLLUTED	UNSURE
<u>ALL ARIZONANS</u>				
Lakes in Arizona	18%	50%	19%	13%
Subterranean ground water supplies in Maricopa County	20	39	18	23
Upper Colorado River above Hoover Dam	7	30	31	32
Lower Colorado River below Hoover Dam	19	38	16	27
Air people breathe in Maricopa County	55	37	6	2

*“In general, would you say that public officials in Arizona are doing an excellent, good, only fair, poor or very poor job of...”*

	EXCELLENT/ GOOD	ONLY FAIR	POOR OR VERY POOR	UNSURE
Protecting the air people breathe from pollution	19%	35%	40%	6%
Protecting water supplies from pollution	25	38	28	9