

IT'S NOT JUST small talk anymore, a sympathetic exchange between you and your neighbor while your mascara melts. According to a recent survey by the nonprofit Public Policy Institute of California, global warming is of serious concern to Californians. Eighty-six percent of us believe it will affect our own or future generations, while 57 percent claim to already feel it. Three-quarters think warming will hurt California's economy and quality of life, and solid majorities worry about increased air pollution, droughts, coastal erosion and flooding.

And yes, Californians agree human activity seems to be the culprit—but we also feel (big surprise) that the federal government's efforts to solve the problem aren't so hot. Californians are calling for the state government to step up and combat global warming independently (77 percent favor a state law requiring automobile manufacturers to cut greenhouse gases in new cars beginning in 2009, and 76 percent support Gov. Schwarzenegger's Million Solar Roofs plan) instead of waiting around while the feds let us sweat it out. For full results of the survey, visit [ppic.org](http://ppic.org).

—Lavinia Spalding

## Californians Never Say Diebold

**LOST VOTES**, inaccurately tallied numbers and a non-existent paper trail? No, we're not reminiscing about the '04 presidential race, although these results ought to raise some questions about those tallies, too. After a massive mock election, the state of

California has rejected use of Diebold's TSx touch screen voting machines due to pervasive mechanical errors.

Replicating a California primary, four dozen San Joaquin election officials recently spent eight hours punching votes into the machines—and their results were less than stellar. Out of 10,000 ballots cast, paper jams sprang up 10 times and several machines froze, requiring a full reboot for voting to continue. Secretary of State Bruce McPherson refuses to certify the machines until Diebold exterminates the many bugs plaguing the TSx.

Ohio-based Diebold has 30 days to fix the glitches and reapply for California's approval. Rejection of the TSx will hopefully influence election officials from Mississippi, Utah and Ohio, who are planning to purchase the Diebold machines, to take a critical look before investing. Concerned Californians can keep abreast of the situation at [calvoter.org](http://calvoter.org).

—Jessica Ridenour

## Just a Spoonful of Pyrotechnics Helps the Message Go Down

**THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG**—that's the book about blowing things up, right? In addition to being a timeless tale of man defending nature, Edward Abbey's most famous novel does have a Hollywood-friendly share of explosion scenes. But hopefully producer Gary Burden, recent recipient of a \$75 million Sony contract to make a movie out of the book, the rights