

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY SURVEY

## Los Osos Wastewater Project

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- OS research experience
- Project purpose
- Project design
  - Survey methodology: data collection method, security measures, return rates
  - Survey respondents: who they are
- Detailed findings
- Conclusions

# OS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- In research industry for 30 years
  - In SLO County 15 years
  
- Conduct phone, mail-in, intercept surveys and focus group projects for:
  - Government agencies
  - Private industry
  - Legal industry: attorneys/corporations preparing for trial
  
- Local clients:
  - SLOCOG and APCD
  - SLO County Planning and Building Department
  - SLO County Mental Health Services
  - San Luis Obispo (city) Utility Department
  - Cal Poly
  - Private enterprises: Mission Community Bank, Mid-State Bank, Central Coast Pathology, Cellular One, *The Tribune*, Dioptics, Chevron

# PROJECT PURPOSE

- Gather information from stakeholders in community
  - Components
    - Collection system
    - Treatment facility site
    - Other components
  - Cost sensitivity
  - Priorities and trade offs
  
- Provide decision makers with information collected in a systematic way, giving all stakeholders equal opportunity to voice opinions

# METHODOLOGY

- Mail-in survey chosen as the most inclusive method
- Equivalent of a census: all households in universe had opportunity to participate
- Mailing list created from Assessor's list + USPO's Active Mailing Addresses
  - Assessor's list identified property owners in PZ
    - Owners in Los Osos
    - Absentee owners
    - Residential and commercial
  - USPO's list identified renters in PZ and owners/renters not in PZ

# METHODOLOGY

- Questionnaire control/security
- Survey packets
- Data analysis:
  - Assessment Group versus Not Assessment Group

# METHODOLOGY

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Assessment Group</u>	<u>Not Assessment Group</u>
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Return rate	34%	40%	21%

# RESPONDENTS

- Prohibition Zone owners / renters = 92%
  - Residential property owners = 80%
  - Commercial property owners = 3%
  - Renters (rp and cp) = 9%
  
- Not PZ owners / renters = 8%
  - Owners = 7%
  - Renters = 1%
  
- In total, Assessment Group = 83%

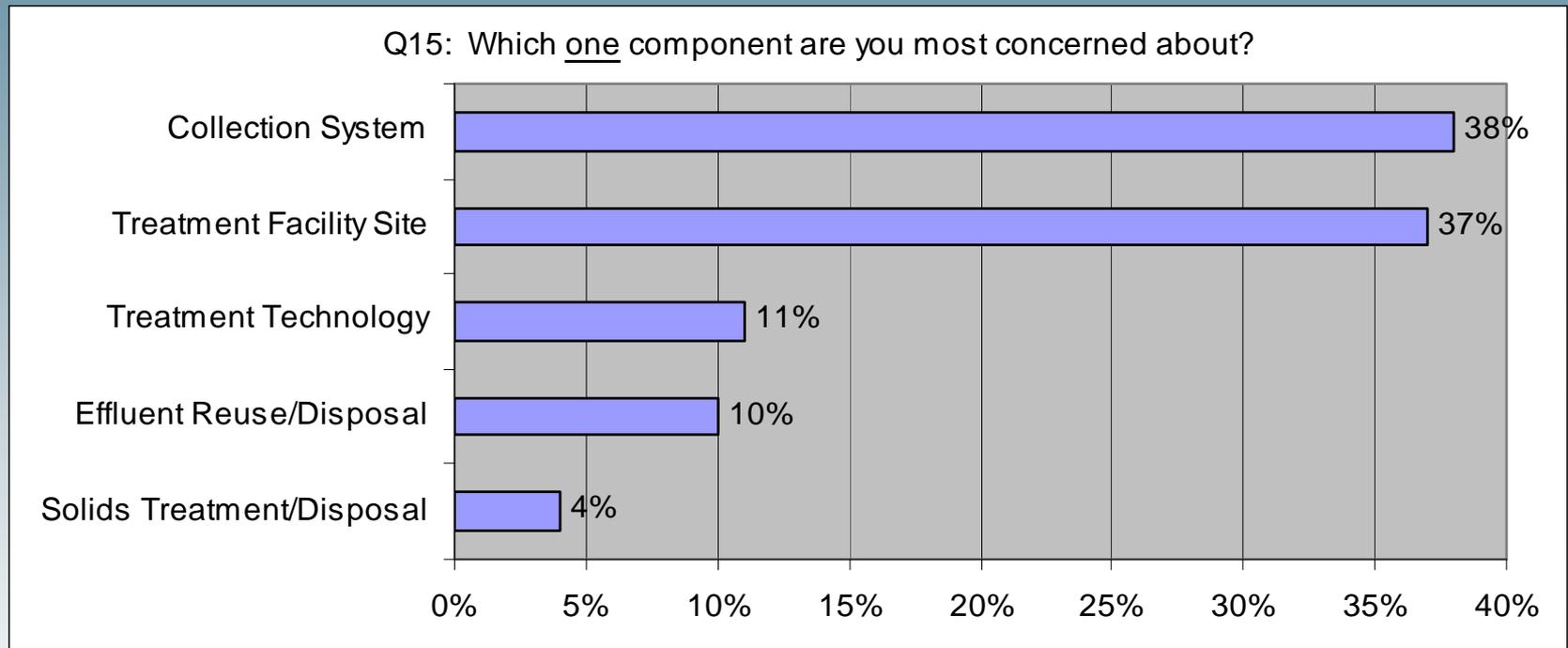
# RESPONDENTS: Assessment Group

- Long-time Los Osos residents
  - 44% had Los Osos property 20+ years
  
- Older
  - Respondents' median age = 59.4
  - Adult residents' median age = 49.5
  
- While 30% have hh incomes of \$75K+, 45% have incomes below \$50K with 15% below \$25K
  - 42% expect to apply for financial aid if an aid program is developed

## RESPONDENTS: Assessment Group

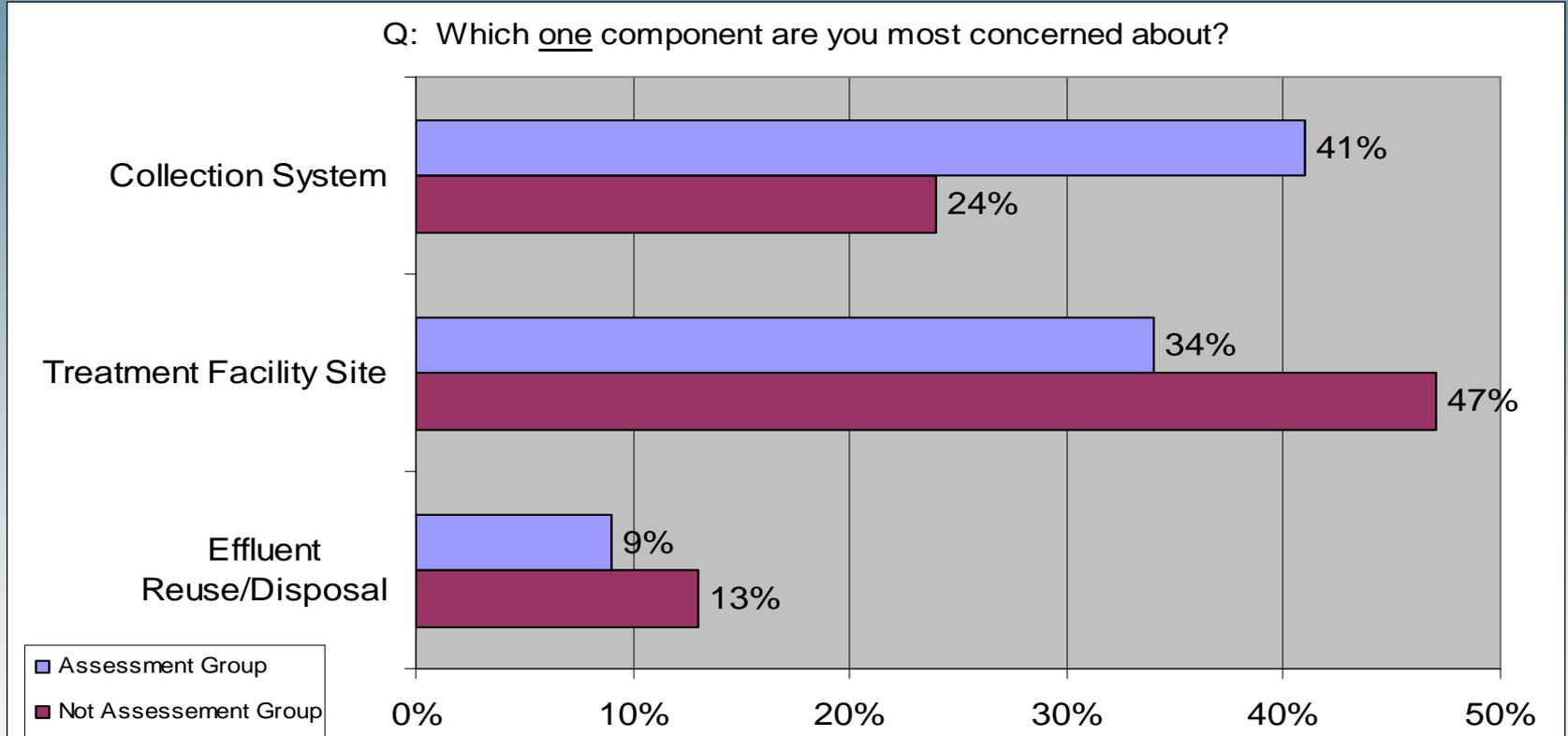
- 74% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' informed about issues
  - 20% say 'very informed'
  
- 81% say they have 'very' or 'somewhat' strong opinions
  - 42% say 'very strong'

# FINDINGS: Components



All respondents

# FINDINGS: Components



Assessment v. Not Assessment Groups

# FINDINGS: Collection System

## Question:

Two different collection systems are being considered: a 'hybrid' gravity system and a STEP/STEG system.

The Project team has found both options to be technically viable for Los Osos. A Project peer review by the National Water Research Institute also found that the two systems are "functionally equivalent."

However, the Draft EIR has determined that a gravity system has slightly less environmental impacts than STEP/STEG.

(continued)

# FINDINGS: Collection System

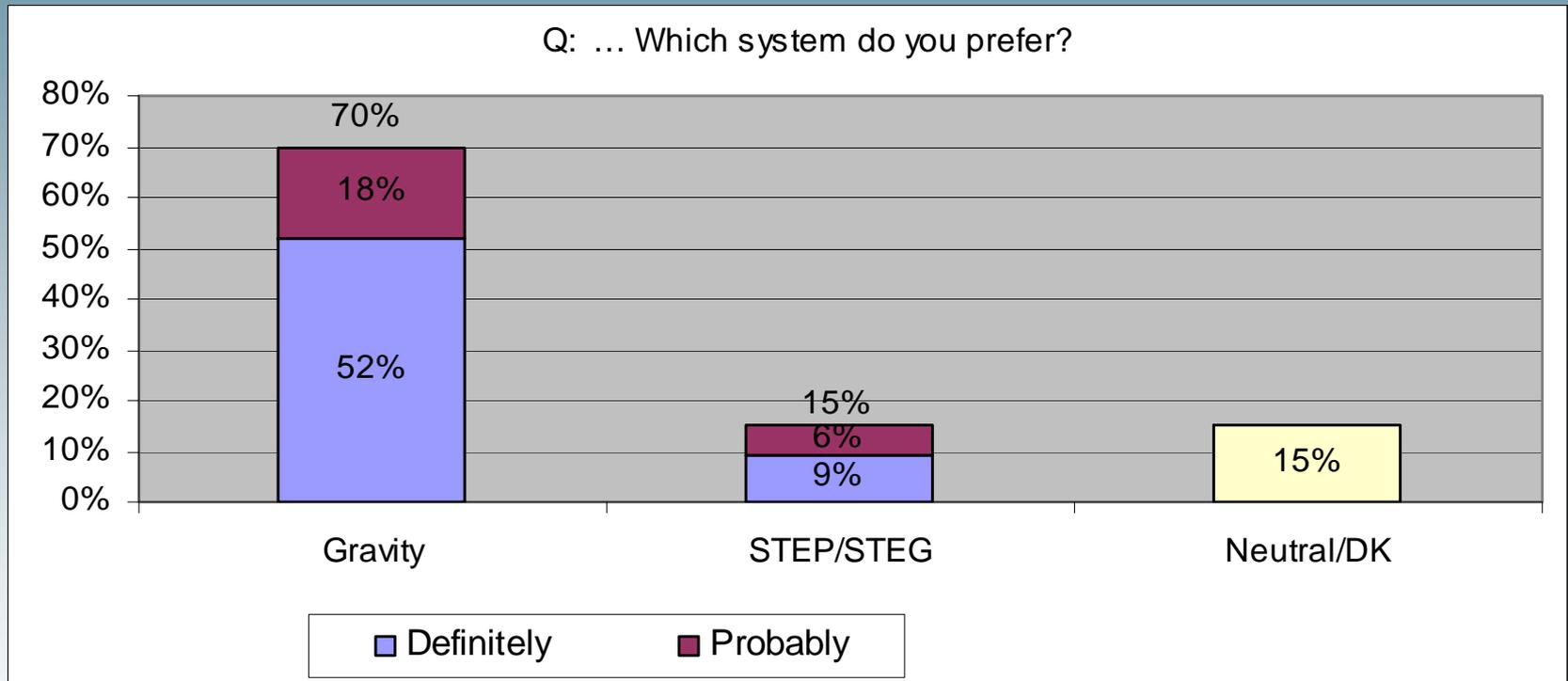
## Question (cont'd):

A gravity system will also be less disruptive to individual properties and have less initial out of pocket costs for property owners because it does not require the installation of new septic tanks in front yards, nor upgrading of your electrical panels.

A STEP/STEG might result in lower overall project cost for property owners and residents, but that is uncertain, especially considering the time required to design a new collection system and that further delays could jeopardize grant funding.

Which system do you prefer?

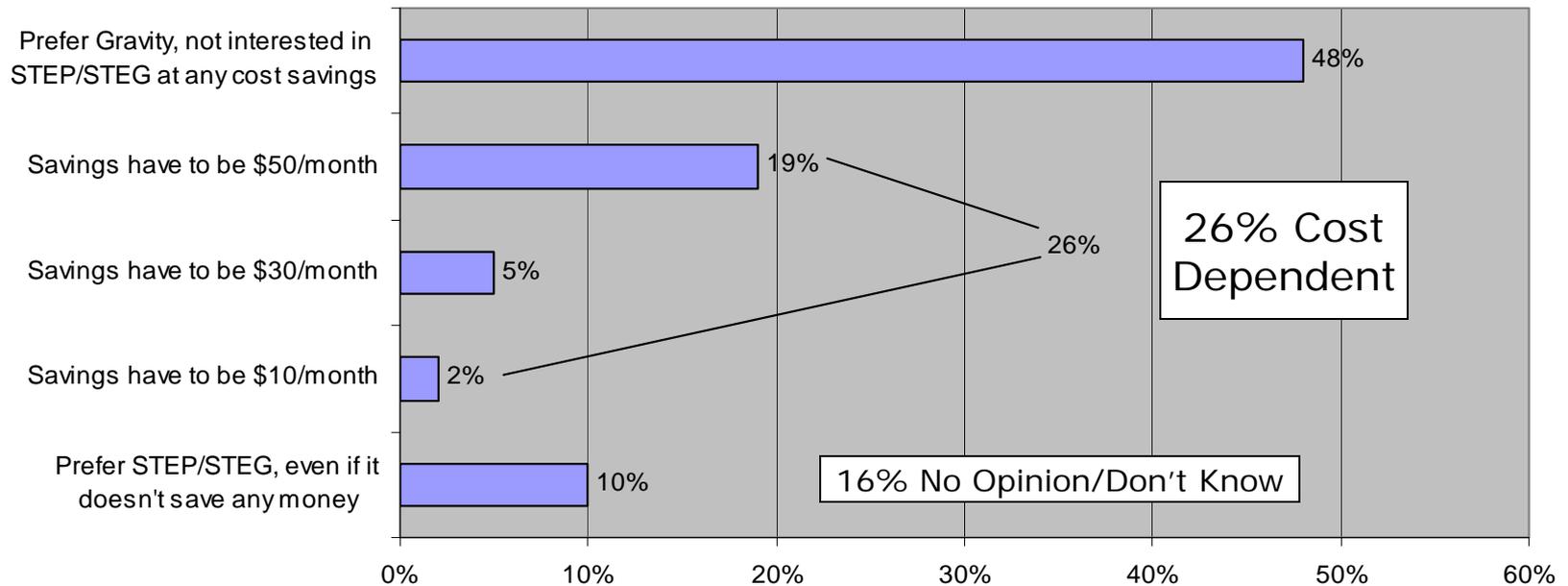
# FINDINGS: Collection System



Assessment Group

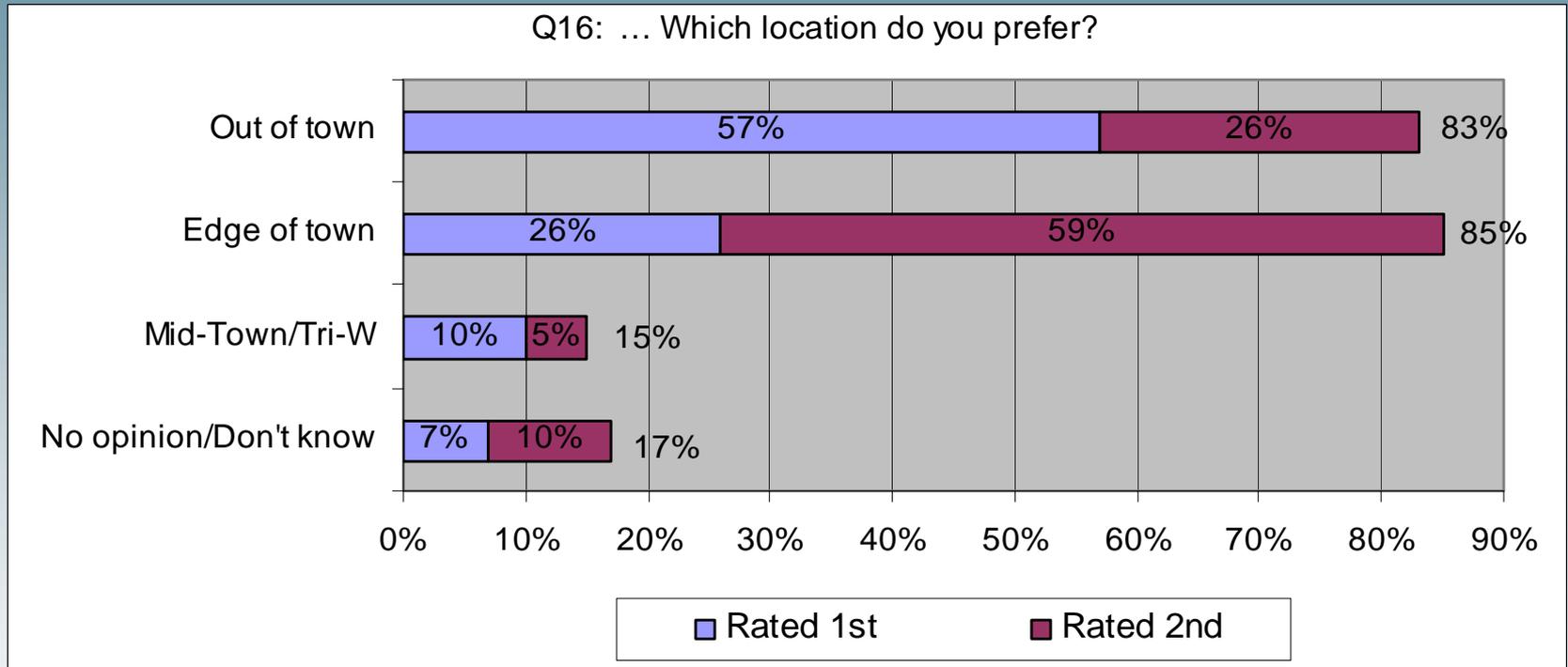
# FINDINGS: Collection System

Q: ... How much savings over a gravity system would a STEP/STEG system have to provide to make it worthwhile?



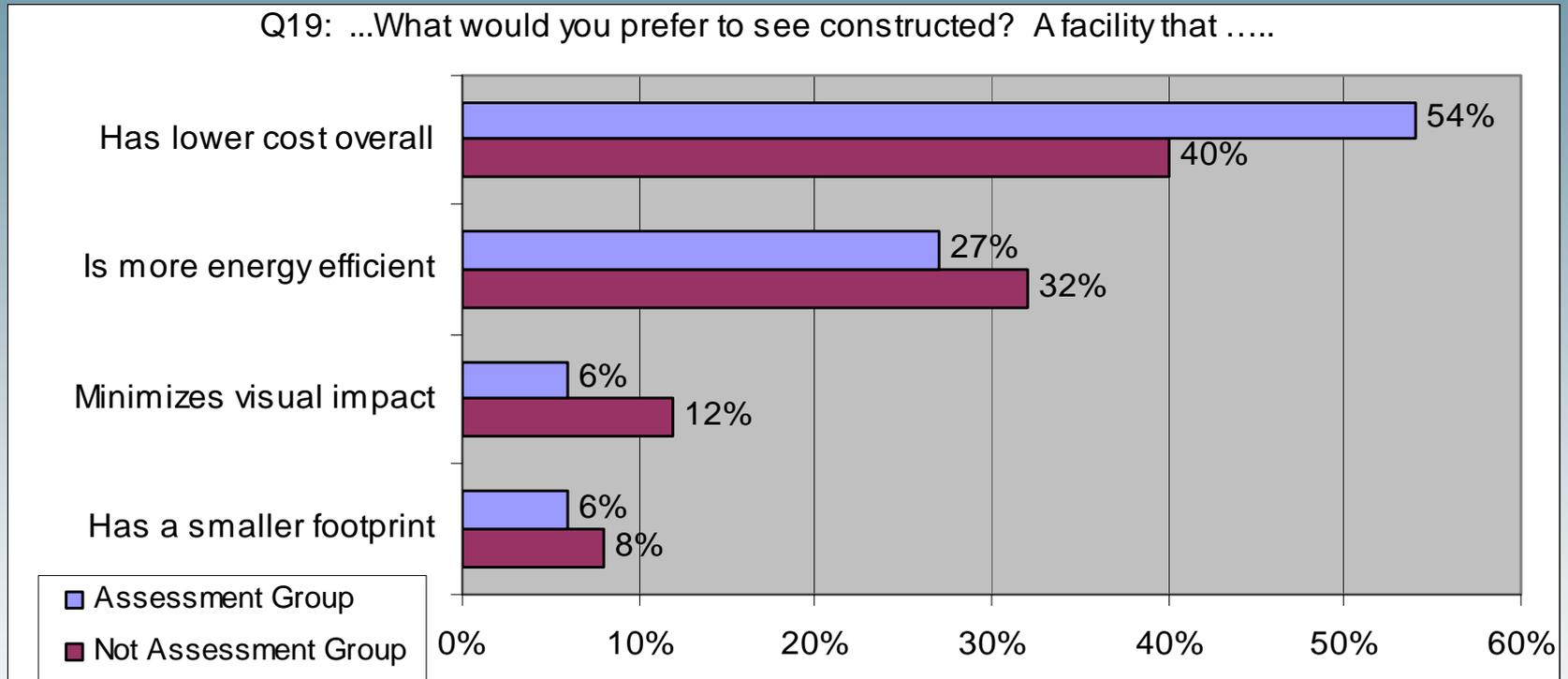
Assessment Group

# FINDINGS: Treatment Facility Site



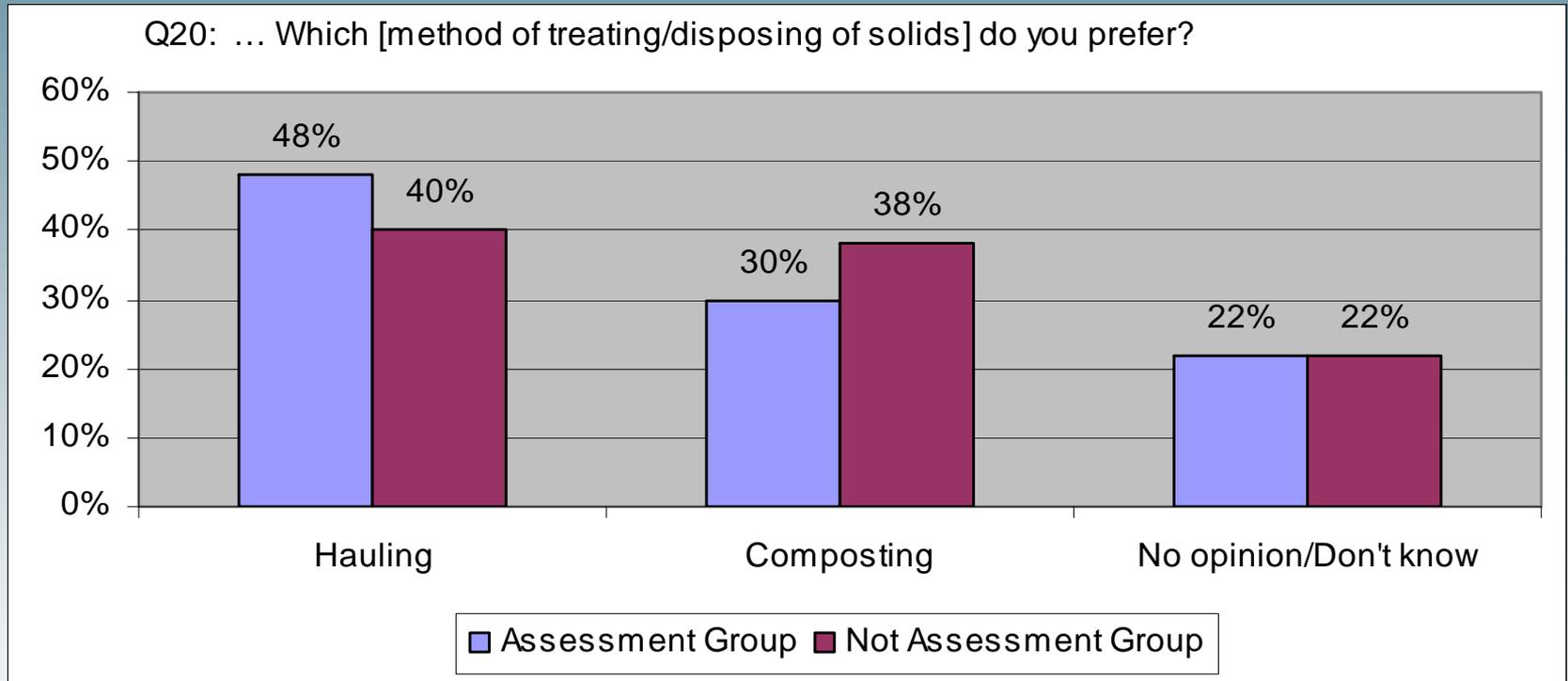
All respondents

# FINDINGS: Treatment Technologies



Assessment v. Not Assessment Groups

# FINDINGS: Solids Management



Assessment v. Not Assessment Groups

# FINDINGS: Level of Importance

- First tier:
  - Low costs: on-going costs more important than initial
  - Get project done ASAP
  - Minimum on-going maintenance

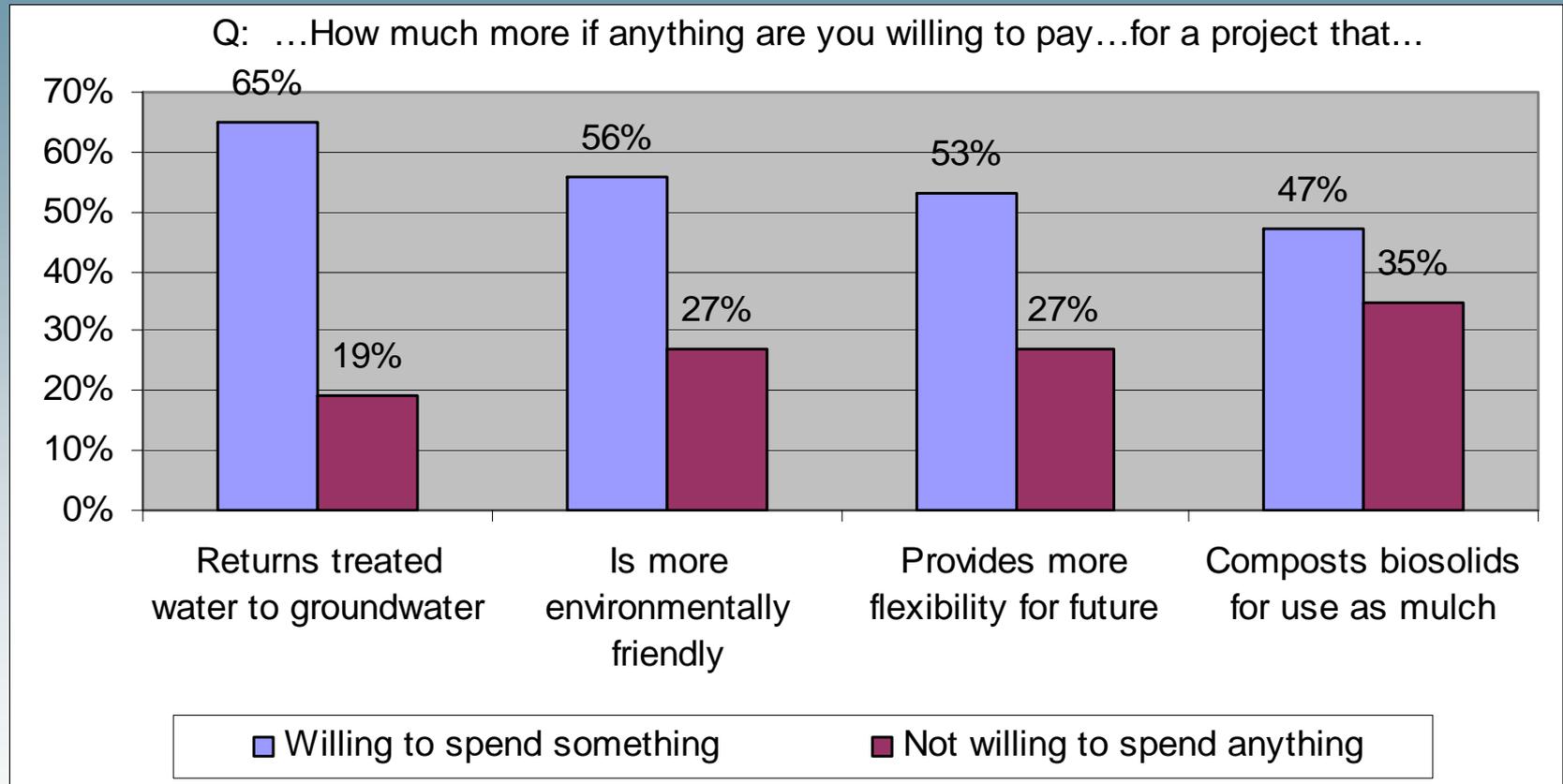
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- Second tier:
  - Reuse treated wastewater
  - Be situated away from homes
  - Be energy efficient
  - Have little impact on environment

# FINDINGS: Level of Importance

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  - Get project done ASAP
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- Second tier:
  - Reuse treated wastewater
  - Be situated away from homes
  - Be energy efficient
  - Have little impact on environment
  
- Least important:
  - Cause minimal disruption to properties during construction
  - Cause little congestion/disruption to town during construction

# OTHER COST CONSIDERATIONS



Assessment Group

# CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ Gravity system over STEP/STEG system
- ❑ Out of town treatment location site is preferred, but an edge of town site is acceptable
- ❑ Affordable, no 'frills' project description
  - Minimum on-going maintenance
  - Strong interest in beneficial reuse of treated wastewater
  - Some interest in environmental benefits and future flexibility
- ❑ Get project underway as soon as possible
- ❑ Written comments:
  - Pursue stimulus money to help offset costs
  - Property impact concerns with a STEP system