

California Cities

Could Shut Down Pool Construction Due to Drought



85% of California is now considered in a severe drought.

There are over 50 cities in California in danger of running out of drinking water. Most California cities either have or are in the process of implementing stages of their Urban Water Management Plans.

In many cases, these emergency water plans restrict the use of public water to fill new swimming pools. CPSA/PHTA is fighting back, but we need help from others in the industry. Cities that do not restrict the use of water for new pools are a result of the hard work and Let's Pool Together Campaign implemented by CPSA during the last drought. Facts and science are on our side, but we need both the grassroots participation and the financial support to win.

What Can You Do to Help?

Become a member of CPSA/PHTA and ask other pool and spa industry professionals to do the same. It takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to sponsor a statewide media campaign and monitor the actions of some 458 California cities and 700 water districts.

Be an activist to protect your livelihood. CPSA/PHTA needs members to attend city council meetings where restrictions on the use of public water to fill new pools is on the agenda. These meetings are virtual, so you can attend from your home or truck. CPSA has developed all the facts and materials you need in its Speaker's Kit. In addition:

- 1. Call your city council member or city manager** and inquire if the city has or is going to consider implementing water use restrictions.
- 2. Inquire whether the proposed ordinance includes any restrictions** on the use of public water for swimming pools or spas.
- 3. Ask for a copy of the ordinance or proposed ordinance.**
- 4. Be prepared to make the argument that new swimming pools and spas should not be restricted,** at least until such time as the city prohibits car washes that recycle water, as filling all new pools in a community takes much less water.



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Facts About Water Use by Swimming Pools and Spas



The facts about water use by stand-alone spas:

1. The average stand-alone spa contains approximately 350 gallons of water. Once filled, that water can remain in the spa for up to a year.
2. There is very little evaporation or splash loss from a stand-alone spa, as they come equipped with insulated covers that stay on the spa when the spa is not in use.
3. Cities do not prohibit homeowners from filling their indoor bathtubs or jetted tubs, many of which are large and take a substantial amount of water to fill. Once used, the water for these units is simply flushed down the drain.
4. Cities have no way of determining how many stand-alone spas are purchased each year and how much water is being used to fill them. As such, the city has no way to enforce this prohibition and no factual basis to support the proposed water conservation that is intended to result from it.



The facts about water use by swimming pools:

1. A new swimming pool requires an average of 14,000–18,000 gallons of water to fill it. When you sum the total amount of water to fill all new swimming pools that were permitted by a city annually and compare the sum against the average one-day use of water by the city's residents, **you find that filling new pools accounts for less than 1% of a city's one-day water use.**
2. Filling new swimming pools takes less water than car washes that recycle their water. According to the Western Carwash Association, **car wash facilities that recycle their water use approximately 1.5% of a city's annual water use.**
3. Once filled, a new pool saves 10,000 gallons of water in the first year it is installed, and 30,000 gallons annually thereafter, according to a Santa Margarita Water District study.
4. A pool that is covered when not in use can save up to 97% of the water lost through evaporation.
5. The swimming pool and spa industry creates approximately \$50,000 in local economic impact for each new pool built. At about \$903 per acre-foot, the pool and spa industry has the highest economic impact per acre-foot of water used than any other industry in California except high tech.
6. The swimming pool and spa industry employs more people per acre-foot of water used than any industry in the state, with 11,797 people employed.



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