

TALKING POINTS

The Pool, Spa & Hot Tub Industry is Part of the Drought Solution

- The pool and spa industry understands the drastic situation we're in. We know that every industry is going to have to share the pain, but water use restrictions on the pool, spa and hot tub industry are merely symbolic – they do not contribute to measurable water savings, and they do not have any impact on the drought.
- The California Pool & Spa Association and the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance are teaming up to relaunch their awareness campaign, "Let's Pool Together," designed to educate pool owners and others about ways they can save water.

Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs are not Water Wasters

- The use of water in swimming pools and spas is negligible compared to any water district's annual water consumption.
- A well-maintained pool or hot tub uses significantly less water per day than the irrigated lawn it often replaces, not including the decking that often accompanies pools.
- On average, hot tub water use comes out to less than 3 gallons per day, or just 1% of total household water consumption.
- Hot tubs are incredibly water-conscious; water can be reused for lawns and landscaping
- Imposing severe water restrictions on pool and spa owners will not help the drought since, once filled, pools and spas use relatively little water. Any ban on construction or filling of pools will not achieve significant water savings.

The Pool, Spa & Hot Tub Industry is Critical to California's Economy

- The tens of thousands of small business owners and employees and the millions of dollars in economic output makes the pool and spa industry a crucial part of California's economy.
- The industry creates approximately \$75,000 in local economic impact for every new pool.
- Pool construction employs hundreds of local residents, requires permit fees and employee payroll taxes be paid, all contributing to the local economy.
- The industry is comprised of small, local, often minority-owned businesses, and restrictions to the industry directly impact their livelihood.
- The California pool, spa and hot tub industry provides \$5 billion in economic activity to this state each year. In 2020, the industry contributed more than 94,000 local jobs to the California economy. We provide tens of thousands of well-paying jobs and millions in local and state taxes.
- To impose a ban on filling or building pools and spas would mean a significant monetary loss and spike in unemployment. I employ [REDACTED] people, all of whom rely on a robust pool and spa industry to make ends meet.
- My business, like so many others in the pool and spa industry, took a big hit during the recession and pandemic. Severe water restrictions on pool builders and our customers could be the final straw for many companies.
- Any restrictions on pool construction or filling could cost local governments millions of dollars in lost building permit fees and taxes.

Pool & Spa Owners Are Doing Their Part to Conserve Water

- Pools, hot tubs and spas, and their surrounding decking, use significantly LESS water than a traditional lawn does.
- Once filled, a pool, decking and cover are about as water efficient as drought-resistant landscaping.

- Even a new pool, which needs to be filled, will use approximately 3,000 gallons *LESS* in its first year than a traditional lawn would use in the same time.
- Pool and spa decks and the “hardscape” that surrounds it often replace most if not all of a backyard’s landscaping, further reducing the home’s water needs.
- During construction, which can last between 3-5 months, pools and spas require no water. This water savings is often not taken into account and further increases the water-savings of installing a pool and surrounding decking.

Severe Water Restrictions on Pool & Spa Owners are Bad for Public Health

- Pools are a place for kids to participate in a healthy and safe activity at home with their families and neighbors.
- Pools provide much needed health and wellness benefits, from relaxation and stress relief to low-impact cardiovascular fitness and improved sleep.
- Empty or poorly maintained pools can be a literal breeding ground for mosquitoes and West Nile Virus.
- Empty pools are dangerous for small children and pets, who can fall in and severely hurt themselves, and also pose a risk for pop-out, which is when the pressure of groundwater pushes up on the pool floor.