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Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Board of Directors
Subject: Swimming Pool Water Restriction
Attachments: CPSA Article - Drought 6-8-2021.docx

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To Whom it may Concern:

My name is John Norwood. I am represent the California Pool & Spa Association. I am writing in response to the article in the Mercury News that appeared this morning (see link to the article below) indicating that the district would impose a prohibition on filling new pools. There are numerous water agency and city studies that show any such prohibition does not have a significant affect on district water savings. I have attached one of these and other materials for your review. Typically the amount of water that it would take to fill all the new pools in a city annually amounts to .01 % of the water used by city in one day. Swimming pools use less than half the water used by lawns and the landscape they most often replace.

Here are a couple more little known facts;

- Any landscaping that occupies the same area as a pool, uses many times more water than a pool.
- The amount of water to initially fill your new pool is equal to the amount of water a family of 4 uses in one month.

Once the *swimming pool* is full, the only water a swimming pool uses is to refill water from splash-out and evaporation, and this is a minor amount of water. The water recirculates through it's filtration system and so it is used again and again.

- When you water a lawn or landscape plants or hedges, that water goes into the ground is lost.

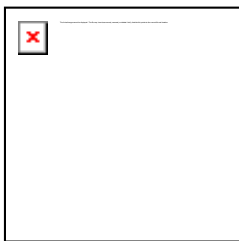
As an example; a lawn that has 4 sprinkler heads @ 2gpm, running for 20 min a day 3 times per week will use 500 gallons per week. In about 9 months your landscaping will use as much water as it takes to fill a swimming pool. And once you fill a swimming pool the pool keeps its water for 15+ years.

CPSA would urge the district to forego any water use restriction on the construction of new in-ground swimming pools and spas. Portable pools are another matter. IU

would be happy to respond to any questions you might have relative to this issue. I can be reached on my cell phone at 916-225-8585. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/06/07/drought-mandatory-water-restrictions-coming-to-santa-clara-county/?utm_email=85F0B4F8D429647C647014B271&g2i_eui=JJdTUoEi%2b%2bl6gvktS%2blkkzSh6e7WtM1EzBw1xWSksPU%3d&g2i_source=newsletter&utm_source=listrak&utm_medium=email&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.mercurynews.com%2f2021%2f06%2f07%2fdrought-mandatory-water-restrictions-coming-to-santa-clara-county%2f&utm_campaign=bang-mult-nl-pm-report-nl&utm_content=curated

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Severe CA Drought To Affect Pool Industry

Just two years after California celebrated the end of its last devastating drought, the state is facing another one. Snowpack has dwindled to nearly nothing, the state's 1,500 reservoirs are at only 50% of their average levels, and federal and local agencies have begun to issue water restrictions.

Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a drought emergency in 41 of the state's 58 counties. Meanwhile, temperatures are surging as the region braces for what is expected to be another record-breaking fire season, and scientists are sounding the alarm about the state's readiness.

"What we are seeing right now is very severe, dry conditions and in some cases and some parts of the west, the lowest in-flows to reservoirs on record," says Roger Pulwarty, a senior scientist in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) physical sciences laboratory, adding that, while the system is designed to withstand dry periods, "a lot of the slack in our system has already been used up."

Last time around it took the state three years of drought conditions to get to the point where California Reservoirs are today. Call it climate change or whatever, but 2021 seems to be turning out to be the driest year on record, especially in the Northern California region where the state depends on snow and reservoirs to provide sufficient water to serve the state through the hot months.

Drought is not unnatural for California. Its climate is predisposed to wet years interspersed among dry ones. But the climate crisis and rising temperatures are compounding these natural variations, turning cyclical changes into crises. Drought, as defined by the National Weather Service, isn't a sudden onset of characteristics but rather a creeping trend. It's classified after a period of time, when the prolonged lack of water in a system causes problems in a particular area, such as crop damages or supply issues. In California, dry conditions started to develop in May of last year, according to federal monitoring systems.

The effects really began to show in early spring 2020, when the annual winter rainy season failed to replenish the parched landscape and a hot summer baked even more moisture out of the environment. By March, conditions were dire enough for the US agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, to designate most of California as a primary disaster area. Just two months later, 93% of the Southwest and California were in drought, with 38% of the region classified at the highest level.

The state's previous drought lasted roughly seven long years, from December 2011 to March 2019, according to official estimates. But some scientists believe it never actually ended. These researchers suggest that the West is gripped by an emerging 100 year "megadrought" that could last for decades. A 2020 study that looked at tree rings for historical climate clues concluded the region may be entering the worst prolonged period of drought encountered in more than 1,200 years and attributed roughly half of the effects to human-caused global heating.

Meanwhile, California has been getting warmer, and 2020 brought some of the highest temperatures ever recorded. In August of last year, Death Valley reached 130F (54C) and a month later, an area in Los Angeles County recorded a 121F (49.4C) day – the hottest in its history.

When we do not have the snowpack, it puts our water system under tremendous pressure. Heat changes the water cycle and creates a thirstier atmosphere that accelerates evaporation. That means there is less water available for communities, businesses, and ecosystems. It also means there will be less snow, which California relies on for roughly 30% of its water supply.

“The snowpack, in the context of the western US and specifically in California, is really critical for our water supply,” says Safeeq Khan, a professor at University of California, Merced, who researches the climate crisis and water sustainability. “The snowpack sits on the mountain and melts in the spring and early summer. That provides the buffer to overcome the extreme summer heat,” he explains.

But in recent years, even during wet winters, he says, the snowpack wasn't as strong as it used to be. This year, even before the summer, it is already nearly gone. The melt has also produced less runoff than expected, meaning less trickled into streams, rivers, and reservoirs.

In the Sacramento area, Lake Orville is the linchpin of a system of reservoirs and aqueducts that helps provide drinking water, sustains endangered salmon, and irrigates a quarter of the nation's crops. The lake is shrinking rapidly and is expected to reach a record low this summer. Over the Memorial Day weekend, houseboats were seen sitting on concrete blocks.

In nearby Folsom Lake, the usually very busy boat docks are sitting on dry land. Further North, campers at Shasta Lake are camping on the dry and dusty banks of the great lake. The water is so low at Lake Mendocino that state officials had to reduce the amount of water flowing to Central Valley farmers.

But the effects of the drought go way beyond boat-goers and campers. The San Francisco Bay needs fresh water from the reservoirs to keep out the saltwater that harms freshwater fish and crops. And the state needs the water from the dams to produce hydroelectric power. It is expected by late August that state officials will have to shut down the electrical station at the Lake which could again contribute to rolling electric blackouts across the state. In addition, California is already in a state of emergency regarding the threat of a wildfire season worse than last year which burned some 4 million acres.

City by city, new local emergency water contingency plans are being implemented and residents are being asked to conserve water. CPSA is monitoring these ordinances, but some are bound to start affecting new swimming pool construction, especially if the drought continues into next year. Another consequence is that homeowners who want to build a pool or have one under construction start getting harassed by their neighbors. CPSA has produced doorhangers for pool contractors to use in neighborhoods where they are building pools that inform the neighbors that swimming pools use only about half the water that the lawn and landscaping they generally replace.

It wasn't supposed to get this bad, at least not this quickly. As recently as two months ago, the Sierra Nevada snowpack was about 70% of average, and state officials were hunkering down for a difficult but not disastrous summer.

But in a space of a few weeks, amid a spring warm spell, most of the Sierra runoff either evaporated or was soaked up by dry soils. Governor Newsom finally declared a drought emergency in 41 of the state's 58 counties, officials said about 500,000 acre-feet of melted snow that was supposed to replenish the reservoirs failed to materialize. Later they put the missing runoff figure at 685,000 acre-feet, enough water to fill about two-thirds of Folsom Lake.

Newsom and others blamed climate change for turning the situation so unexpectedly catastrophic. But many environmentalists and other policy experts aren't completely buying that explanation. Critics, especially The California Water for Food & People Movement, claim the drought is man-made. They cite statistics that indicate the state has dumped enough water in the Pacific Ocean this year to provide the state residents at least a year worth of water. In California, the saying goes, "whiskey is for drinking and water for fighting" referring to the tensions between interests representing agriculture, fishing, environmental groups, and public drinking water requirements. More to follow.....