



August 9, 2021

Mayor Alvin Royse
Town of Hillsborough
1600 Floribunda Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010

RE: Request for Reconsideration on Restrictions Against Filling New Pools

Dear Mayor Royse:

I am writing on behalf of CPSA and our member pool builders and suppliers that serve your city. We are requesting that the Town Council reconsider its decision to prohibit the initial filling of new swimming pools, as outlined in the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan set for amending on August 9, 2021. We do not have an issue with prohibiting the dumping and refilling of existing swimming pools.

We are very aware that California is experiencing a severe drought and water is a precious commodity. However, prohibiting the filling of swimming pools and spas is, at most, a symbolic gesture. Pools use very little water and, as such, there is no basis in fact or science that would indicate that banning the filling of swimming pools would have anything but a de minimis impact on water conservation. However, what this prohibition does achieve is to threaten the very existence of pool builders and spa retailers in the community who have weathered the COVID-19 storm over the last 18 months.

Let me provide some facts relative to 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 Car Wash 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. Santa Margarita Water District Study
4. In the state's guidebook for Urban Water Management Plans the State of California's only water conservation restriction relative to swimming pools and spas is to recommend that cities require pools to be covered when not in use. 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 \$903.00 per acre-feet, the pool and spa industry has the highest economic impact per acre-feet of water used than any other industry in California except high tech.
6. The swimming pool and spa industry employs more people per acre-feet of water used than any industry in the state at 11,797 people employed.

Our pool builders, distributors, and retailers live and work in the community. The industry provides good-paying jobs and purchases almost all construction materials from local suppliers. Our members utilize local subcontractors, accountants, tax preparation firms, and many other businesses in the community and pay local taxes and permit fees. A prohibition on filling new pools amounts to the government taking their business away and nullifying the benefits this industry brings to the community, especially where there is no compelling evidence that such action will have a significant effect on water conservation.

For all the reasons cited above, we would implore the Hillsborough Town Council to reconsider its ban on the filling of new swimming pools. I would be more than happy to respond to any questions you might have relative to this letter and/or the source of the facts contained herein.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. NORWOOD
Norwood Associates, LLC
916-447-5053

Cc: Christine Krolik, Vice Mayor
Marie Chuang, Councilmember
Sophie Cole, Councilmember
Laurence May, Councilmember