

Calif. pool, hot tub filling bans have industries steaming

By Nicholas Weiler, San Jose Mercury News

It's hard to imagine a California summer without long days lounging by the pool. But as unprecedented drought sears the state, the backyard swimming pool has become a target for cities desperate to save water.

As cities and water districts put the squeeze on water users, even pool lovers are canceling construction contracts. Pool builders are steamed, accusing water officials of stressing symbolism over science. And contractors are getting increasingly creative in finding sources of water for pools that cities won't fill.

The new restrictions – largely the result of Gov. Jerry Brown's order to cut water use 25 percent statewide – have become a nightmare for pool builders and hot tub retailers.

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