

Pools

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Santa Cruz high schools were hoping to use the pool for water polo league finals, which begin in a few weeks, said Louanne Myers, president of the Santa Cruz County Aquatics Team.

"It's real frustrating," she said. "We are probably going to be the biggest user of the pool. Right now we're using the pool at Soquel High School. It's been real tough because we have kids as young as 6 years old and the earliest we can get Soquel is 7 at night.

"We know it's not the county's fault," she said. "Things didn't go very well with the contractor."

Officials noticed the stainless-steel edge around both the Olympic-size pool and warm-water pool turning black about a month ago, officials said.

"When our contractors couldn't find out the source of the problems, we hired our own technical experts to find the problem," Burns said.

The firm, which specializes in finding construction problems, is investigating.

"There's a big question mark as to what's going on with it," Burns said of the black metal. "The swim teams are anxious to move into the pool and the general public's been asking a lot of questions. The pools look gorgeous walking around them, until you look at the metal degenerating on them."

There's no telling if the delay will be weeks or months, he said.

"It's just another difficult stage of building this project," he said. "We are working very quickly to know what we need to get things remedied."