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Stormwater shapes LA County more than most of us realize. This glossary breaks down key terms so you can confidently understand our stormwater landscape and take an active role in

 Catch Basin:	A drainage structure that directs stormwater from surfaces into storm drains.
 Channel:	A constructed or natural waterway designed to convey stormwater. In flood control systems, channels help to quickly move water downstream, reducing flood risk.
 Erosion:	When soil, rock and sediment are carried away by stormwater runoff.
 Flood Control:	Infrastructure systems that help manage stormwater to reduce flood risks, while preventing pollution. Flood control is also known as flood protection.
 Flood Risk:	The likelihood that an area will experience flooding during heavy rainfall or storm events.
 Groundwater Recharge:	Capturing and cleaning stormwater to refill groundwater and replenish local supplies.
 Multi-Benefit Projects:	Projects with infrastructure that help capture, clean and store stormwater, while also providing added community benefits such as parks or green spaces.
 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4):	A conveyance or system of conveyances (such as roads with drainage systems, curbs, gutters, or storm drains) owned or operated by a State.
 Runoff:	Precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows across land instead of soaking into the ground.
 Safe, Clean Water Program:	An initiative that provides funding for stormwater projects that improve water quality, increase our local water supply and provide community benefits, like green spaces and parks.
 Sediment:	The soil, sand, silt or organic particles that are carried away from land surfaces by erosion and transported into waterways.
 Storm Drain:	An infrastructure system consisting of drains, pipes and channels that helps collect and manage stormwater to reduce flood risks.
 Stormwater:	Rainwater or snowfall once it reaches the ground during a storm that ultimately flows into storm drains and ends up in rivers, lakes and other bodies of water.
 Stormwater Capture:	The process of collecting stormwater to be cleaned and stored, so it can be used to replenish local water supplies.
 Stormwater Pollution:	Stormwater runoff that picks up pollution, such as trash, plastic and chemicals from surfaces (streets, gutters, roofs etc.), and ultimately ends up in our waterways.
 Watershed:	An area of land where rain and snow flow downhill, come together with streams and rivers, eventually reaching a larger body of water. Watersheds also include entire ecosystems of people, plants and wildlife that depend on the water flowing through it.
 Water Quality:	The measure of how clean and safe water is for use by people, wildlife or the environment.