

Stormwater Capture

As climate extremes become more frequent, capturing stormwater has become one of the most effective strategies for strengthening our water supply. When Los Angeles County experiences bursts of heavy rain, the water can either wash away or be captured and stored as a local water supply. Stormwater capture helps refill the groundwater basins that provide 30 to 40 percent of the County's water and supports a more reliable supply for our communities.



Turning Rain into a Local Resource

Stormwater is rain or snow that doesn't absorb into the ground during a storm and begins to flow across streets, soil and paved areas. Stormwater capture collects this water, before it ends up in rivers, lakes or the ocean, storing and treating it for reuse.



How Stormwater Capture Works

Stormwater can be captured and stored in many different ways, both large and small. These systems help slow down, clean and absorb rainwater so it can refill groundwater basins or be reused later.

- **Rainwater gardens** collect and clean stormwater by filtering it through plants, soil, sand and gravel.
- **Spreading grounds** are large open areas that allow stormwater to collect and seep into underground aquifers.
- **Green streets** use the power of plants, soil and engineered systems to collect stormwater from the street and sidewalks.
- **Infiltration wells** capture and direct stormwater runoff into the ground to replenish groundwater.
- **Rain barrels and cisterns** catch rainwater from rooftops and store it for future uses like watering plants or landscaping.



During the 2025–2026 storm season, LA County Public Works captured 120.3 billion gallons of stormwater.

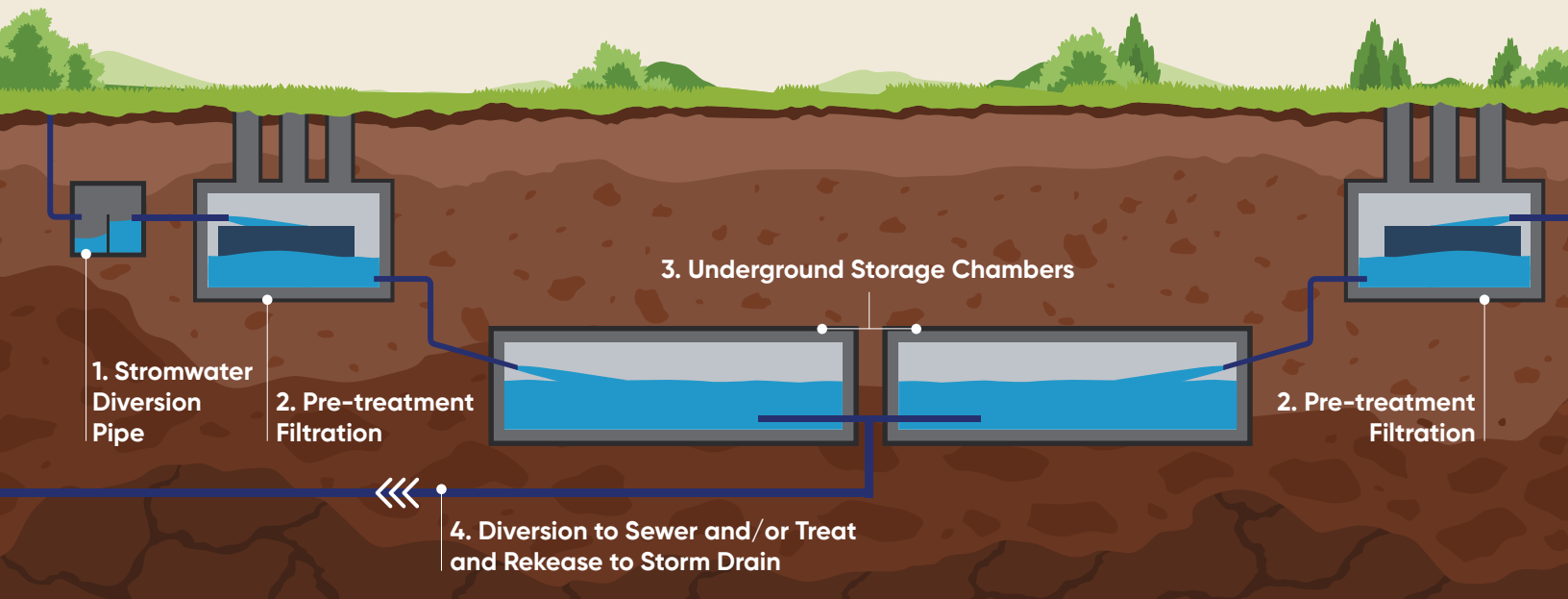
Benefits

- ✓ Increases our local supply by storing rainwater and replenishing groundwater
- ✓ Reduces flooding by slowing down runoff during heavy storms
- ✓ Prevents pollution by keeping trash, chemicals and other pollutants out of rivers, lakes and the ocean
- ✓ Creates added community benefits like recreational and green spaces



Safe, Clean Water Program

The Safe, Clean Water Program funds stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase our local water supply and bring added benefits to communities, such as new parks, trails and green spaces. There are currently more than 126 regional stormwater projects underway across the County. Learn more at safecleanwaterla.org and visit our **Multi-Benefit Project** page to see these projects coming to life.



Learn More

To learn more about stormwater capture in your community, visit waterforla.com.