

CONSERVATION CORNER

Drought Resilience and Storm Water Capture

Drought resilient water supplies are sources of water that do not rely as heavily on recent rainfall. A major example of a drought resilient supply is storm water capture, but other supplies such as desalination and recycled water are being expanded across Southern California.



Storm water capture is, in simple terms, storing rain water in ways that it can be used well after rain has fallen. A simple example of storm water capture would be a rain barrel attached to a gutter on a household. More significant storm water infrastructure might be a large retention basin that stores and filters storm water and allows it to mix with groundwater in aquifers. Most of the storm water that currently falls in Southern California eventually ends up in the ocean, but capturing this water could significantly boost drought resilient water supply. When this water is not captured it will pick up pollutants like trash, fertilizer, or cigarette butts as it travels down flood control channels or natural waterways on its way to the ocean. This can significantly pollute downstream areas. Finding ways to effectively capture this water is part of statewide and regional water conservation and water quality strategies.

However, storm water capture infrastructure has a high price (estimated at \$20 billion for LA County) and requires significant cooperation between multiple interested parties. There are also many legal, administrative, and technical challenges to be overcome before a significant portion of available storm water can be captured. Public and private agencies across the region are seeking ways to cooperate in order to share costs and overcome challenges. Implementing proper storm water infrastructure to improve water quality, preserve flood control, and establish new water supplies while continuing to be fiscally responsible is a major goal for the region.

San Dimas Beginner Smart Gardening Workshop

LA County is offering a Beginner Gardening Workshop in San Dimas. Beginner workshops teach you about water wise gardening, composting, and grasscycling. The workshop is on 8/26/2017 from 9:30 am – 11:00 am at the Horsethief Canyon Park, 301 Horsethief Canyon Rd, San Dimas, CA, 91773.

Glendora Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Event

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in Glendora on August 19, 2017 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Citrus College, Stadium Parking Lot, Barranca Avenue just north of Alostia Avenue, Glendora 91740. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to this event, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at www.888cleanla.com.

