Metro has replaced approximately 40,000 square feet of asphalt with permeable pavement and installed a bioretention area to capture and clean stormwater at the Division 4 facility in Downey, CA.

What is Permeable Pavement?
Permeable concrete pavement is an innovative stormwater management tool that allows water to pass through freely and recharge groundwater, while providing support at the surface for vehicle parking and operations.

The permeable concrete layer consists of gravel, bound with cement and water, to form a solid surface. The surface appears uneven, as it incorporates small air pockets that allow water to drain through to a base of larger rock below and then into native soil.

Benefits of the Project
- Reducing pollutants that impact streams and rivers that lead to the Los Angeles Estuary in Long Beach Harbor
- Replenishing groundwater resources for the public water supply
- Improving surface water quality
- Implementing stormwater Best Management Practices
- Creating partnerships among 88 municipalities and 17 special jurisdictions across LA County
- Increasing awareness about permeable pavement and bioretention technologies

Benefits of Permeable Pavement
Permeable concrete pavement reduces stormwater runoff and increases groundwater recharge.

As water flows through the pavement, pollutants like motor oil or fertilizers that can impact downstream waters and aquatic life are trapped. Naturally occurring beneficial bacteria can then break down hydrocarbons and harmful bacteria such as E. Coli.
Permeable Pavement and Bioretention Pilot Project

Maintaining Permeable Pavement
For maximum benefit, all larger debris like trash and leaves are removed regularly. Vacuuming twice a year helps maintain the surface's ability to absorb water.

What to Know
Stormwater quality is closely associated with how much water flows at any given moment. Bioretention systems prevent large volumes of this water from moving across impermeable surfaces.

Any stormwater not captured by the permeable pavement overflows into a bioretention area. These areas use a combination of plants, soils and microbes to clean the water, reducing the chance of pollutants leaving Metro property. In total, this project will be able to capture more than 130,000 gallons of water from a single rain event.

Metro Leads
Metro is a national leader in the development and implementation of environmental and sustainability efforts. As part of its Water Action Plan, the agency undertakes efforts to reduce potable water use; reduce costs associated with operational fees; and look for innovative solutions to water management, use and discharge.

Results from this pilot will be used in conjunction with other water-related Metro studies contributing to a comprehensive Master Plan of low-impact development strategies for use across all Metro divisions.

Division 4 was selected as it is located in an area that will be part of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Water Quality and Stormwater Treatment Strategic Plan and is in proximity to an area Caltrans identified as having stormwater that is challenging to treat.

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