



# Well done!

## Two new ‘bioretention wells’ filter runoff naturally on Paramount Boulevard

Nature is quietly working for a greener Lakewood, ridding runoff along Paramount Boulevard of pollutants, capturing litter, and even adding to the beauty of the city’s “urban forest.”

The City Lakewood has enlisted helpful soil organisms, specially engineered filtration material, and gravity to improve the quality of the water that reaches the city’s storm drain system – an environmental goal of the Lakewood City Council and the state Water Resources Control Board.

A pair of curb openings and two “Majestic Beauty” raphiolepis hawthorns are the only above-ground signs of two “bioretention wells” recently installed as part of street improvements on Paramount Boulevard.

Lakewood is one of the first cities in southeast Los Angeles County to use the bioretention technology, developed by Filterra Bioretention Systems. It’s a sample of “low impact development” designed to produce positive environmental results by working with nature.

Nearly all of a “bioretention well” is below ground, in the form of a concrete basin and plumbing that connects the well to the existing storm drain system. Filtration material, organic mulch, and the roots of the tree planted in the well trap litter (which is removed by periodic cleaning) and filter dissolved toxins, and harmful solids suspended in the runoff.

Metals, oil, and other pollutants are captured by the filtration media and kept out of runoff. The filtered storm water reaches the ocean environment without a load of toxins, trash, or harmful organic waste.

### Streets repaved

In addition, the Paramount Boulevard project overlaid the street with rubberized asphalt (which recycled 25,000 used tires into the new paving) and put up six solar-powered bus shelters.

Funding for a major part of the project was made possible under a federal grant secured by Congresswoman Linda Sánchez. The two “bioretention wells” also came at the Congresswoman’s suggestion.

The County Department of Public Works, through the efforts of Supervisor Don Knabe, provided engineering and design services.

Bloomfield Avenue and South Street are next up in the city’s decade-long program of street improvements. Since 2000, the city has repaved nearly 95 percent of residential streets and connector roads.