Beneath Long Beach is a large aquifer that holds water in its porous soils. This underground water, or groundwater, is an important source of water for Southern California’s communities.

Here at Dominguez Gap, surface runoff is collected in the spreading basins. At the same time, the water is allowed to soak deep into the ground where it fills the spaces between rocks and soil to recharge groundwater supplies. The groundwater, in turn, supports plant life above. It also plays a role in keeping saltwater from soaking further inland and contaminating other groundwater. Since a significant portion of our drinking water comes from groundwater sources, it is important to protect these supplies.