



SF-Rima - Project Report # 16

Project:

**Self Storage Facility
Marina, California**

**Contractor: Stowe Contracting, Inc.
Marina, CA 831-884-0732**

16,000 sq.ft. SF-Rima™



Report from Gary Stowe, Stowe Contracting Inc., Marina, CA:

"This project was a self storage facility with over 16,000 sq.ft. of parking and driveways.

Our community is a coastal town built on sand dunes. We have no storm drain system and property owners are required to maintain all storm water run off on their property. That is not only the runoff from the parking surfaces, but all the roofs of the buildings as well. This is normally accomplished by the use of underground percolation ponds. These ponds are very expensive to install and virtually impossible to maintain. The intent in this application was to combine the drainage system and the percolation pond in the paving structure. Planning went well by following David Smith's book on permeable pavers – until we got to a skeptical city engineer. The percolation rate of the soil was so fast, we could not get the hole to fill up with water to measure the rate. The engineer would only accept a rate of six inches per hour. SF-Rima permeates over twenty inches of rainfall an hour. He would only allow us to use one inch/hour as a calculation. Instead of meeting the requirements of a 100 year storm, he made us

show we could accept a 1000 year storm in our system without any run off from the property. He still felt it was not going to work even after we flushed our six inch fire sprinkler line onto the pavers for five minutes with absolutely no ponding of water. Despite all the obstacles, we got the system passed and it has been performing beautifully for the past 5 years. We have run a parking lot sweeper over the pavers twice since installation and the only areas with even a slight amount of sediment clogging are at the entrance and exit.



The owner is especially happy that if there are any maintenance issues they will be apparent and can be readily repaired. During storms, there are never any puddles or running water anywhere. The application is as close to care free as a hard surface can be and should last well beyond the projected 20-25 year lifespan."



Gary Stowe: "We cut the subgrade to the proper elevation, then installed a layer of geo-textile fabric. The drain rock layer was 12" of ¾" washed drain rock, covered by a 1-2" layer of 1/4" choke rock. The SF-Rima was installed and then the same ¼" rock was swept into the openings."

**Photo courtesy: Mark Taiariol, Basalite
Concrete Products, Tracy, CA**

**SF-Rima™ manufacturer:
Basalite Concrete Products, CA**