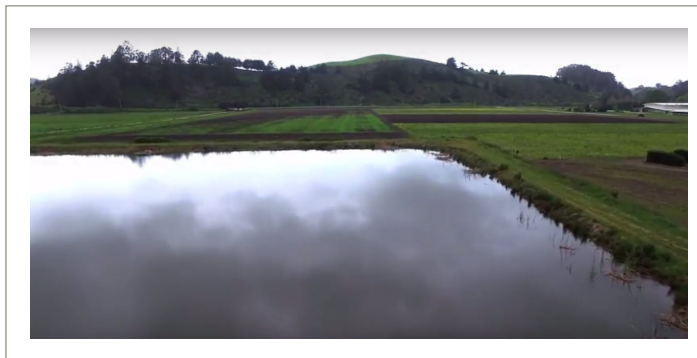


Pescadero Creek Conjunctive Use Flow Project Bianchi Flowers

Pescadero Creek in San Mateo County is a stronghold for wild steelhead on California's Central Coast. But summertime irrigation diversions result in low flow conditions -- a critical limiting factor for juvenile steelhead and coho salmon. TU's goal for coastal streams like Pescadero is to increase flows during the late summer months to improve habitat conditions for threatened steelhead and endangered coho. The Pescadero Creek Conjunctive Use Flow Project at Bianchi Flowers, executed by this 4th generation family vegetable and flower farm, helps achieve this goal.



The project provided professional irrigation system evaluations and the design and infrastructure to “re-plumb” the farm. To eliminate the farm’s creek diversions during the driest months, the project connected the irrigation system to a deep agricultural well and expanded the use of an existing on-site pond. Bianchi Flowers then signed a long-term contract agreeing to the following measures to improve streamflows:

- In normal and wet years, Bianchi Flowers will continue to divert from the creek from April through June/July, but its diversion rate will be reduced from 280 gallons per minute to 70 gpm. The farm will discontinue diversions from August through October, keeping some 6.5 million gallons of water in the creek during the driest part of the year.
- In dry years, Bianchi Flowers will discontinue all diversions from April through October. As a result, approximately 13 million gallons of water will be left in the creek during the late summer and fall.

A video describing this project is found at <https://vimeo.com/channels/californiastreamflow>.

This project was made possible by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center. Project partners include Bianchi Flowers, Inc., Trout Unlimited, the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration, and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.