

# San Gregorio Creek Off-Stream Irrigation Pond Repetto Nursery

San Gregorio Creek in San Mateo County is one of the more important spawning and nursery streams for steelhead and coho salmon on the central California coast. This watershed is designated a Critical Coastal Area and is a core recovery area for Central California Coast coho salmon. Historically, San Gregorio Creek was a stronghold for native steelhead, but this population has been hard hit by impacts including reduced late summer streamflow -- due in part to irrigation diversions.

**TU's goal for coastal streams like San Gregorio is to increase flows during the late summer months to improve habitat conditions for steelhead and coho.** This project, executed by Repetto Nursery (a third-generation family vegetable and flower farm), Trout Unlimited, the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, and other partners, helps achieve this goal.

This project utilized two primary approaches. First, it installed a series of irrigation system upgrades to reduce the farm's water use and lessen the impacts of diversion. These included:

- Installing irrigation system upgrades to maximize water use efficiency
- Reducing the farm's summer rate of diversion from 250 gallons per minute (gpm) to 70 gpm
- Providing irrigation evaluations and water rights analysis in support of the above changes

Second, the project increased the amount of the farm's off-stream storage to allow it to collect more water in the winter and stop diverting altogether in the driest months. This was done by:

- Increasing the size of the farm's storage pond from 5.3 acre-feet to 18.5 acre-feet
- Signing an agreement with the farmer to stop diverting altogether from August through October and rely on the stored water instead



*The project was made possible by the California Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Water Resources (Prop. 84), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Project partners include Repetto Nursery, Trout Unlimited, the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, and American Rivers.*