Projects to Increase Summer Streamflows in Coastal California

Storage and Forbearance – Tanks
- These work best for domestic water supplies (homes, campgrounds, etc.)
- The goal is to store enough water during the rainy season to allow forbearance of diversion during the dry season
- These require a new water right from the State Water Board to authorize the storage

Storage and Forbearance – Off-stream Ponds
- These are similar to tank projects, but are more appropriate for farms and other larger-scale non-potable water uses
- Ponds tend to be more cost effective for storing larger volumes of water

Efficiency
- The goal is to reduce overall water use by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures, drip irrigation, drought-tolerant turf, irrigation sensors, etc.
- These measures can be used in conjunction with other project types; for example, to reduce the size and cost of storage tanks
Rainwater Catchment

- These systems collect and store rainwater runoff from an impervious surface such as a roof, and use it to offset summer diversion
- They are most appropriate for non-potable water uses such as outdoor irrigation
- No water right is required to collect and store rainwater from rooftops

Infiltration

- Measures to slow and spread runoff during the rainy season, so it sinks into the ground
- Water is “stored” on the landscape, and is naturally released to streamflow over the course of the dry season

Flow Releases

- Water is released into to a stream during the dry season, typically from an existing pond
- Provides the most direct augmentation of streamflow
- Water quality can be an issue, and requires consultation with regulatory agencies