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**San Jose Redevelopment Agency**

**San Jose Redevelopment Agency Wins Award for  
Guadalupe River Park**  
*The Project is the first to combine flood protection  
with a major park development*

*San José* --- The San Jose Redevelopment Agency won the 2006 Awards of Excellence for its Guadalupe River Park, a joint development with the US Army Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Guadalupe River Park project is a winner in the category of Public Spaces & Linkages and is one of nine projects honored by the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) this year for major contributions to California communities.

“We are very pleased and honored that the historic Guadalupe River Park project was recognized as an exceptional project,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “In collaboration with many of our partners, we’ve built a project that will not only protect our Downtown from future floods but the park provides an educational gathering place for our community.”

The award was given by the California Redevelopment Association (CRA), a non-profit organization representing redevelopment agencies in the state of California and allied firms throughout the state of California in responding to legislative proposals and administrative regulations, providing member services, and providing public information regarding redevelopment law and activities. CRA members are comprised of over 340 redevelopment agencies and 260 private sector companies who are involved in the redevelopment process ([www.calredevelop.org](http://www.calredevelop.org)). For additional information, contact Randi Dixon of CRA at (916) 448-8760.

The annual Awards of Excellence award is a statewide recognition of redevelopment projects and programs. Award nominees are evaluated based on their efforts to improve physical conditions in their communities; the extent of community participation in and benefit from the project; the economic viability and fiscal stability of the project; and unique, effective project design solutions.

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The \$350 million Guadalupe River Park project combines flood protection with improvements to an existing park. The Guadalupe River Park was once a scarcely known community asset, nearly inaccessible to the public. It was surrounded by blighted residential neighborhoods as well as aging and obsolete industrial developments that contained contaminated soils.

The project, which is part of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency's master plans for the revitalization of Downtown San José and its surrounding neighborhoods, has helped encourage new public and private developments along the river park.

The park, located within the downtown core of the City of San José, is surrounded by modern high rises, historic districts and an expanding downtown. The park consists of over 130 developed acres, over 2.6 miles of trails, and large open space for festivals and events as well as amenities for children and adults of all ages including a carousel, a water play area, several playgrounds, tennis courts, and many picnic areas.

There are 27 exhibits and plazas highlighting the City's history, natural environment, and flood protection measures, each of which help to illustrate the unique character of the river and the City. The trail system meanders through the park to serve both pedestrians and bicyclists, and provides a critical link to the Bay-Ridge trail system that will eventually encircle the entire San Francisco Bay Area. The park was completed and opened to the public on September 10, 2005.

The Redevelopment Agency of the City of San José is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Governed by the City Council, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City's Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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