

UNIQUE PLANNING AND DESIGN BOOST ACCESS TO SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK

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A tourist visit to San Antonio is not complete without a stop at the famed River Walk, an urban sanctuary that offers meandering pathways and boat rides through the heart of the downtown area. HDR provided structural and civil design, environmental permitting, hydraulic/hydrology engineering and construction administration services for a nearly 1.5-mile extension of the River Walk known as the Museum Reach, Urban Segment.

HDR's work included design of a lock and dam system to allow navigation of river tour barges to an upstream terminus that links visitors to the San Antonio Museum of Art and the 125-year-old Pearl Brewery, which has been transformed into an eclectic mixed-use public space.

On May 30, 2009, then-San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger and other dignitaries celebrated the grand opening of the River Walk extension by taking the first river barge ride through the lock and dam system designed to overcome a nine-foot change in elevation. HDR's design provided hydraulic modeling of the river channel and designed walkways, pedestrian bridges, overlooks, interpretational and showcase areas for local art and bridge improvements along with flood control and ecosystem enhancements. □

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HDR TAKES LEVEE SAFETY CONCERNS TO CONGRESS



On May 19, 2009, Dr. Les Harder, HDR senior water resources technical advisor based in the Folsom, Calif., office, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment. Harder, who is a member of the National Committee on Levee Safety, urged congressional leaders during his testimony to adopt the committee's recommendations. At HDR, Harder serves as an expert adviser on levee projects across all business groups to ensure that levee work complies with the latest regulatory requirements, including rapidly-evolving design standards.

With Katrina in 2005 and Cedar Rapids in 2008 as a backdrop, Congress created this committee to focus attention on identifying what needs to be done to improve the safety of levees across the nation. The committee released its draft report in January 2009, characterizing current levee status in the United States as "stark." Harder testified on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and the National Committee on Levee Safety, noting that the work of the committee represented "the finest example of... working closely and cooperatively... to address a national problem."

Harder's levee expertise was also tapped by the *History Channel*, where he served as a technical adviser to describe the impact of hypothetical levee failure scenarios for a new documentary that addresses the multiple challenges facing infrastructure across the United States. The program, titled "The Crumbling of America," debuted on June 22. □

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