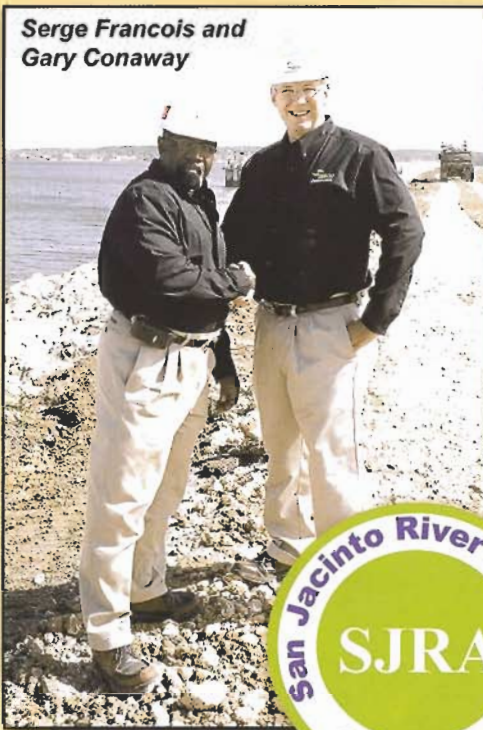
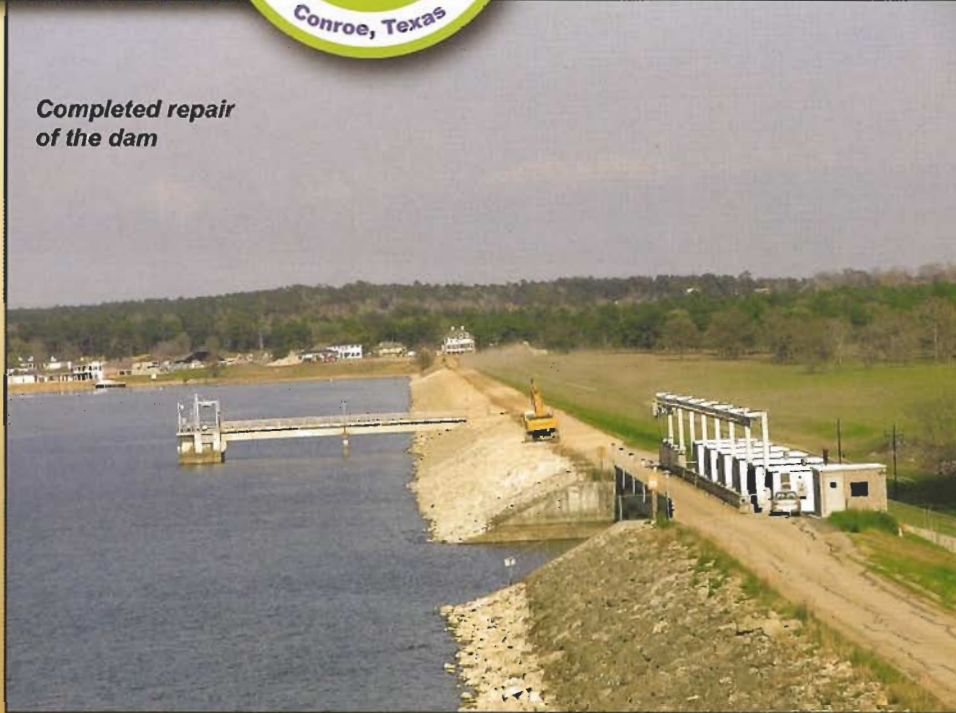


**Serge Francois and
Gary Conaway**



**Completed repair
of the dam**



Project Team Gets It Done Right!

In the wake of the problems confronting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and accusations of misdirected tax dollars and wasted spending abounding in the newspapers, some good news is bound to be welcome.

In the wake of Hurricane Rita at the first of October, 2006, the San Jacinto River Authority and Lake Area Residents found themselves in a bit of shock over damage done to Lake Conroe Dam from the high winds and resulting wave action. The protective rock "Rip-Rap" on the face of the dam had been undermined and in some instances totally

washed away. The dam was in danger of being damaged further.

As a result, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) was forced to lower the lake level to protect the dam which subsequently "dry docked" many of the homeowners and local businesses on the lake. "The public response was not positive", said SJRA General Manager Jim Adams.

Moving as quickly as possible, the SJRA, and Freese & Nichols, the design Engineer from Fort Worth, TX put together a public bid offering for repairs of the dam. Out of 6 bidders, Serco Construction Group, Ltd., a Minority Business (MBE) civil contractor with offices in Houston and Dallas, was the successful bidder.

Serco, being a "fairly young" company created a new concern, however, by winning the bid significantly lower than the other group of "veteran" bidders. So a new problem arose to make sure they could handle the project in a timely and cost effective manner. The last thing that SJRA wanted to do was award to an unqualified contractor who would cause even more damage to the dam or delay the repair.

The Freese & Nichols team did a thorough background search of Serco and discovered that although the company was just over 2 years old, the individuals managing the work had well over 50 years combined experience and were fully capable of executing the project. As a result, they made the award.

"I was not sure we were going to get them past "The New Kid on the Block" concern stated Gary Conaway, Sr. VP with Serco; but "Fortunately we were able to present our team, schedule, and project plan in a manner that demonstrated we could do the job. I believe our actions eventually spoke much louder than our words and, maybe having something to prove was an additional incentive."

To accomplish the work, Serco knew they needed a key partner to supply the riprap. Several sources were identified as potential suppliers for this particular rock and a significant effort was made to assure the correct combination of price, quality, delivery, and commitment. Once the smoke cleared, Lone Star Aggregates of Corsicana, TX was chosen.

"Ronnie Jones, and the entire Lone Star team, provided a No Excuse, Can Do attitude and made it happen, stated Conaway." Without them, we could not have beaten the schedule; and I am very pleased to note that we brought in over 20,000 tons of 24"-30" rock riprap more that 150 miles 1-way in tractor trailers without one single safety incident. That alone speaks for the quality of the Lone Star team and their key truckers, Todd Transportation and Bobcat Trucking.

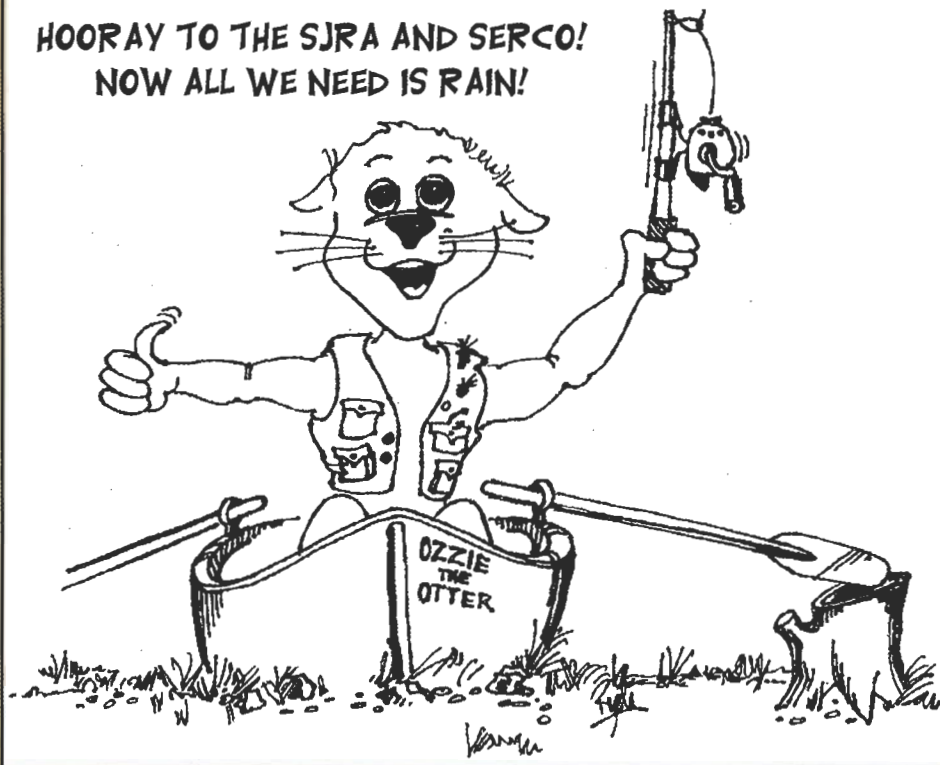
Conaway, a Texas licensed engineer, worked very closely with the SJRA professional staff and with the Freese & Nichols Engineer and field staff to ensure that submittals were done correctly and that credible schedules were presented, tracked and updated efficiently. Thomas Pierce, Serco's Houston Manager, executed the work with precision and not only brought the work in under budget, but along with his field team finished the project 47 days ahead of schedule.

"Making the decision to stockpile the rock rather than direct dump onto the face of the dam was a key decision that enhanced the productivity, and that decision was directly recommended by Thomas", stated Conaway. "But, to do so meant paying additional cost in off-road dump trucks to bring the rock from the stockpile; and accepting the realization that we would likely destroy the road.

We closely balanced this with our desire to not be constrained by potential delivery problems. It paid off in spades, especially when we had weather problems prohibiting delivery of rock from the quarry in Corsicana, but was able to continue work by using the stockpile. I guess you could say we sacrificed potential profit by spending more money in on-site equipment to make sure we beat the schedule. Not many contractors would be willing to do that."

As a result, this project team brought a critical project in ahead of schedule, significantly under original budget, and with no safety incidents;

**HOORAY TO THE SJRA AND SERCO!
NOW ALL WE NEED IS RAIN!**



*Repairs viewed
from the water*



thereby returning the lake and its residents to their pre-hurricane condition sooner than expected. Now that's a success story!

If interested, Serco's website is www.serco-construction.com. ♦

**SERCO**
Construction Group, LTD.
MBE Certified Engineering Contractor