

Speaking Points

Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez

Mission River Trail Groundbreaking

November 6, 2008

- Good morning to all of you here today.
- Just two days ago we witnessed history in the making and this place of Mission San Jose is also part of our history.
- This Mission was originally built in 1720 soon after the Alamo.
- Then, in the 1930s, the Works Projects Administration was instrumental in the Mission's full restoration to showcase the beauty of Mission San Jose.
- Congress made the decision to entrust our Missions to the National Park Service, and the Missions were officially opened as a "national park" 25 years ago.
- I find it fitting that this event is to celebrate the "Mission to River Trail" because the original intention behind the construction of Mission San Jose and the other Missions was to allow a gateway to introduce people who were from one place in our society into another, new place.
- Mission San Jose is also known to be the "Queen of the Missions" which also befits this ceremony celebrating the initiative project linking Mission San Jose to the Missions' hike and bike system. This is the gateway for people in our community.
- Los Compadres can not be overlooked as playing an instrumental role in the improvements and developments for Mission San Jose and the other San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.
- The fundraising efforts of Los Compadres began in 1983 and to this day has reached over \$3.5 million dollars dedicated to projects specifically here to our San Antonio Missions.
- The Mission to River Trail is an illustration of the initiatives geared to the conservation, preservation, and revitalization of our Missions.
- Thank you to everyone at Los Compadres, the National Park Service, and all the members of our community for your contribution.
- We also have Mary Bomar, the Director of the National Park Service who will help us kick off this ground breaking ceremony. Thank you.