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Press Release

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SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THIESS INTERNATIONAL RIVERPRIZE AWARD

San Antonio River Recognized with World's Foremost Award in River Basin Management

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) celebrated today the selection of the San Antonio River by the [International River Foundation](#) as the recipient of this year's Thiess International Riverprize Award. SARA was joined by county and city officials and community partners at the Pearl Amphitheater on the Museum Reach segment of the San Antonio River Walk. A special edition commemorative poster was also unveiled in honor of the occasion.

The Thiess International Riverprize, presented by the International River Foundation, is the world's foremost award in river basin management. It recognizes and rewards organizations making waves in the sustainable management of the world's rivers, whether at the grassroots or transboundary level. The prize rewards inspiring initiatives that demonstrate Integrated River Basin Management to restore and protect rivers, wetlands, lakes and estuaries.

"This a great honor for the San Antonio River and our community," said Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff. "We have made significant investments to improve and restore the river and the International Riverprize recognizes our efforts."

"The San Antonio River is known throughout the world for its unmatched architectural design, its intimate scale, its unrivaled beauty and its unmatched economic success," said City of San Antonio District 1 Councilman Roberto Trevino. "On behalf of the City of San Antonio, we are so honored that the San Antonio River is now 'officially' among the most acclaimed rivers in the world."

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Page 2 – THIESS RIVERPRIZE AWARD

The San Antonio River was recognized in part for the having invested more than \$530 million on improvements that include the San Antonio River Improvements Project

which added flood management, amenities, ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements to over 13 miles of the San Antonio River. The famous 15-mile San Antonio River Walk – a world-leading example of inspiring urban park design and prosperous riverfront development was also highlighted for connecting over 2,000 acres of public park land and attracting over 11.5 million visitors annually, pumping \$3.1 billion into the local economy. The work to improve water quality throughout the entire basin was also mentioned as a contributing factor in the selection process.

"The Thiess International Riverprize is a tremendous recognition of our entire community's hard work, dedication, preservation, restoration and overall management of the San Antonio River. More importantly, it recognizes the San Antonio River's global impact,"said SARA Board of Directors Chairman Michael W. Lackey, P.E.

"The award recognizes inspiring initiatives that demonstrate the best in watershed restoration, stewardship, innovation and management," said SARA General Manager Suzanne Scott. "We view the Riverprize as well-earned international recognition of the long standing support, investment and protection this community and its leaders have given the San Antonio River."

The San Antonio River was one of four finalists in this year's Thiess International Riverprize, facing close competition from Alaska's Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers, the United Kingdom's River Tweed, and the Pasig River in the Philippines. Past winners include the Niagara River, Lake Eyre Basin and the Rhine River. For more information about the award, visit www.sara-tx.org.

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The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Watershed. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA, visit our website at www.sara-tx.org