

2008 Employee of the Year

Jose Guardiario - Engineer Chief
Everglades Restoration Technical Services Section

Jose was involved in over 40 individual construction contracts to repair hurricane related damage to numerous canals, levees and access roads with a combined value of approximately \$33-million. These projects were a result of damages from hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Charley and Wilma.

Jose's performance was outstanding in furnishing designs, construction management, and successfully obtaining financial reimbursements for these projects. He worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. To date, these two agencies have reimbursed the District approximately \$21-million.

The canal bank restoration projects were a great opportunity for the District to pilot new methods and techniques. In addition to traditional rock rip-rap and sodding, Jose introduced turf reinforcement mats, large scale use of gabions and other canal bank stabilization methods. These methods have now been incorporated into other District projects. Jose consistently demonstrated a "can-do" attitude and he is highly respected by both his fellow engineers and field personnel.