

Union Avenue Dam and Boatchute

WWE undertook modifications to the Union Avenue dam crest, embankment and boatchute on the South Platte River for the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The existing dam design had a hydraulic jump and reverse roller effect under high flow conditions that had proved to be deadly. The objective for WWE's design was to reduce boater hazards while maintaining the operation of the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dam in this location.

To help insure that we met the goal of a safe low head dam, we engaged the Hydraulic Lab of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to build a physical model at the Denver Federal Center. The visual results from this world renowned laboratory were instrumental in the success of WWE's subsequent findings.



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