

**Irrigation Technology Center
TAMU-SA Implementation Roadmap¹**
March 12, 2008

Current Status

The ITC was created by the Board of Regents in May 2002 as a center under Texas Water Resources Institute, jointly administrated through Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Fipps was appointed as the Director in 2003.

In 2007, the Texas A&M University System allocated 104 acres to the ITC as part of the planned Texas A&M University at San Antonio campus (see attached map).

ITC and TAMU-SA

As documented in several TAMUS news releases and in public comments by the Chancellor in San Antonio on May 3, 2007:

The Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus also will serve as headquarters to the Irrigation Technology Center (ITC), a center established in 2002 by the Texas Water Resources Institute and administered through two A&M System agencies, Texas Cooperative Extension and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Plans are to construct a major, state-of-the-art ITC facility on the A&M-San Antonio campus site for education, testing and applied research promoting efficient irrigation, water conservation, profitable agricultural production and quality urban landscapes (source: TAMUS news release, 2/2/07).

Concept and Vision for Moving Forward

ITC offices, as well as certain test facilities and laboratories will be located on the main campus of Texas A&M University at San Antonio (TAMU-SA).

As feasible, ITC demonstration and evaluation programs will be incorporated into the water supply and reuse system of the campus.

The University will construct ITC's primary laboratories which will be designed as joint-use facilities for teaching, research and ITC programs. These should include the Hydraulics Lab, and the Sprinkler Test Lab/Wind Tunnel.

As the ITC expands in the future, opportunities for construction of additional facilities through cooperative programs, and public and private sector funds will be explored with details on lease arrangements, land use and fees to be decided at a later date.

¹Prepared by Guy Fipps, Director of the Irrigation Technology Center

An Advisory Council will be formed in 2008 to be composed of local, regional and state water agencies and organizations, and other stake holders from the public sector to help guide ITC implementation.

Land

The 104 acres allocated to the ITC as part of the TAMU-SA campus land donation will be used for low environmental impact facilities/activities of the ITC. Additional land will be sought for future ITC expansion.

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is considering making the 97-acre Drought Simulator (DS) site available to the ITC through a long-term lease or other arrangements to be worked out between SAWS and TAMUS.

The DS site is located very close to the ITC Site and borders the west side of the Leon Creek Water Treatment Plant (see attached map). ITC's *Drought Simulator* is located on this site, as is on-going research being conducted by Texas AgriLife Research turfgrass specialists.

Additional lands have been identified for future ITC expansion in the area. Long-term plans are for an additional 500 acres for future ITC programs.

AgriLife, ITC and TAMU-SA Relationship

Details on the formal relationship between the ITC, AgriLife Research and Extension Service, and TAMU-SA will need to be worked out and formalized sometime in the future.

The ITC land and facilities should be a part of the new campus.

The Director of the ITC should hold a joint appointment between TAMU-SA and Texas AgriLife.

Short Term Issues

- Inclusion of the ITC in the master plan currently being developed for the TAMU-SA campus
- Development of a plan for providing access by ITC and AgriLife personnel to 104 acre site
- Consideration of the of the SAWS proposal to provide the ITC with the DS Site
- Academic linkages with the ITC including 2-year and 4 year degree programs in irrigation, water technology and management, and/or similar topics

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

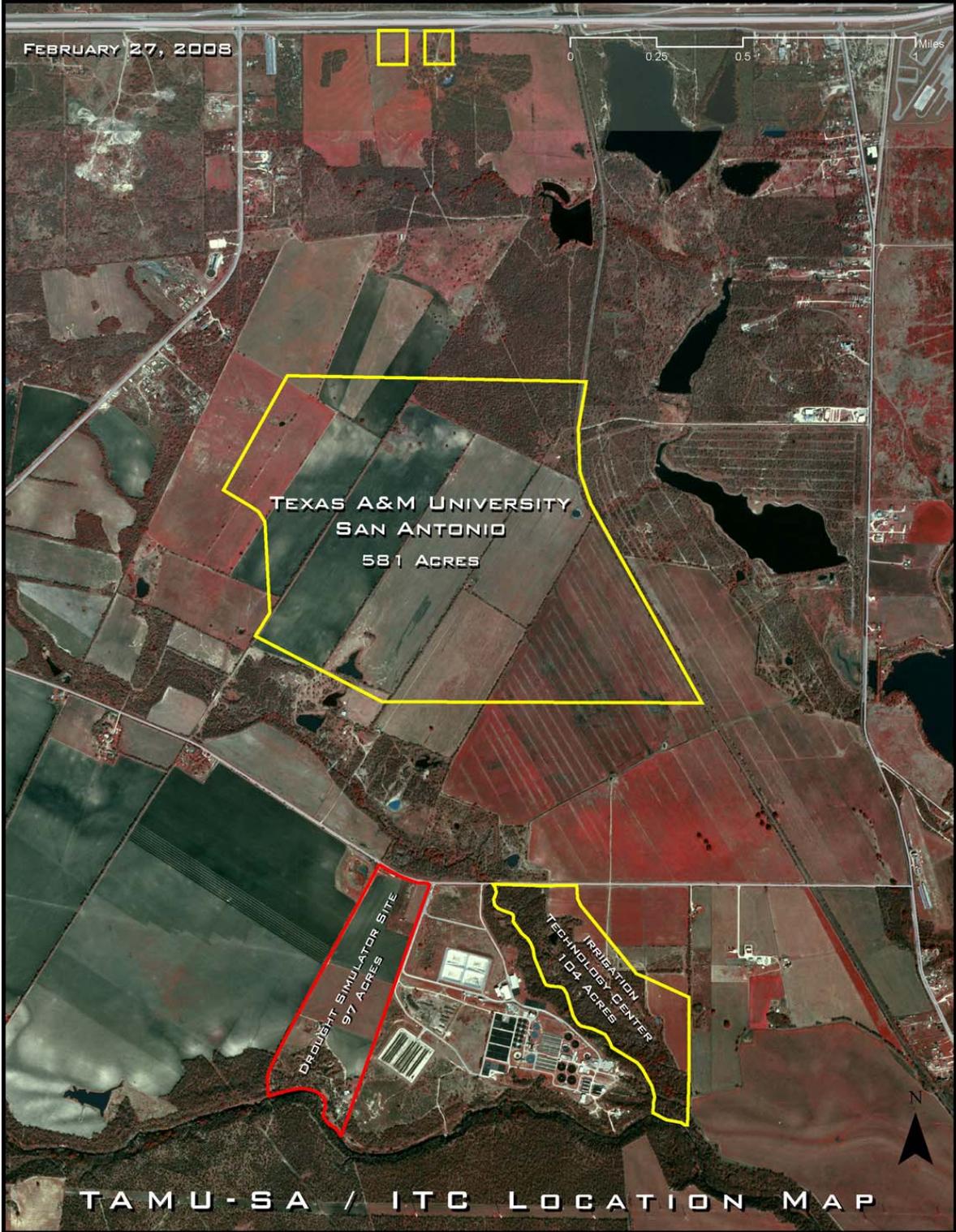
Miles

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO
581 ACRES

DROUGHT SIMULATOR SITE
97 ACRES

IRRIGATION
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
104 ACRES

TAMU-SA / ITC LOCATION MAP



ITC PROPOSED SITES



DROUGHT SIMULATOR SITE
97 ACRES

IRRIGATION CENTER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
104 ACRES

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