



## San Antonio Water System

August 11, 2000

Dr. Guy Fipps, P.E.  
Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer  
Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
The Texas A&M University System  
207 Agricultural Engineering  
College Station, TX 77843-2117

Dear Dr. Fipps:

I greatly appreciate your presentation July 17<sup>th</sup> on the Irrigation Technology Center (ITC), which is proposed to be located in San Antonio. While the Center is planned as a statewide center, which would also be the premier ITC in the nation, the benefits of having it here are tremendous. San Antonio and the surrounding region would have the benefit of immediate access and availability of the many services to be provided by the ITC. Since San Antonio is a recognized center for Latin American affairs, the ITC's proposed role as an internationally connected center will only serve to expand the City's connections with N.A.F.T.A. and other international programs.

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is primarily interested in the potential urban water conservation savings that would occur from having a new Texas Irrigation Technology Center right here in San Antonio. Urban irrigation is a major water use in our system and great opportunities for increased water conservation could be quickly realized due to the presence of a local resource such as this:

SAWS is also very involved and concerned with improving agricultural irrigation efficiency in the Edwards Aquifer region and the ITC will provide a tremendous resource for both irrigators and all other residents in the region. We encourage the regional coordination the ITC will bring, in addressing agricultural irrigation needs for the region.

The economic impact of an expected 415 new jobs and an economic impact of \$22.8 million in business sales \$13.7 million in value added benefits per year will be very welcome in our community. San Antonio is especially seeking high tech jobs, such as those planned for the ITC.

Dr. Guy Fipps, P.E.

August 11, 2000

Page 2

Please accept this letter as a statement of our support for the ITC concept. To reinforce that commitment I have directed Calvin Finch, of my staff, to serve on the ITC steering committee as the SAWS representative. In that role he has been given three objectives: (1) to insure that the development of the ITC concept occurs in a manner to allow ongoing local input, (2) to insure that the infrastructure and mission of the ITC will allow the Center to address local irrigation technology and (3) to assist you in securing development, construction and ongoing support for the ITC from several partners.

We join Texas A&M in seeking to make the Irrigation Technology Center a world class research facility and a local asset that helps meet the needs of San Antonio and the Edwards Aquifer region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Thuss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael F. Thuss, P.E.

President/Chief Executive Officer

cc: Greg Rothe, Chair  
ITC Advisory Committee