

**Frequently Asked Questions
Proposed Texas A&M University-San Antonio Campus
February 16, 2005**

1. Why do we need two state-supported four-year universities in San Antonio?

San Antonio needs two universities to have the capacity to deliver higher education to its citizens, especially its fast growing Hispanic population. The 18- to 24-year-old Hispanic population of Bexar County is conservatively expected to increase by almost 20,000 by 2015, according to the Texas State Data Center (from 90,582 in 2000 to 110,164 in 2015). The total population of the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 1,711,703 in 2000 and is projected to be 2,064,284 in 2015.

Looking specifically at San Antonio's market for higher education, we see that in 2000 there were 13,500 high school graduates in Bexar County. That year, as in most years, about 50 percent (6,750) entered higher education, either at a community college or four-year institution. The number of high school graduates entering college will continue to increase as the population increases, even if other factors remain the same. It is, however, likely that efforts to decrease drop out rates and improve preparedness for higher education of graduates will further increase demand for higher education. The Texas A&M University System, for example, is actively working with three Southside school districts to improve the high school graduation rate and the percentage of graduates who are prepared for college.

Transfers from community colleges are another aspect of the higher education market in San Antonio. Transfer rates to four-year schools from Alamo Community College District (ACCD) campuses range from 9 percent at St. Philips to 25.5 percent for San Antonio College and 24.1 percent for Palo Alto College. As of 2000, there were at least 5,500 students transferring each year from ACCD campuses to four-year institutions. With burgeoning community college enrollments, this number can be expected to increase significantly. Also, from 52 to 57 percent of students at three of the four ACCD campuses indicate they are earning credit for a four-year degree. Turning that intent into demand will also increase the number of students in San Antonio seeking a four-year degree.

It is also important to note that UTSA and the proposed A&M campus are separated by at least 25 miles. This is comparable to the 30 miles between UT-Austin and Texas State University-San Marcos. It is also comparable to the 30 miles from UT-Arlington to UT-Dallas and reasonably similar to the 35 miles from UNT and TWU to UT-Arlington. Moreover, based on similar demographics and geographic factors, the Legislature recently authorized the University of North Texas-South Dallas.

It is clear that with a growing population and efforts to improve participation in higher education, additional capacity is needed in San Antonio. This is especially critical in the

south sector of the city, where growth is occurring naturally as well as being directed by city initiatives.

2. Are there other Texas cities that support two state universities?

Austin-San Marcos					
Austin pop.	San Marcos pop	Austin MSA	UT-Austin	Texas State-San Marcos	Distance
656,562	34,733	1.25 M	47,957	26,827	30 miles

Dallas Area					
DFW PMSA	UNT	TWU	UT-Arlington	UT-Dallas	Distance
3.81 M	31,304	10,750	24,979	14,092	See below

Distance

- Arlington-Denton: 39 miles
- Arlington-Richardson: 30 miles
- Denton-Richardson: 34 miles

Other cities nationally?

Atlanta (pop: Atlanta, 416,474; MSA 4.1 million; Georgia, 8.2 million) -- Georgia State University (27,000) and Georgia Institute of Technology (16,000)

Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill (pop: MSA 1.2 million, North Carolina 8.2 million) – North Carolina State University (29,957) and UNC-Chapel Hill (26,878)

San Diego – UC-San Diego and San Diego State

Los Angeles – UCLA and Cal State Los Angeles

San Francisco Bay Area – UC-Berkeley and San Francisco State University

The primary focus of A&M–San Antonio will be toward the *Closing the Gaps* goals of participation and success to ultimately produce more graduates for South Texas and the state.

3. What will A&M offer that UTSA does not?

1) The A&M University-San Antonio will provide **additional access** to higher education for Southside residents, who have traditionally been underserved. This will help contribute to state *Closing the Gaps* goals. The state is already falling short on its goals for Hispanic participation and success in higher education. The A&M System is already working closely with three Southside school districts to improve the preparation and readiness of students of higher education. By 2009, these efforts will increase the

number of students graduating from high school and the proportion of those graduates seeking higher education will be more prepared for it. An additional campus will be needed to serve this population and those who are transferring from community colleges.

2) Texas A&M University-San Antonio will provide **additional capacity**. With a projected 18-24 population in Bexar County of 110,164 by 2015 (an increase of 18,693 since 2000), UTSA and the private institutions will not be able to serve all the higher education needs in the San Antonio area. In 2003, the Coordinating Board projected a space deficit of 996,000 square feet in San Antonio if *Closing the Gaps* enrollment goals are met. In its impact statement for SB 800, the Coordinating Board stated, "Even if UTSA lets its enrollment increase from its current levels (22,000 in Fall 2004) to 30,000 to 35,000, there is still likely to be additional demand for higher education services than would need to be met by independent institutions or a new public university."

UTSA	IWC	OLLU	St. Mary's	Trinity
26,175	2,909	3,245	4,110	2,707

3) At the undergraduate level, where demand is high, basic programs such as teacher education and general business will be offered. However, the A&M System will conduct a careful study of workforce needs and build on the expertise within the A&M System to create programs that serve identified workforce needs.

In essence, San Antonio will need additional capacity to serve its growing population and A&M is well positioned to serve this need.

4. Will this take students and funding away from UTSA and all the other private universities?

The challenge in San Antonio and in other fast-growing areas of the state will be providing higher education for all the eligible students. Based on projected needs for the state and particularly South Texas, another state-supported institution in San Antonio is strongly indicated to meet the growing wave of students graduating from high school and transferring from community colleges. **The state will need to both expand capacity at existing institutions and create new campuses.** Funding for this growth will be an issue that our state must face if we are to provide the knowledge workers needed in the 21st century.

5. Will A&M and UTSA compete for state funding?

Resources provided for higher education are based on semester credit hours taken by students wherever they attend. All public colleges look to the State to provide general revenue funding in addition to the tuition and fees collected by the institution. The future

of Texas is heavily dependent on how effectively it can meet the goals of *Closing the Gaps* and provide adequate resources to educate its growing college-age population.

6. Is there enough money at the state level to: 1) get a campus built and 2) support the new campus and UTSA?

The Coordinating Board, with its *Closing the Gaps* plan, has shown us very clearly how many more of the citizens of Texas must participate and succeed in higher education to be at parity with other states. State Demographer Steve Murdock, through his population projections and studies, has shown us what the future will look like economically and socially if the state does not provide for the education of its citizens. It would be bleak. If the current disparities in educational level and income persist, average household income is projected to decline in Texas from \$54,441 in 2000 to \$52,639 by 2010 and \$50,903 by 2020, with the decline continuing into the future. Looking at Texas median household income and per capita income in comparison to other states, Texas is already behind. In 1999, Texas ranked 30th in median household income and 33rd in per capita income. Murdock's points are especially critical for South Texas, including San Antonio, because there is already a large Hispanic population and it is growing. Not addressing these educational needs will result in the state having a dim economic future.

7. Can San Antonio afford to support two universities?

The city will not provide direct operational support to the universities. However, UTSA already provides many economic and cultural benefits to San Antonio, and another four-year institution will multiply these benefits. The economic benefits include an increased tax base resulting from having a more educated populace and more entrepreneurial activity, the increased economic activity directly generated by the institutions and their students, and the growth in companies and business generated by research activities. While the institutions will, no doubt, be raising private funds, the return on these private investments will be significant for the vitality of the city.

8. What partners are behind this initiative? Who are the key players?

The partners are the city, the county, the A&M System and the state of Texas. Supporters include Sen. Frank Madla, the chambers of commerce, many other community entities and leaders.

9. What is the City's role in the process of bringing A&M here?

- The City's 2005 legislative agenda is focused on improving access to higher education for all San Antonians by pursuing funding for UTSA, UTHSC and for a four-year Texas A&M university of the city's south side.

- Expanding A&M's presence in San Antonio has been a long-time goal for the City. By adding this to their 2005 legislative agenda, the City is demonstrating a commitment to expanding/improving access to higher education for San Antonians now and in the future.
- The City is working with the legislature to secure Tuition Revenue Bonds to support \$80 million in bonding authority (to begin construction) and \$5.8 million in special item funding (for program development and faculty) for an A&M campus near the intersection of Loop 410 and Hwy 281 on the city's south side.
- The City is also working to secure UTSA's Tuition Revenue Bonds of \$192 million for four major construction projects in order to accommodate its continued growth. UTSA's enrollment growth historically outpaces space gains. UTSA needs to address the space deficiency in order to continue in the direction of becoming a research university. The projects are:
 - Loop 1604 Campus Engineering Building, Phase II - \$75 million
 - Downtown Campus Architecture Building - \$50 million
 - Loop 1604 Campus Academic Building, Phase IV - \$50 million
 - Downtown Campus Building, Phase V - \$17 million
 -

10. What activity has already taken place to bring an A&M campus to San Antonio?

- During 1997-98, Sen. Frank Madla (D-San Antonio), the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and others began to explore the possibility of bringing a four-year institution of higher education to the south side of San Antonio. The Texas A&M University System was among those approached. A study was conducted, including a survey of community college students. In addition, several meetings were held with the Alamo Community College District and other community members. The decision was made for the A&M System to pursue establishment of an upper level system center using the Coordinating Board's Supply/Demand Pathway model with Texas A&M University-Kingsville as the lead institution.
- To support establishment of the center, the Alamo Community College District agreed to provide space and the use of Palo Alto College facilities at no cost to the A&M System through August 31, 2001.
- On record supporting the establishment of the center were U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, Atascosa County Judge Deborah Herber, the members of the Bexar County Commissioners Court, the Alamo Workforce Development Board, the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Brown Engineering Co., Rosillo Inc. President Steve St. Clair, AGE Refining Inc. CEO and President Al Gonzalez, North

East Independent School District, the Southwest Independent School District, Harlandale Independent School District, the San Antonio Independent School District, and the Northside Independent School District.

- In May 1999, the 76th Legislature appropriated \$100,000 in FY 2000 for planning and \$1,500,000 in FY 2001 for operation of the University System Center- San Antonio, subject to approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- In January 2000, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the creation of a University System Center in southern San Antonio on the campus of Palo Alto College with Texas A&M University-Kingsville as the lead institution.
- The campus opened in Fall 2000 with 126 students in 7 academic programs.
- In May 2001, the 77th Legislature appropriated \$2.6M in FY 2002 and \$1.6M in FY 2003 for the System Center.
- The city of San Antonio asked the Urban Land Institute to develop a vision, evaluate the market potential, create planning and design concepts, and recommend a development and implementation strategy for the city's south side as part of the Southside Balanced Growth Initiative (SBGI). The report cited the future A&M-San Antonio campus as an important element in jump-starting development of the area and as playing an important role as a community node.
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville requested special item funding of \$2.6M for FY 2004 and \$1.6M for FY 2005 and 25.2 full-time equivalent positions for each year for the System Center.
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio is created by SB 800 of the 78th Legislature as a general academic institution. The author is Frank Madla and co-authors are Senators Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio), Jeff Wentworth (R-San Antonio) and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo).
- By Fall 2004, the enrollment had increased from the 126 students it started with in Fall 2000 to almost 1,000 students in 12 academic programs. The students are about 65 percent Hispanic. Since 2000 there have been 393 graduates.

11. What will the economic impact of an A&M campus be?

Figures from our state university systems show that each undergraduate student brings approximately \$30,000 annually into each local economy. It is estimated that this campus will eventually support 25,000 students.

The campus will provide a major stimulus to the San Antonio economy. Construction of a campus that will eventually serve 25,000 students and the attendant faculty and support staff will create short-term and long-term needs for businesses and services.

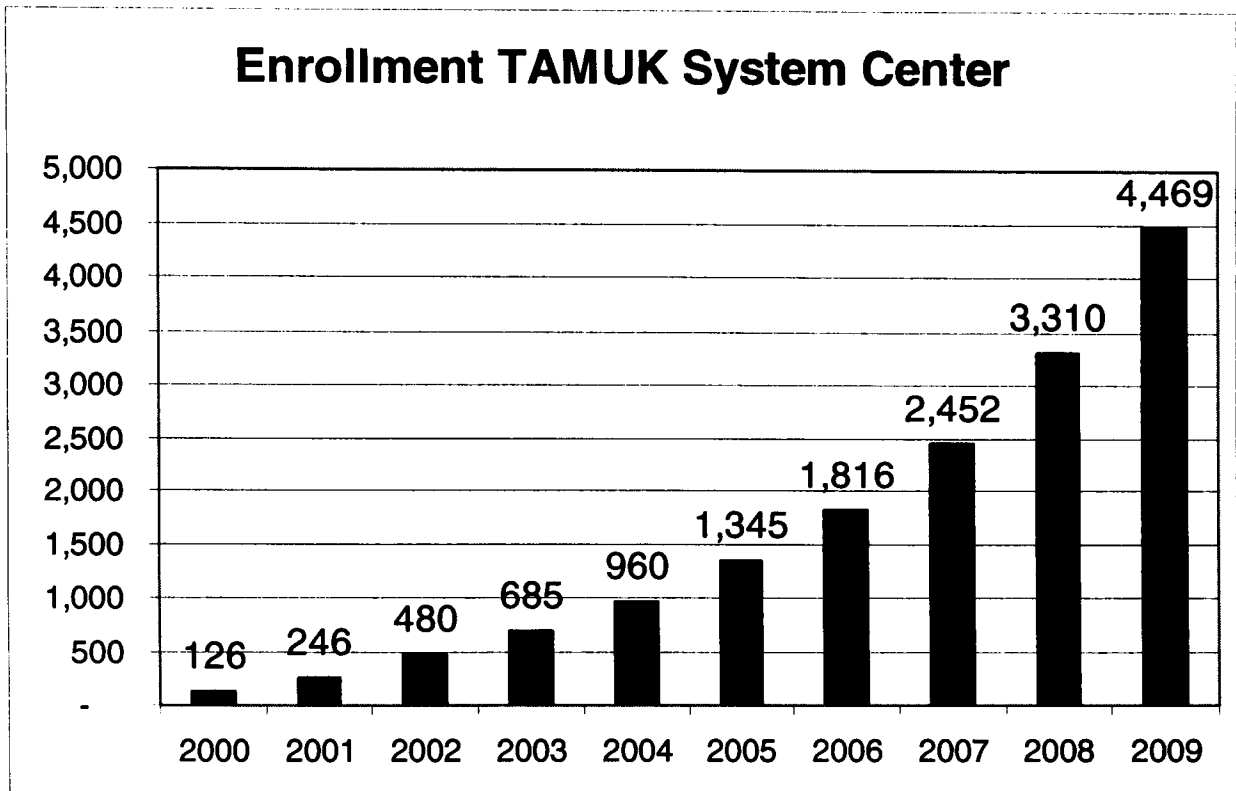
12. Why was the South Side chosen for this new campus?

The Mayor and City Council initiated the Southside Balanced Growth Initiative in 2002 to reverse the past trends of disinvestment in the southern sector of the City. The focus of this initiative is to build upon the important investments and unique assets which already exist in south San Antonio. These include Brooks City-Base, Kelly-USA, Stinson Air Field, Palo Alto College, the historic Mission Trails and the Toyota auto manufacturing plant. It is expected that the new commercial ventures occurring on the south side will spur additional residential development. Locating the campus on the south side will enhance the area and provide higher education services to the growing south side community.

13. Where on the South Side is the proposed site? How do we know that the South Side is the best place?

- The targeted zone lies just northeast of the Toyota plant. The site is just outside Loop 410 South, east of old Highway 281 and west of IH-37.
- The south side is where the need is greatest. Historically, the southern sector of the city of San Antonio has had limited access to higher education opportunities. Therefore, the City of San Antonio and the Bexar County delegation support the development of a Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus as a four-year comprehensive university on the south side of the city.
- In addition, it will bring major long-term economic benefit to the community through construction, businesses and services to support 25,000 students as well as faculty and staff.
- Larger tracts of land
- Underserved area (universities)
- Regional access

14. What are the enrollment projections for the System Center? What affects the projections?



The above chart shows the actual fall enrollment through 2004 and the projected enrollment from 2005 to 2009. The projections are based on an increase of 35 percent annually. The actual percentage of increase was 95 percent from 2000 to 2001 and 2001 to 2002. The increase was over 40 percent in each of the next two years. Enrollments are becoming constrained by the fact that the System Center is located in eight portable classroom buildings on the campus of Palo Alto College.

List of Documents Provided

SB 296 - Lowering Enrollment Threshold - Texas A&M University - San Antonio

- 1. Overview**
- 2. Community Colleges in Bexar County and Counties South of Bexar County**
- 3. High School Enrollment/Graduation Rates for Southern, Southeast, Southwest Bexar Counties as well as Wilson, Atascosa, Guadalupe Counties Counties**
- 4. Articles: City of San Antonio - Donated Land**
- 5. Resolution by Texas A&M Board of Regents**
- 6. Possible Questions**

SB 296 by Madla

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – SAN ANTONIO - Enrollment Threshold

Only in existence for three years, the explosion of student enrollment has forced the Texas A&M University-Kingsville System Center-San Antonio to utilize eight portable buildings as well as to fully maximize existing classroom space. During the 2001 Legislative Session, they were appropriated \$4.2 million for infrastructure planning, curriculum development, and faculty recruitment.

SB 800, creating the long-term goal of transforming this institution to a fully-functioning, 4-year, general academic institution as the Texas A&M University-San Antonio, was passed in the 78th Legislature. Its authors were Senators Frank Madla, Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio), and Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo). Once enrollment thresholds are met and certified by the Coordinating Board, the Texas A&M University--Kingsville System Center---San Antonio will become Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Although SB 800 lowered the enrollment threshold from 3,500 students to 2,500 students for the Center to transform into a stand-alone institution, the dilemma now is that, with limited space and students forced to attend classes in portable buildings, the campus is not able to expand to meet that requirement without additional funding for additional classrooms and additional faculty.

Money would be better spent securing the institution's ultimate goal as a fully functional, 4-year, institution. This could be more readily accomplished if their enrollment threshold is lowered to 1,000 full-time equivalents in any one semester.

Also requested during this legislative session is the pre-authorization to issue tuition revenue bonds in order to raise capital for the first phase of construction for Texas A&M University--San Antonio. A 400-acre site has already been selected and designated for this campus.

- SB 296 is contingent upon passage of the Tuition Revenue Bonds;
- If the TRB funds request is not approved, the enrollment threshold will remain at 2,500.

Note: Texas A&M University-San Antonio (UTSA) will provide additional capacity to meet a growing need in higher education in Bexar and surrounding counties. In 2003, the Coordinating Board projected a space deficit of 996,000 square feet in San Antonio if *Closing the Gaps* enrollment goals are met.

In its impact statement for SB 800, the Coordinating Board stated, “*Even if UTSA lets its enrollment increase from its current levels (22,000 in Fall 2004) to 30,000 to 35,000, there is still likely to be additional demand for higher education services than would need to be met by independent institutions or a new public university.*”

Staff Contact: Lisa Barton/463-3375

Community Colleges in South Central and Middle Rio Grande Area (that might feed into Texas A&M University - San Antonio)

Total Student Population: 102,402

From the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

For fall 2004, data is preliminary data, but most recent certified (final) figures are provided (which is for fall 2003).

Alamo Community College District (San Antonio -- Bexar County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 49,123 students; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 47,645 students:

ACCD NW Vista College	8,809
ACCD Palo Alto	7,960
ACCD St. Phillip's	10,880

Southwest Texas Junior College (Uvalde -- Uvalde County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 5,202; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 4,735

Victoria College (Victoria -- Victoria County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 4,037; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 4,241

Coastal Bend College (Beeville -- Bee County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 3,821; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 3,504

Del Mar College (Corpus Christi -- Nueces County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 11,382; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 11,289

Laredo Community College (Laredo -- Webb County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 9,030; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 7,906

South Texas College (McAllen -- Hidalgo County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 17,132; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 15,228

Texas Southmost College (Brownsville -- Cameron County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 9,204; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 8,354

The public institution below offers two-year programs too, although it's not a community college:

Texas State Technical Institute-Harlingen (Cameron County): fall 2004 (preliminary) -- 4,350; fall 2003 (certified, or final) -- 4,082

SOUTH, S,East, S,West Bexar County and Contiguous Counties South of Bexar County: High School Enrollment/Graduation Rates										
	County	Graduation Rate		Enrollment by Grade						
		%	#	10th	11th	12th				
Bandera ISD	Bandera	94.0%	158	240	179	156				
Boerne ISD	Kendall	93.8%	350	479	377	351				
Charlotte ISD	Atascosa	94.4%	34	30	30	27				
Devine ISD	Medina	94.0%	125	146	123	140				
D'Hanis ISD	Medina	90.9%	20	23	26	18				
Dilley ISD	Frio	79.2%	57	52	57	36				
Eagle Pass ISD	Maverick	87.3%	611	866	801	681				
East Central ISD	Bexar	90.3%	521	609	527	398				
Edgewood ISD	Bexar	88.8%	636	902	655	635				
Floresville ISD	Wilson	94.2%	243	301	232	239				
Hondo ISD	Medina	87.1%	122	193	138	121				
Jourdanton ISD	Atascosa	91.5%	75	101	80	81				
Judson ISD	Bexar	91.6%	943	1253	1339	878				
Knippa ISD	Uvalde	92.3%	12	20	7	14				
La Verma ISD	Wilson	91.4%	128	205	195	136				
Lackland ISD	Bexas	100.0%	38	42	31	40				
Leakey ISD	Real	95.7%	22	25	17	23				
Lytle ISD	Atascosa	97.8%	89	89	114	81				
Marion ISD	Guadalupe	95.0%	76	117	113	87				
Medina ISD	Bandera	100.0%	31	25	35	19				
Medina Valley ISD	Medina	96.5%	222	241	218	233				
Natalia ISD	Medina	95.8%	68	92	74	62				
Navarro ISD	Guadalupe	98.6%	69	91	85	86				
Nueces Canyon Consolidated ISD	Edwards	96.8%	30	24	27	20				
Pearsall ISD	Frio	96.7%	119	141	152	146				
Pleasanton ISD	Atascosa	95.2%	240	246	235	208				
Poteet ISD	Atascosa	97.0%	97	143	117	107				
Poth ISD	Wilson	89.5%	51	53	54	36				
Rocksprings ISD	Edwards	92.0%	23	25	25	27				
Sabinal ISD	Uvalde	94.1%	32	42	34	42				
San Antonio ISD	Bexar	89.0%	2777	3490	3153	2867				
Schertz-Cibolo-Universa ISD	Guadalupe	97.0%	509	588	553	470				
Seguin ISD	Guadalupe	91.7%	477	591	452	434				
Somerset ISD	Bexar	94.8%	163	208	180	165				

South San Antonio ISD	Bexar	89.6%	544	665	544	473													
Southside ISD	Bexar	94.9%	260	298	272	238													
Southwest ISD	Bexar	90.9%	510	656	607	495													
Stockdale ISD	Wilson	98.3%	58	68	43	65													
Utopia ISD	Uvalde	95.5%	21	17	20	19													
Uvalde Cons ISD	Uvalde	89.3%	309	379	340	271													
TOTALS			13,776	12,261	10,625	36,662													

This graduation rate and number consists of students who graduated or continued high school.

Council pushes on A&M plan

By GREG JEFFERSON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The City Council on Thursday put its weight behind plans to donate 400 acres to the Texas A&M University System for a South Side campus — a move that could cost at least \$13 million.

The council unanimously approved a resolution directing city staffers to negotiate a contract with A&M to hand the land over by December 2006.

Several council members praised efforts — led largely by state Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, and Mayor Ed Garza — to bring a four-year A&M campus here.

Leo Sayavedra, the university's vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, told officeholders that A&M's Board of Regents "is completely in support of this effort."

Over the past several years, "we've tried to bring about a full-fledged campus on the South Side of San Antonio," he said.

But the city's site, which Sayavedra identified as the university's preferred location, isn't vacant: nearly 100 people own homes and businesses on the 400 acres, on the southwest corner of Loop 410 South and U.S. 281 (Roosevelt Avenue).

As part of the city's effort to acquire the properties, the council also approved a "relocation assistance program" for would-be sellers.

But if owners refuse to sell, the city could condemn their

property, exercising its right of eminent domain.

"We know we're going to work very hard to secure that site," Councilman Richard Perez said. "If we're not able to do it, I don't want to close the door on the other property."

He was referring to a 550-acre site — southeast of the city's proposed location — that a not-for-profit called Corporation for Education and Economic Development offered to donate last week.

Lowry Maya, chairman of A&M's Board of Regents, said the site didn't have the access or viability that the university wanted in a San Antonio campus.

Nevertheless, Sayavedra said building on the CEED site remained an option — if the city site falls through.

A&M officials hope to open a San Antonio campus in 2008 and, over 20 years, build it up to accommodate 25,000 students.

In the meantime, Madla is seeking the Legislature's approval for \$80 million in tuition-backed bonds for first-phase construction.

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A&M regents OK South Side campus

As expected, the Texas A&M University System board of regents unanimously approved a resolution Thursday that supports plans to bring a campus to the South Side.

City Council last week gave the go-ahead for the city to acquire 400 acres at the southwest corner of Loop 410 and U.S. 281 and then donate the land to A&M by December 2006.

The A&M resolution authorizes the chancellor to negotiate with the city. A&M officials hope to open the four-year campus in 2009.

State Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, is expected to ask the Legislature to approve \$80 million in tuition revenue bonds to fund the first phase of construction.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CAMPUS IN SAN ANTONIO; AUTHORIZING STAFF TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE CITY WOULD ACQUIRE AND PROVIDE TO THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM 400 OR MORE ACRES OF DEVELOPABLE PROPERTY FOR A CAMPUS BY DECEMBER 2006, AND PROVIDE REQUISITE ACCESS AND UTILITY SERVICE TO SAID PROPERTY, CONDITIONAL UPON ALL NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CAMPUS BEING OBTAINED; DIRECTING STAFF TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE FOR ALL FUNDS NECESSARY FOR SAID PROJECT; AND DIRECTING STAFF TO TAKE STEPS TO IDENTIFY, ASSESS, AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR A CAMPUS IN SOUTH SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY.

WHEREAS, public institutions of higher education have a direct benefit on the communities in which they are located through the education and preparation of citizens for work opportunities in an increasingly complex economy; and

WHEREAS, the presence of four-year academic and research institutions within a community has long been recognized as a critical element for new innovation, new venture formation, and wealth generation in technology-oriented industries, which are economic development targeted industries by the City of San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, the Texas A&M University System has identified San Antonio as a preferred location for a four-year academic campus; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 800 of the 78th Legislative Session formally established Texas A&M University—San Antonio, with the provision that no department, school, or degree program may be instituted without the prior approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Texas A&M University System submitted a request to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for authorization to issue tuition revenue bonds totaling \$80,000,000 for the construction of buildings for Texas A&M University—San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, the timely approval and issuance of tuition revenue bonds is critical for the construction of Texas A&M University—San Antonio for enrollment and classes to begin Fall 2009; and

WHEREAS, legislative authorization for the issuance of tuition revenue bonds usually occurs on a four-year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the 79th State Legislature is expected to convene in 2005 and consider legislation approving the issuance of tuition revenue bonds for Texas A&M University—San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, historically and recently, land, as well as the provision of adequate transportation and utility facilities, has been provided to the Texas A&M University System for other campuses, either by private donors or surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Legislature expect that title to the campus site and all necessary infrastructure for Texas A&M University—San Antonio will be provided and conveyed by the community and/or private donor(s) in conjunction with the planning and development of the campus; and

WHEREAS, desirable campus sites of sufficient size are located in the City South area (formally known as the Southside Initiative Planning Area); and

WHEREAS, based upon preliminary analysis, City staff estimates that the satisfactory acquisition, clearance, and removal of property impairments of one potential location identified by the City and The Texas A&M University System officials as the preferred campus site, would likely exceed \$13 million; and

WHEREAS, while additional public expense will be required to extend and connect utilities to internal university physical plant systems, adequate utilities and transportation infrastructure are presently near the preferred campus site; and

WHEREAS, a commitment by the City of San Antonio, and other public agencies, to finance and otherwise provide an adequate campus for construction commencement by December 2006 are necessary to secure desired legislative authorization;

THEREFORE,

THE FOLLOWING IS RESOLVED BY THE SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCIL:

1. The City of San Antonio fully supports the development of a campus for Texas A&M University—San Antonio in the southern part of San Antonio and Bexar County.
2. Staff is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate definitive agreements with The Texas A&M University System ("A&M System") under which the City of San Antonio ("City") will take all necessary steps to acquire and provide to the Texas A&M University – San Antonio 400 or more acres of developable property by no later than December 2006 in order for campus construction to commence by January 2007. It is contemplated that these agreements would also include definitive commitments by the City, and other public entities as necessary, to provide for adequate levels of transportation infrastructure, utility services, extension of utility infrastructure systems, and connections to the university physical plant systems in conjunction with campus construction, at no cost to the A&M System.

3. Any definitive agreements with the A&M System would be subject to and conditioned upon the A&M System obtaining all authorizations and appropriations necessary to proceed with the development and opening of the Texas A&M University – San Antonio campus in the fall of 2009 as a “four-year” baccalaureate degree granting institution, including those of the 79th Texas Legislature, the Governor of the State of Texas, the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, and any other review or consent authorities, as required by State law.
4. Staff is directed to identify and take steps to provide for all funds necessary for the City to meet its obligations under any such definitive legal agreements with the A&M System.
5. Staff is further directed to take steps in furtherance of the identification, assessment and acquisition of adequate developable property to be provided for the Texas A&M University—San Antonio campus in south San Antonio and Bexar County pursuant to any such definitive legal agreements.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY 2005.

MAYOR