



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: July 10, 2020

Attachment 3

To: John Binaski, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Crafton Hills College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Crafton Hills College remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on February 12, 2020, at the Crafton Hills College training facilities at 11711 Sand Canyon Road in Yucaipa, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with College hosts Michael Alder, Academy Chief, and Rick Groff, Operations Specialist, present throughout.

A review of the College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by a tour of all classrooms and the facility with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training ground complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites and locations. Crafton Hills College successfully adheres to the Fire Fighter 1 (2013) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing and can transition to the 2019 curriculum with ease.

The training facility presents appropriate academy classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery and the College will be expanding its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

Although the program has sufficient staff, the current staffing is at its capacity with staff working well beyond the typical work schedule and hours. This condition has tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. Crafton Hills College has identified a specific need for additional full-time faculty staff members to lessen the workload of existing staff and enhance the Academy and fire technology course deliveries. The program has an expressed need for succession planning for its Secretary and Coordinator/Specialist roles, with absolute necessity to maintain these positions.

Recent ballot item, Measure CC, allocated funding to Crafton Hills College for the construction of the proposed East Valley Regional Training Center to be housed on-campus. The Training Center will alleviate travel, scheduling, and expense concerns currently experienced with utilizing shared training locations in neighboring jurisdictions. The relief of this reliance will permit the College to host additional State Fire Training courses and further expand its training opportunities universally through Institutional Service Agreements with neighboring agencies and as a welcoming training facility to outside students. Construction planning is underway.

Crafton Hills College is a Southern California leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a growing array of specialized courses and training events. Crafton Hills College boasts an exemplary retention and success rate among students, making it a noteworthy training destination. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. Crafton Hills College staff and students recognize the importance of fostering cooperative relationships and interagency partnerships.

Crafton Hills College possesses a strong and devotion to student development through innovative and progressive training. All participants, staff and students alike, adhere to the strong program standards that have served as the foundation of this model fire service training program. It is recommended that Crafton Hills College continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.