



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

Attachment 7

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:

Southwestern Community College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Conditional Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Southwestern Community College be provided an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Conditional Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of one (1) year.

Background Information:

A Conditional Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 28, 2020, at Southwestern Community College located at 8100 Gigantic Street in San Diego, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with retired-Chief/Fire Technology Director Lorraine Hutchinson.

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 an evaluation of the Conditional Accreditation requirements noted in the 2019 Conditional Accreditation process which have been satisfied.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The Southwestern Community College ARTP Accreditation was proposed as a two-part phased concept in 2019 and received a one-year Conditional Accreditation. Phase 1 served the 2020 CVFD Fire Fighter Academy, with SWC providing the ARTP collaborative oversight while construction of the College training facility, program, and curriculum construct began. Phase 2 is focused on the development and implementation of the State Fire Training-compliant college-level Fire Fighter 1 academy and diversified Fire Science Technology curriculum with new classrooms, training tower/facility, and equipment complement.

To satisfy the Phase 1 component in 2019, a site evaluation of the CVFD training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower. The site possessed all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites. A February 2020 visit to the site affirmed this compliance with no major changes or removal of structures or equipment. The CVFD training facility provides recruits an appropriate classroom equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participated in the Academy delivery with additional members complementing the need for Lead and Skills Evaluators. In Spring 2020, CVFD successfully delivered the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) certification exam.

Phase 2 is now underway, with ground having been broken for the new construction in early Spring 2020. A review of the current Southwestern College campus further indicates sufficient classroom space with the training facility construction actively underway. The Fall 2020 Fire Technology classes will continue, as planned, with COVID safety measures in-place. As construction continues, SWC will begin delivering new wildland-specific instruction in conjunction with region partners. In compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the *SFT Procedures Manual, Accreditation Process, Section 3.1.6(E)*, a one-year Conditional Accreditation may be granted in lieu of a full three-year Initial Accreditation. This will provide for continued ARTP oversight of the CVFD 2021 Academy while allowing for completion of Phase 2 SWC development. SWC will be revisited in Spring 2021 for ARTP review and consideration for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.

Since 1991, Southwestern Community College has maintained steady and robust Fire Science Technology certification and Associate of Science degree programs. In 2007, the College's Higher Education Center was expanded to include all public safety programs at the new Otay Mesa location. In 2018, College leadership committed to \$21.5 million to design and build a Joint Public Safety Training Facility including the EMT/Paramedic programs, the Police Academy, and the proposed Fire Fighter Academy. The new Facility has a projected Summer 2021 completion and will include new classrooms as well as a four-story training tower and simulator. Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and small agency populations in the southern areas of San Diego and have an expressed desire to bridge the regional fire service training and education gap. This focus on providing education for all students is indicative of the training devotion serving as the foundation of the proposed program. Coordination personnel possess an energetic approach to program development with a strong focus on maintaining diversified student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by State Fire Training.

Southwestern Community College possesses a strong dedication to comprehensive student development from entry-level firefighters to career advancing leadership. The College is proactively building cooperative relationships founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals. It is recommended that Southwestern Community College be granted a one-year ARTP Conditional Accreditation in the State Fire Training system pending construction completion in 2021.