



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

Attachment 9

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:

Victor Valley College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions: Recommend Victor Valley 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:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 29, 2020, at the Regional Public Safety Training Center located at 19190 Navajo Road, Apple Valley, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Technology Program Director Heath Cohen 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 an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower 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. Victor Valley College has successfully transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing.

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.

The Victor Valley College training tower (2008) is nearing the end of its warranty coverage and per NFPA requirements and potential cost-savings, it is recommended that the College explore the availability of a service agreement to maintain the integrity of the structure and its safety. Additionally, the existing air compressor is dated and in need of replacing to ensure safe and sufficient equipment with efficient operability.

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. Victor Valley College has identified a specific need for additional full-time faculty staff members and clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. The College requires adjunct instructors to possess a background in fire service operations which has limited access to subject-matter expert participation in curriculum delivery. It is recommended that SMEs and/or Guest Lecturers be provided a means of compensation when engaging in instruction with academy students.

Victor Valley College provides a diverse student population with an affordable, robust, and well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. The College provides an array of State Fire Training courses to an underserved region in Southern California, with various technical rescue and specialized courses being delivered. Through ongoing mentoring, the College is ensuring instructor relevance and program sustainability. The students and staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

Victor Valley College possesses an unwavering devotion to complete student development, serving students and fire service professionals, alike. The unique training opportunities, student and instructor diversification, and program innovation makes it a standout leader in the California fire service training and education program and as an ARTP. It is recommended that Victor Valley 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.