



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Attachment 4

Date: August 22, 2019

To: State Board of Fire Services

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

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Southwestern Community College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Initial 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:

An Initial Accreditation site evaluation was conducted on April 30, 2019, at the Southwestern Community College campus located 8100 Gigantic Street in San Diego, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Fowler, State Fire Training; Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training; Accredited Local Academy (ALA) representative Captain Shawn Tukua, Los Angeles Fire Department; STEAC representative Matt Jewett, CFTDA/Sierra College; and Retired Annuitant Nick Pavone, State Fire Training. College hosts included Dean Silvia Cornejo, Program Coordinator Rick Hoover, ARTP Project Manager Darren Hall, and Fire Science Technology instructor Ron Ungar with Chula Vista Fire Department collaborators Battalion Chief Sean Lowery, Captain Brad Carlin, Engineer Robert Parkhill, and Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims in attendance.

A review of the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was discussed with representatives present, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. 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 site assessment of all

designated Phase 1 classrooms and training facilities with opportunity to review the Chula Vista Fire Department training facility equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The Southwestern Community College ARTP Accreditation is proposed as a two-part phased concept. Phase 1 will serve the scheduled 2019-2020 Chula Vista Fire Department Fire Fighter Academy, with SWC providing the ARTP collaborative oversight while construction of the College training facility, program, and curriculum construct is underway. Phase 2 is focused on the development and implementation of the State Fire Training-compliant college-level Fire Fighter I academy and diversified Fire Science Technology curriculum with new classrooms, training tower/facility, and equipment complement.

To satisfy the Phase 1 component, a site assessment of the CVFD training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower. We observed all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program supplemented by satellite and partnered training sites. CVFD successfully adheres to the 2013 Fire Fighter I curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for capstone IFSAC/ProBoard certification testing. The CVFD training facility can provide an appropriate classroom equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All recruits are provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery with additional members complementing the need for Lead and Skills Evaluators.

Since Phase 2 is not yet underway, evaluation was limited to the CVFD training site (Phase 1). In compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the SFT Procedures Manual, Accreditation Process, Section 3.1.6(E), it was the consensus of the Site Evaluation Team that a one-year Conditional Accreditation be granted in lieu of a full three-year Initial Accreditation. This will provide for ARTP oversight of the CVFD Academy while allowing for the initiation of the proposed Phase 2 SWC development. To ensure continued progress and development of the Phase 2 SWC facility and program, a list of required milestones was drafted and provided the SWC personnel for compliance of the Conditional Accreditation. SWC will be revisited in April 2020 for ARTP review and consideration for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years. [See: Attachment 1 – SWC Conditional Approval Requirements 2019].

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. Groundbreaking of the Facility is planned for Summer 2019 with a projected 2021 completion and will include new classrooms as well as a three-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 compliance with the designated requirements and an April 2020 reevaluation.

[Attachment: Southwestern College ARTP Conditional Accreditation 2019]