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Date: October 9, 2020

To: State Board of Fire Services
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

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

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

City College of San Francisco Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend City College of San Francisco 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 September 21, 2020, at the City College of San Francisco training facility located at 1860 Hayes Street in San Francisco, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Department Chair Jim Connors, Fire Science Coordinator Jim Skinner, and associated staff members Ed Dea, Mike Fennell, and Jovan Blake present throughout. Edie Kaeuper, Dean of School of Health, Physical Education and Social Services participated in the Self-Assessment Report review and Site Evaluation overview meeting.

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.

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

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. City College of San Francisco has successfully transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing when courses reconvene following COVID-19 safety protocol implementation.

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 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 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. The College has identified a specific need for additional full-time faculty staff members with the development of the new training facility. The program has identified a specific need for additional full-time faculty staff members and clerical /administrative personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.

Annual funding for the program is provided through a College-wide allocation of State of California lottery funds received. Grant funding also complements their budget. The department does not have a fixed line-item budget. The College needs to identify a secured budgetary allotment for specific program sustainability. Working cooperatively with neighboring agencies, CCSF shares training space at a location separate from the campus classroom while awaiting completion of a new training facility in April 2021. The ARTP is utilizing neighboring facilities in the region to satisfy the requirements of the Accreditation, all of which have been evaluated and approved by SFT. It is recommended that the new facility be equipped with cleansing stations, extractors, and shower trailers be procured to ensure student safety.

City College of San Francisco delivers a strong, challenging, and robust training Academy that routinely produces professional, well-rounded firefighters. 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. The College is an excellent cooperator, working in seamless cohesion with neighboring agencies.

City College of San Francisco possesses an unwavering devotion to complete student development, serving students and fire service professionals, alike. It is recommended that City College of San Francisco continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.