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Date: January 9, 2026

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Mission College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Mission College be reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of four (4) years.

Background Information:

A reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 26, 2025, at the Mission College campus in Santa Clara, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Guy Hall, Program Coordinator, and Calagero Monachino, Academy Director, serving as hosts and representatives.

The Mission College Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. The documentation has since been received and meets the requirements 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 an opportunity to review training course records and equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities verified sufficient classroom space, with a fully functioning and compliant training facility, complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to support a fire academy training program. The program utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for delivering a successful Certification Examination. The training grounds feature California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audiovisual equipment and essential learning aids. All academy cadets are provided with sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment to support their success within the academy training. Several Registered Instructors and Evaluators participate in the academy instruction and Certification Exam delivery, making the program self-sustaining. The program will focus on hosting additional registered

SFT courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies. All student records are maintained in a compliant and confidential manner in accordance with SFT requirements.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at the California Fire Technology Director Association's meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved locker rooms, shower facilities, and decontamination stations with extractors shall be explored to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students and instructors.
- The current staffing is at its capacity, with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The College has identified a specific need for dedicated personnel to offset the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. Assignment of additional clerical staff and faculty designations is strongly recommended.
- The program may benefit from the utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses while garnering students from throughout the State. As an ARTP, this is an available option.
- Exploration of Certification Exam progression is recommended, including digitization of skills sheets, video recording, expansion of additional Exam offerings to include Fire and Emergency Services 1 and 2, and Alternate Candidate exam events.
- The program shall continue to explore outreach and recruitment opportunities for expanded diversification of the instructor cadre roster. Ongoing outreach via fire camps and community events is recommended for continued diversification efforts.

Mission College is a progressive institution, having recently implemented virtual reality training tools and launching its Bachelor of Science in Emergency Services Degree program in Fall 2026. Since its initial accreditation, the College has continued to invest in program infrastructure, expanding the drill grounds on campus, which has enabled the provision of many more specialized training courses. The Mission College staff and administration recognize the underserved student and small and mid-sized agency populations in the region 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. The attention to student and instructor diversification and outreach exemplifies the program's dedication to fire service progression.

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the *SFT Procedures Manual (2019)*, Accreditation Process, Section 3.1.6(E), an Accreditation Extension was granted to ensure program stabilization while working toward sustainability. All requirements set forth by State Fire Training have been satisfied for Reaccreditation, and there has been no lapse in accreditation.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Mission College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an accreditation period of four (4) years.