



## **STEAC Meeting Minutes**

October 10, 2025 – Teleconference Meeting

### **I. Introductions and Welcome**

#### **Members Present:**

Mike Richwine, Chair  
Christopher Bonn, Metro Chiefs  
Todd Braverman, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee  
Tierney Harrison, California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (alternate)  
Bret Davidson, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South), STEAC Vice Chair  
Shawn Tukua, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (South) (alternate)  
Richard Beckman, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Ray Mosack, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Peter Cacossa, California Fire Technology Directors Association  
Greg Greenlee, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)  
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities  
Justin Chaplin, CAL FIRE Training Center  
Nicole Gissell, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)  
Andrew Kibby, CAL FIRE  
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE (alternate)  
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs - Training Officer Section, (North)  
Keith Alexander, California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs)  
Devin Flannery, California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs)  
Javier Lara, CAL OES (alternate)  
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association  
Dwight Stewart, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)  
Nic Turner, FIRESCOPE (alternate)

#### **Members Absent:**

Steve Boughney, Metro Chiefs (alternate)  
John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters  
Glen Pavlovsky, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)  
Kyle Heggstrom, FDAC  
Geoff Belyea, FDAC (alternate)  
Christopher Nigg, League of California Cities (alternate)  
Brian Marshall, CAL OES  
Patrick D'Arcy, FIRESCOPE

## **State Fire Training Staff:**

Jill Bennetts, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Natasha Cocke, SFT, Office Technician  
Brandon Erickson, SFT, Staff Services Manager I  
Kirsten Fonseca, SFT, Staff Services Analyst  
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Selena Garcia-Villicana, SFT, Staff Services Analyst  
Derek Lueth, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Katy Luetke Porter, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)  
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I  
Frank Vue, SFT, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

## **Public Attendees:**

Alex Barbour, Alameda City Fire Department  
Nicholas Luby, Alameda City Fire Department  
Cody Moxley, Alameda City Fire Department  
Keith Flamer, College of the Redwoods  
Rory Johnson, College of the Redwoods  
Sean Robertson, College of the Redwoods  
Rachel Warze, College of the Redwoods  
Sean Wilson, College of the Redwoods  
Chris Delcour, College of the Siskiyous  
Jesse Roberts, College of the Siskiyous  
Everett Buell, Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department  
Kevin Carey, Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department  
Mark Swink, Folsom Lake College  
Nathaniel Zeffrum, Folsom Lake College  
Timothy Citro, Humboldt Bay Fire Authority  
Brad Deeds, Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy  
Pat Hughes, Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy  
Carlie Murphy, Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy  
Donald Roe, Merced College  
Kevin Pendleton, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department  
Valarie Carte, Sierra College  
German Sierra, Sierra College  
Jeff Barton, South Bay Regional Consortium  
Stewart Roth, South Bay Regional Consortium  
Brad Amaral  
E. Flores  
Robert Nelson

## **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 09:05 AM by Chief Richwine, STEAC Chair.

## **Roll Call/Quorum Established**

A quorum was established during introductions.

## **Member Appointments and Reappointments**

1. Christopher Bonn – Metro Chiefs – Member Appointment
2. Steve Boughey – Metro Chiefs – Alternate Appointment

## **Past Member Recognition**

1. None

## **II. Agenda Review**

Presenter: Chief Richwine

## **III. Approval of July 11, 2025 Minutes**

Presenter: Chief Richwine

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the minutes from July 11, 2025. Devin Flannery seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **IV. State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) Update**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) was able to achieve a quorum at its meeting on August 6, 2025. The board approved 21 consent items. The committee also shared updates on the Title 19 2025 Procedures Manual, which was resubmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on July 31, 2025, and will undergo an additional 15-day comment period prior to implementation. Blueprint 2030 was approved by CAL FIRE Executives. OSFM staff are working on the final document and an interactive State Fire Training dashboard that will accompany the publication of Blueprint 2030. The next SBFS meeting will be on November 5, 2025.

## **V. Consent Items**

### **A. Modify Recognized Fire Agencies and Authorized Signers – Interim Procedures – University of California**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

In response to recent changes by the University of California, State Fire Training has amended the requirements for authorized signers in the *State Fire Training Procedures Manual* (Section 4.1.1). The authorized organizations now include Tribal Fire Departments formed under a federally recognized Tribe and the University of California. The University of California Director of Fire and Life Safety Services (UC DFLSS) and

the Lead Designated Campus Fire Marshal (Lead DCFM) can act as authorized signers for the Fire Prevention series certification task books, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2 task books, and Fire Prevention registered instructor experience letters. These changes would take effect on November 1, 2025.

#### **B. Fire Control 5: Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (1988) Retirement**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler explained the retirement timeline for Fire Control 5: Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (1988). This course will be removed from the State Fire Training catalog by October 31, 2025. The FY 2025-2026 Curriculum and Related Projects Staff Report previously referred to this course as Fire Control 5: Wildland Firefighting Essentials (1992). State Fire Training corrected this and updated the staff report.

#### **C. Alameda City Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that the Alameda City Fire Department's site evaluation occurred on August 29, 2025. She described Alameda City Fire Department as an accomplished organization steeped in rich tradition and a steadfast focus on serving its diverse community. The department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices. The Alameda City Fire Department utilizes cutting-edge techniques and equipment required for its specific regional risks and hazards. The agency demonstrated a strong commitment to training and education, indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive organization.

Chief Petty then yielded the floor to Alameda City Fire Department representatives Alex Barbour, Nicholas Luby, and Cody Moxley. C. Moxley thanked Chief Petty and State Fire Training for their support throughout the reaccreditation process.

Chief Petty concluded that the Alameda County Fire Department's self-assessment report and site evaluation both went very well. State Fire Training recommends a continued designation of the Alameda County Fire Department as an ALA for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **D. San Diego Fire-Rescue Department ALA Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty informed the committee that the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department had its site evaluation on September 8, 2025. She described the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department as an Academy of Excellence Award winner and a continuous statewide leader. The department offers a comprehensive training program, supported by ongoing recruitment and outreach efforts. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide expansive response capabilities and a steadfast focus on serving the unique needs of the region. This department provides comprehensive training with relevant and timely techniques. The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is an up-and-coming participant in the State Fire Training system and is an eager host for regionally sought-after courses.

Chief Petty stated that the department's site evaluation and self-assessment report review went well. State Fire Training recommends the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department as an ALA for a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **E. South Bay Regional Consortium ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that the South Bay Regional Consortium's site visit occurred on February 14, 2025. She informed the committee that the Consortium provides a diverse student population with an affordable, robust, and well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. This ARTP offers a range of State Fire Training courses and provides various rescue and specialized courses throughout the region. The consortium personnel maintain excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery, advisory committee participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development. The South Bay Regional Consortium is committed to providing comprehensive student development.

Chief Petty told the committee that the South Bay Regional Consortium's self-assessment report and site evaluations both went very well. As a result, State Fire Training recommends a reaccreditation period of five years.

#### **F. Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy ARTP Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy's site visit took place on August 14, 2025. She explained that this fire academy serves a unique region of the State, providing affordable, robust, and well-rounded training programs to entry-level, volunteer, and career fire service personnel. The college is an excellent collaborator, working in seamless cohesion with neighboring agencies. The energetic instructors, diversification, and innovation within this program make it a standout leader in the California Fire Service Training and Education Program.

Chief Petty concluded that the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy's site evaluation and self-assessment report went very well. State Fire Training recommends the continued recognition of the academy as an ARTP for a period of five years.

**Motion:** *Todd Braverman moved to accept the motion for all consent items.*

*Donavan Lacy seconded the motion.*

**Action:** *All members voted unanimously.*

## VI. New Accredited Academies

### A. Merced College ARTP Accreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that Merced College's site evaluation occurred on August 21, 2025. The program's coordinators recognize the region's underserved student and agency populations and are working to bridge the regional gap in fire service training and education. This focus on providing education for all students reflects the proposed program's devotion to training. Coordination personnel possess an energetic approach to program development and a strong focus on maintaining diverse student populations while adhering to the standards set forth by State Fire Training. The college is proactively building cooperative relationships that foster the production of strong, well-rounded fire service professionals.

Chief Petty then yielded the floor to Donald Roe to speak on behalf of Merced College. D. Roe shared several updates from the college, including their efforts to establish a new training center. Merced College and Merced City Fire Department recently obtained approval to bid on the 16-acre Hawk Regional Training Center, which could further strengthen their training programs. He concluded by thanking STEAC, Chief Petty, and Chief Fowler for their support throughout the accreditation process.

Peter Cacossa, who was a member of the site team for Merced College, also spoke about the accreditation process. P. Cacossa shared that there was a significant improvement between the first and second site visits to Merced College. He praised D. Roe for his ability to incorporate the site team's feedback into the fire program. He also looks forward to continuing to partner with D. Roe and Merced College.

Chief Petty concluded by stating that Merced College was granted a 1-year, conditional accreditation in 2024. Merced College has successfully met the program development requirements set forth at that time. State Fire Training recommends recognition of the academy as an ARTP for an initial accreditation period of three years.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Devin Flannery moved to accept the motion for this item. Justin Chaplin seconded the motion.</i>
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<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>
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### B. College of the Redwoods ARTP Accreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty spoke about College of the Redwoods, which has been working towards accreditation for three years. The college's site evaluation occurred on August 28, 2025. College of the Redwoods will serve a unique region of the state by providing affordable, robust, and well-rounded training programs to entry-level, volunteer, and career fire service personnel. The college is already an excellent collaborator, working in seamless cohesion with neighboring agencies. Program coordinators recognize the underserved student and agency populations in the region and plan to bridge this gap in fire service training and education.

Chief Petty then yielded the floor to Justin Chaplin, who was part of the college's site evaluation team. J. Chaplin said that this is an exciting accreditation, since the college supports an underserved region of the state and will help with local fire service recruitment and retention. The college does a remarkable job managing relationships with its administrators and partners throughout the region. J. Chaplin said that the College of the Redwoods is incredibly adaptable and promptly addressed feedback from the site team, following the initial self-assessment report. J. Chaplin also took this time to acknowledge Humboldt Bay Fire Department's Training Chief, Tim Citro, whom he reconnected with while working on the site evaluation team. He thanked T. Citro for playing a pivotal role in his life as a young man and said that it was a rewarding experience to see him in his role as Training Chief.

Valarie Carte from Sierra College spoke next about the accreditation experience. She thanked Rachel Warze, the administrative officer at College of the Redwoods, for her work in preparing the program's self-assessment report. V. Carte concluded by saying that she is excited to see where this program will go and how it will fulfill a need in this region.

Chief Petty also took a moment to acknowledge additional representatives from the College of the Redwoods: President Keith Flamer, Dean Rory Johnson, Sean Robertson, Sean Wilson, and Rachel Warze. R. Johnson thanked the College of the Redwoods administration, Humboldt Bay Fire Department, Fortuna Fire Department, and the surrounding community for their support. He also acknowledged S. Robertson and R. Warze for their work throughout the accreditation process.

S. Robertson said that this accreditation is a momentous achievement that will benefit their local fire agencies and community. He wants to continue developing ISAs, expanding training sites, and collaborating with local fire agencies. S. Robertson thanked Cal Fire, S. Wilson, R. Warze, K. Flamer, R. Johnson, and the College of the Redwoods' Board of Trustees for their support. He concluded by thanking Chief Petty for her help.

S. Wilson also thanked Chief Petty and Chief Fowler for their guidance and support over the last two years. He added that he looks forward to continuing to support the Northern California coast.

Chief Petty acknowledged Rachel Warze for her work on the self-assessment report, calling her the backbone of the project. R. Warze also thanked Chief Petty for her support and the rest of the team at College of the Redwoods.

The self-assessment report and site visit for College of the Redwoods both went very well. State Fire Training recommended the recognition of College of the Redwoods as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an Initial Accreditation period of three years.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Donavan Lacy moved to accept the motion for this item. Justin Chaplin seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

## **VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery**

### **A. First Responder Inspector (2024) Curriculum (Information Only)**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler explained that this curriculum will replace the Fire Inspector 1 (2014) curriculum. State Fire Training expects to publish this curriculum on March 1, 2026, and to retire the 2014 curriculum in December 2026, pending approval from STEAC and State Board of Fire Services (SBFS). Chief Fowler explained that SFT has changed the name of this certification track to align with updated NFPA standards, which have caused significant changes to the curriculum. NFPA and State Fire Training removed six standards and added five new ones. Three standards were removed by NFPA but kept by SFT under the authority of OSFM. Three of the course plans have updated teaching orders, reorganized topics, and changes to course times. The First Responder Inspector 1D course plan remains unchanged, except that it has been updated to the new course plan template.

### **B. Fire Inspector (2024) Curriculum (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that this curriculum will replace Fire Inspector 2 (2014), with its title subsequently changed to align with NFPA 1030. Pending approval from STEAC and SBFS, State Fire Training anticipates publishing the new curriculum on March 1, 2026, and retiring the 2014 curriculum in December 2026. Chief Fowler added that this curriculum does not have any new NFPA standards. All four course plans now have updated teaching orders, reorganized topics, and changed course times.

### **C. Fire Plans Examiner (2024) Curriculum (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that Fire Plans Examiner (2024) will replace Plans Examiner (2014). State Fire Training updated this name to reflect NFPA updates. This curriculum will follow the same implementation plan as Fire Inspector (2024), once approved by STEAC and SBFS. Chief Fowler explained that the Fire Plans Examiner has significant NFPA changes. NFPA removed three standards and added five standards. Based on guidance from the cadre, SFT also added two California-specific standards under the authority of OSFM. All course plans have been updated to include revised teaching orders, reorganized topics, and adjusted course times

### **D. Fire Marshal (2024) Curriculum (Information Only)**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler stated that this curriculum track has no title change. Fire Marshal (2024) will follow the same implementation timeline as First Responder Inspector (2024), Fire Inspector (2024), and Fire Plans Examiner (2024), pending approval from STEAC and SBFS. Three NFPA standards changed for this curriculum. SFT also added two additional standards to capture community risk reduction and to adapt technology to

meet incident needs. All four course plans have new course times, reorganized topics, and updated teaching orders.

Richard Beckman asked Chief Fowler to clarify the implementation timeline for the Fire Prevention series certification. Chief Fowler confirmed that the updated curriculum will take effect on March 1, 2026, and the existing curriculum will retire on January 1, 2027.

R. Beckman followed up by asking how long students working on task books will have to submit their certification applications. Chief Fowler stated that candidates currently in the process of becoming instructors for the existing Fire Prevention curriculum or students working towards Fire Prevention certifications must have their documentation postmarked to State Fire Training by December 31, 2026.

Chief Richwine asked if there is an implementation plan that outlines the retirement of the old curriculum and corresponding deadlines. Chief Fowler pointed out that this information is included in the implementation plan and the Fire Prevention task books. Chief Fowler added that the implementation plans are included in the STEAC documents, which are on the SFT website.

#### **E. Fire Officer 2 (2020) Curriculum**

Presenters: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler presented the third reading of the Fire Officer 2 (2020) curriculum, following a request to modify instructor requirements at the July STEAC meeting. State Fire Training updated the requirements for a registered instructor of Company Officer 2E to require course completion only. Existing instructor requirements to teach the new Fire Officer 2 courses are referenced in the posted implementation plan. New instructors must also hold the Company Officer 2014 or Fire Officer 2020 certification.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion for this item. Devin Flannery seconded the motion.</i>
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<b>Action:</b>	<i>Jason Hosea, Peter Cacossa, Donavan Lacy, and Richard Beckman voted in opposition to this motion. All other members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.</i>
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## **F. Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (2025) Curriculum**

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty stated that the Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness (2025) Curriculum received no comments from stakeholders. No edits were made to the drafted curriculum after the July STEAC meeting.

Chief Petty explained that State Fire Training updated this curriculum to keep up with evolving information about the course topics and revised NFPA standards. The BHCA 1A and 2A courses address the need for behavioral health and cancer awareness in the fire service. BHCA 1A focuses on the awareness level of information. State Fire Training designed this course for frontline fire responders, entry-level fire professionals, and fire technology students. The BHCA 2A and 3A courses were consolidated into a single 2A course, which focuses on leadership at multiple organizational levels.

The new Behavioral Health and Cancer Awareness curriculum will be available on January 1, 2026. On that date, the 2020 curriculum will no longer be available and will be removed from the State Fire Training website.

Richard Beckman asked Chief Petty about the number of registered BHCA instructors throughout the state. Chief Petty responded that there are currently 37 BHCA 1A instructors who will carry over to the new 1A course. BHCA 2A currently has seven registered instructors, and BHCA 3A has four registered instructors. State Fire Training has scheduled BHCA 1A 104 times. BHCA 2A and 3A have not been offered. State Fire Training received one request for BHCA 2A, but this course was cancelled due to students not meeting the course prerequisites.

R. Beckman followed up by asking about instructor requirements. Chief Petty confirmed that BHCA instructors must provide proof that they have monitored or coordinated a behavioral health awareness program and a cancer awareness program at their agency. She explained that it is essential that instructors have expertise in both subject areas prior to teaching the BHCA 2A course. Chief Petty added that many fire departments have wellness programs that address both topics simultaneously and can provide potential instructors with this valuable experience.

R. Beckman stated that if an instructor coordinated a cancer awareness program but not one for behavioral health (or vice versa), they would not qualify to teach BHCA 2A. Chief Petty confirmed this, stating that the instructor needs to demonstrate experience and expertise in both topics.

Bret Davidson added that the BHCA courses have not been taught frequently in the state because they were not previously required. B. Davidson explained that the subject should be implemented as a certification requirement (e.g., Fire Fighter 1, Company Officer, Chief Officer, etc.) to motivate students to take this course. He understood R. Beckman's concern about the small number of instructors but added that the number of BHCA 1A instructors increased after this content was incorporated into fire academies. He concluded that it is important to incorporate this information at the Company Officer and Chief Officer levels to encourage more people to become BHCA 2A instructors.

R. Beckman agreed with B. Davidson but said he was concerned that “we’re putting the cart before the horse.” He added that students need to be able to take the class, become interested in both concepts, and then be able to teach the classes.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion for this item. Keith Alexander seconded the motion</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>Jason Hosea, Peter Cacossa, and Richard Beckman opposed this motion. All other members voted to approve the motion. The motion carries.</i>

## **G. Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (FESI) 1 Correction**

Presenters: Brandon Erickson

Brandon Erickson stated that the national certifications for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 1 and 2 were approved by STEAC last year. State Fire Training then implemented these certifications in July 2025. Afterwards, it came to the attention of State Fire Training that there is a conflict between the staff report approved by STEAC and the interim procedure documents. The staff report stated that FESI 1 reciprocity candidates are not required to complete the FESI 1 task book or meet the experience requirement. However, the interim procedure documents stated that these components were still required.

He also noted that the FESI 2 reciprocity process is different. For FESI 2, the task book and experience requirements are still required.

B. Erickson proposed a motion to remove the requirement for FESI 1 reciprocity candidates to complete the task book and work experience from the interim procedure documents.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>Bret Davidson moved to accept the motion for this item. Nic Turner seconded the motion.</i>
<b>Action:</b>	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

# **VIII. State Fire Training Updates**

## **A. IFSAC Reaccreditation**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that SFT will have its IFSAC reaccreditation visit next week. The IFSAC site team plans to visit the State Fire Training office on October 14 -16. IFSAC will review State Fire Training’s processes and exams. The team will observe an exam at the Cal Fire Training Center on October 15 and conduct interviews with students, instructors, and fire technology directors. Chief Fowler thanked State Fire Training’s internal STEAC partners for organizing this with Chief Petty and Brandon Erickson. She also thanked Lorraine Hutchinson and Nic Turner for participating in IFSAC interviews.

Chief Fowler explained that State Fire Training will not be heavily involved with IFSAC’s site visit. IFSAC’s site team will spend most of their visit sequestered as they evaluate

SFT's records, documents, and processes before presenting their feedback to State Fire Training. Chief Fowler and State Fire Training look forward to a favorable outcome for reaccreditation.

## **B. Staffing Update**

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler announced that State Fire Training is now advertising for a Deputy State Fire Marshal A position. State Fire Training now has one open position in field operations.

## **IX. Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

## **X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence**

Presenter: Chief Richwine

Chief Richwine utilized this time to check in with each of the organizations present for any updates and current projects.

Chief Fowler shared information about the Cal Chiefs Post-Conference Session: Building the Next Generation of Fire Chiefs. The workshop will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, following the Cal Chief's conference. This seminar is designed for individuals interested in the processes for obtaining State Fire Training's Fire Chief PACE and Fire Officer 4 certifications. Chief Fowler and Chief Meston will facilitate the conversations about these certification tracks and pathways to obtaining the Fire Chief certification.

Richard Beckman shared that the California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA) had their September meeting in Coronado. He said that State Fire Training was represented in the meeting and that the meeting was overwhelmingly positive. Governor Newsom recently signed two assembly bills that will bring alternative funding to SFT. CFTDA plans to pursue different grant capabilities through Perkins and the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) to enhance its Fire Technology programs.

Todd Braverman shared that the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (Cal-JAC) will hold its biennial conference in Rancho Mirage on November 12-14. Registration information can be found on the organization's website. The committee is currently finalizing agenda items. On the first day, Cal-JAC will host a golf tournament to raise proceeds for the California Fire Foundation. The following two days will consist of the general session and several workshops on topics pertinent to the fire service. Workshop topics include evidence-based approaches to PTSD and physical injuries, lithium batteries, de-escalation techniques in emergency situations, and recruiting women into the fire service.

T. Braverman also stated that Cal-JAC and its CPF Labor Agency partnered to start its second hybrid paramedic academy. This academy consists of a broad group of students

from the Bay Area and is one year from completion. Cal-JAC is eager to see how the hybrid approach turns out.

Bret Davidson shared that Cal Chiefs – Training Officers Section (South) held their August meeting in San Diego. This meeting had strong attendance and a presentation on the San Francisco fatality incident. Later this month, they will hold a meeting to plan the Fresno Training Symposium, scheduled for March 16-20, 2026.

Keith Alexander told STEAC that the California Fire Chiefs Association looks forward to seeing everyone at the Cal Chiefs Annual Conference on October 28-30<sup>th</sup> at the Anaheim Hilton.

Nic Turner shared updates on FIRESCOPE's Urban Conflagration Training position paper, which they submitted to STEAC on June 16, 2025. At FIRESCOPE's last board of directors meeting, Chief Mahoney requested that they change the phrasing from "Urban Conflagration Training" to "Community Conflagration Training" to fully represent their stakeholders.

On behalf of CAL FIRE, Andrew Kibby told the committee that the Natomas Training Center is undergoing necessary upgrades for its leadership training courses. This construction is expected to be completed within the next couple of months. Over the summer, CAL FIRE also transitioned to its Cal Fire Qualification Management System (QMS). This system has been successful in standardizing records, adding 1800 new training positions, digitizing task books, and speeding up the approval process for training qualifications. CAL FIRE also recently started its 2025-2026 training season.

Justin Chaplin updated STEAC on CAL FIRE Training Centers. This year, CAL FIRE hosted 1420 fire academy students, with 196 currently in session. The current training cycle will conclude before Thanksgiving and resume in the new year. The 2026 training calendar has already been approved. J. Chaplin also shared the impacts of Bill SB581 on CAL FIRE's training requirements for permanent firefighters. A committee reviewed CAL FIRE's courses and revised them to ensure that training is not redundant. The adapted courses will launch in 2026. After reviewing the curriculum, CAL FIRE's Deputy Director decided that employees who transfer to CAL FIRE with IFSAC/Pro Board Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 certifications will no longer have to retrain through the FFA Academy. This change will prevent CAL FIRE from retraining new employees in disciplines where they've already received certification, thereby speeding up promotional opportunities for employees. J. Chaplin wanted to make sure that this information was communicated to ARTPs at STEAC. He then yielded the floor to Cat Frazier.

C. Frazier shared her appreciation for ARTPs and the partnerships that support the development of CAL FIRE's Fire Fighter 1s, Fire Fighter 2s, and Company Officers. She added that she is excited to see what the newly accredited Merced College and College of Redwoods accomplish in the coming year.

## **XI. Future Meeting Dates**

**January 9, 2026; April 10, 2026; July 10, 2026; October 9, 2026**

## **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 AM.

Draft