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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:

Palomar College
Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Palomar College be reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 5, 2025, at the Palomar College facility in San Marcos, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Technology Chair Dave Miller and Fire Academy Coordinator John Thompson serving as hosts and representatives.

The Palomar 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 facility 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 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 necessary 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.
- 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.
- Hosting specialized course offerings should be explored to serve the region, including live-fire, rescue, and wellness classes.
- 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 through fire camps and community events is recommended to support continued diversification efforts.

Palomar College is a statewide leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College provides numerous continuing education opportunities for those seeking career advancement, offering a growing array of specialized courses and training events. The College maintains a commitment to providing a robust fire training program to the communities it serves, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and collaboration with neighboring agencies and training programs. All participants, staff, and students alike adhere to the strong program standards that have served as the foundation of this Southern California model fire service training program.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Palomar College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an accreditation period of five (5) years.