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Date: July 11, 2025

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:

Santa Clara County Fire Department
Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Santa Clara County Fire Department be reaccruited as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for an accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

An Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on May 30, 2025, at the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) headquarters offices in Campbell, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Assistant Chief Dennis Lollie, Battalion Chief Tyler Mortenson, Battalion Chief Andrew Kim, Fire Captain Gary Agbin, and Administrative Assistant II Tiffany Thornton serving as site hosts and representatives.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and 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 an opportunity to review training course records and equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. The Santa Clara County Fire Department utilizes the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All academy cadets are provided with sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the academy training. Several Registered Instructors and Evaluators participate in the academy and Certification Exam delivery making the program self-sustaining and the

Department 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 training officer's and ALA meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the state for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- Improved decontamination stations with extractors will serve to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that the procurement of additional facilities and equipment be explored to ensure student and instructor safety.
- The program may benefit from utilization of Distance Education delivery of SFT courses while garnering students from throughout the State. As an ALA, this is an available option.
- 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 diversifications efforts.
- The program shall initiate succession planning efforts for continued ALA support, sustainability, and growth.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department is a model fire agency that has demonstrated a strong devotion to training that is indicative of a progressive organization. The agency provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely foundational practices, utilizing cutting-edge techniques and equipment with a focus on wellness and safety. A focused and cooperative neighbor in the region, the agency serves to promote teamwork, reliability, and exceptional customer service. Routine professional development and in-service training specific to the jurisdiction are provided to all members, including a growing list of State Fire Training courses. Santa Clara County Fire Department staff are active participants in the statewide system, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT via instructional delivery, advisory committee and curriculum cadre participation, academy enhancement, and instructor development.

State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Santa Clara County Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five (5) years.