



STEAC Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2026 – 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
Peter Cacossa, California Fire Technology Directors Association
Gregory Barton, League of California Cities
Nicole Gissell, CAL FIRE Training Center (alternate)
Andrew Kibby, CAL FIRE
Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE (alternate)
Donavan Lacy, Cal Chiefs – Training Officer Section (North)
Lawrence French, 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)
Dwight Stewart, California State Fire Fighters Association (alternate)
Patrick D’Arcy, FIRESCOPE

Members Absent:

Steve Boughey, Metro Chiefs (alternate)
Glen Pavlovsky, California Professional Fire Fighters
John Bagala, California Professional Fire Fighters (alternate)
Ray Mosack, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Greg Greenlee, California Fire Technology Directors Association (alternate)
Kyle Heggstrom, FDAC
Geoff Belyea, FDAC (alternate)
Christopher Nigg, League of California Cities (alternate)
Justin Chaplin, CAL FIRE Training Center
Brian Marshall, CAL OES
Jason Hosea, California State Fire Fighters Association
Nic Turner, FIRESCOPE (alternate)

State Fire Training Staff:

Jill Bennetts, SFT, Analyst II
Natasha Cocke, SFT, Office Technician
Chris Fowler, SFT, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Selena Garcia-Villicana, SFT, Analyst I
Andrew Henning, OSFM, Assistant Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Assistance
and Fire Engineering & Investigations
Derek Lueth, SFT, Analyst II
Katy Luetke Porter, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Caryn Petty, SFT, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)
Kris Rose, SFT, Staff Services Manager I
Tim Spears, OSFM, Assistant Deputy Director, Code Development & Analysis, Fire &
Life Safety, and State Fire Training
Vickie Sakamoto, OSFM, Assistant State Fire Marshal

Public Attendees:

E. Carlsen
Brian J. Quarles
Brian White
Leonard Champion, Allan Hancock College
Linda Vaughn, Bay Area Community College Consortium
Jesse Ingram, Contra Costa Fire Protection District
David An, Glendale Fire Department
Candice Koshman, Oakland Fire Department
Tamara Crudo, Oxnard College
Sheldon Osekowsky, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
Sean Ain, San Jose Fire Department
Tyler Matchem, San Jose Fire Department
Cathy Noonan, San Jose Fire Department
Brian Preciado, Solano College
Melvin Self, Solano College
Sean Googins, Vallejo Fire Department
Jose Arredondo, Victory Valley College
McKenzie Tarango, Victor Valley College

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 09:01 AM by Chief Richwine, STEAC Chair.

Roll Call/Quorum Established

A quorum was established during introductions.

Member Appointments and Reappointments

1. None

Past Member Recognition

1. None

II. Agenda Review

Presenter: Chief Richwine

III. Approval of January 9, 2026 Minutes

Presenter: Chief Richwine

Motion:	<i>Richard Beckman moved to accept the minutes from January 9, 2026. Todd Braverman seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<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) approved all topics from the January 2026 STEAC meeting. There were no questions or comments from the board.

V. Consent Items

A. Glendale Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty spoke to the committee about Glendale Fire Department's site evaluation, which occurred on January 22, 2026. She described Glendale Fire Department as a professional, progressive, and compassionate agency that is staffed by well-equipped, expertly trained, and healthy firefighters. The agency has provided emergency services to Glendale for 118 years while maintaining a progressive attitude toward change and evolution to sustain its relevance.

Chief Petty yielded the floor to David An, who spoke on behalf of Glendale Fire Department. He shared that Glendale Fire Department strives to align with the state's

standards and to provide relevant, hands-on training to its personnel. D. An looks forward to continuing this work and appreciates the support from STEAC.

Chief Petty concluded by sharing that Glendale Fire Department's site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Glendale Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five years.

B. San Jose Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty told the committee that San Jose Fire Department's site evaluation took place on February 26, 2026. She described the department as an accomplished and historic organization. The agency has well-rounded, experienced personnel who provide extensive professional development opportunities for its members. The department has a strong focus on continued growth through ongoing recruitment and community engagement. Chief Petty added that San Jose Fire Department is a cornerstone training destination for all levels of fire service education.

Chief Petty invited Sean Ain, Tyler Matchem, and Cathy Noonan to speak about San Jose Fire Department's reaccreditation. T. Matchem shared that Chief Boughey recently retired from the department. T. Matchem also thanked Chief Petty and STEAC for their support through the reaccreditation learning process. He stated that the department strives to maintain a progressive recruiting academy and plans to include engineering academies. He concluded by thanking SFT for support with testing and course scheduling.

Chief Petty also acknowledged Cathy Noonan and thanked her for her contributions to the reaccreditation process.

San Jose Fire Department's site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five years

C. Vallejo Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared the results of Vallejo Fire Department's February 2nd site evaluation. She told the committee that Vallejo Fire Department provides a robust, well-rounded training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. The department's staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training system. The Vallejo Fire Department demonstrates a genuine devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud and progressive organization.

Chief Petty yielded the floor to Sean Googins, who served as the representative of Vallejo Fire Department. He thanked Chief Petty for her support during his first reaccreditation process. S. Googins told the committee that Vallejo is a small organization with 80 personnel. He emphasized that the department personnel are dedicated to excellence, even when working with older facilities and equipment. S.

Googins also told STEAC about Vallejo Fire Department's youth fire academy. This program invites students who are interested in the fire service to set up props for the ALA recruits. He concluded by stating that he looks forward to working with Chief Petty in the future.

Chief Petty shared that the department's site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of the Vallejo Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy for an accreditation period of five years.

D. Solano College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty told the committee that SFT conducted Solano College's site evaluation on March 2, 2026. She shared that the college maintains great relationships with neighboring agencies and associated partners, which has garnered strong support for its academy. Solano College's attention to outreach along with student and instructor diversification reflects the program's devotion to continued progress in the fire service.

Melvin Self and Brian Preciado both represented Solano College at STEAC. B. Preciado thanked Chief Petty for her leadership, mentorship, and responsiveness. He added that this support made the reaccreditation process smooth and painless. M. Self echoed B. Preciado's sentiments and thanked Chief Petty for her support.

Chief Petty shared that the college's site evaluation and self-assessment report both went very well. State Fire Training recommends continued recognition of Solano College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for an accreditation period of five years.

E. Victor Valley College ARTP Reaccreditation

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty explained that Victor Valley College had an accreditation site evaluation on February 5, 2026. She shared that Victor Valley College hopes to provide fire service training and education to underserved populations in the region. The college is working to build cooperative relationships, founded on producing strong, well-rounded fire service professionals.

In compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, and the *SFT Procedures Manual*, State Fire Training recommended recognition of Victor Valley College as an Accredited Regional Training Program for a conditional accreditation period of one year. This conditional accreditation was granted in lieu of a full five-year reaccreditation. State Fire Training provided this accreditation to ensure program stabilization while the college works towards sustainability and continued compliance.

Chief Petty yielded the floor to Victor Valley College's representatives: Jose Arredondo and McKenzie Tarango. M. Tarango thanked Chief Petty and Chief Fowler for their commitment to excellence and educating all stakeholders involved in the process. J. Arredondo shared that Victor Valley College is committed to maintaining compliance

with State Fire Training’s standards. He thanked Chief Petty and Chief Fowler for their guidance and support.

F. State Certified Burn Boss – Administrative Updates

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that State Certified Burn Boss underwent administrative changes to improve access to the prescribed fire burn program, clarify task books, and streamline the application process for stakeholders. State Fire Training received user feedback stating that there were inconsistencies and outdated information within the certification application, task book, and information bulletin. This information has since been corrected. CAL FIRE’s Chief of Prescribed Fire, Chief Nielsen, also provided State Fire Training with updated email addresses for the State Certified Burn Boss Information Bulletin. Chief Fowler will work with Chief Nielsen to edit this document.

The Burn Boss task book now includes updated language from the *SFT Procedures Manual*, such as limits on task book submittals and non-refundable fees. State Fire Training also aligned language in the task book, information bulletin and civil code to include cultural burners. SFT removed digital signature requirements and employer affiliation fields, as most stakeholders are no longer affiliated with a specific fire department. They also updated JPRs to align with the current course plans and the CTS Guide.

Motion:	<i>Brett Davidson moved to accept the motion for all consent items. Richard Beckman seconded the motion.</i>
Action:	<i>All members voted unanimously.</i>

VI. New Accredited Academies

None

VII. Curriculum Development & Delivery

A. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pump (2024) Curriculum – INFORMATION ONLY

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty explained that State Fire Training updated the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pump Apparatus (2024) Curriculum to align with NFPA 1010. The cadre revisited this curriculum to ensure effective fire apparatus roles and responsibilities for California fire service agencies.

State Fire Training will release the new curriculum on October 1, 2026, and retire the existing curriculum on December 31, 2026. On January 1, 2027, the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) curriculum will be removed from the SFT Catalog. Candidates pursuing the 2017 certification task book must submit it to SFT by December 31, 2027. Existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) instructors will need to complete a webform to retain their instructor qualifications and teach the new curriculum. State Fire

Training will release this webform along with the new curriculum. New instructors will have until December 31, 2027 to complete their 2017 registered instructor applications.

Due to *SFT Procedures Manual* updates, assistant instructors and skills coaches were removed from all course plans and do not count towards course ratios. Only registered instructors count towards the course plan ratios. The updated Driver/Operator application ratio is now 1:6.

The cadre also made several changes to the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Certification task books. The Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pump Apparatus (2024) Certification is now required for the Aerial, Tillered, Water Tender, and Wildland Certifications. The cadre removed the requirement for candidates to be at the rank of fire apparatus engineer or driver/operator to become certified. The fire chiefs who sign certification task books will determine if their employees fulfilled this requirement with their current job duties. However, Chief Petty noted that the work experience requirement remains in place for registered instructor applicants.

B. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial (2024) Curriculum – INFORMATION ONLY

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty told STEAC that State Fire Training updated the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial (2024) Curriculum to align with NFPA 1010. The cadre revisited this curriculum to ensure effective fire apparatus roles and responsibilities for California fire service agencies.

State Fire Training will release the new curriculum on October 1, 2026, and retire the existing curriculum on December 31, 2026. On January 1, 2027, the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) curriculum will no longer be available and will be removed from the SFT Catalog. Candidates pursuing the 2017 certification task books must submit the task books to SFT by December 31, 2027. Existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) instructors will need to complete a webform to retain their instructor qualifications and teach the new curriculum. State Fire Training will release this webform along with the new curriculum. New instructors will have until December 31, 2027 to complete their 2017 registered instructor applications.

Due to *SFT Procedures Manual* updates, assistant instructors and skills coaches were removed from all course plans and do not count towards course ratios. Only registered instructors count towards the course plan ratios. The updated Driver/Operator application ratio is now 1:6.

Chief Petty shared additional changes to Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1C requirements. All Aerial students must now complete the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B course prior to enrolling in the Aerial course. The cadre added this prerequisite since many new aerial apparatuses have water onboard and students must have the capacity to operate the pumping function.

The cadre also included changes to the Aerial course delivery. New registered instructors will need to meet the instructor qualifications for the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial and Tillered courses. If the course's aerial apparatus includes a tiller, the instructors can use a skills coach to operate the tiller. The skills coach needs to complete the Aerial and Tiller courses to be eligible. State Fire Training included a skills coach in this instance, since many aerial apparatuses have a back end that needs operation. The cadre agreed that this position can be filled with a skills coach.

C. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered (2024) Curriculum – INFORMATION ONLY

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that State Fire Training updated the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered (2024) Curriculum to align with NFPA 1010. The cadre revisited this curriculum to ensure effective fire apparatus roles and responsibilities for California fire service agencies.

State Fire Training will release the new curriculum on October 1, 2026, and retire the existing curriculum on December 31, 2026. On January 1, 2027, the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) curriculum will no longer be available and will be removed from the SFT Catalog. Candidates pursuing the 2017 certification task books must submit the task books to SFT by December 31, 2027. Existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) instructors will need to complete a webform to retain their instructor qualifications and teach the new curriculum. State Fire Training will release this webform along with the new curriculum. New instructors will have until December 31, 2027 to complete their 2017 registered instructor applications.

Due to *SFT Procedures Manual* updates, assistant instructors and skills coaches were removed from all course plans and do not count towards course ratios. Only registered instructors count towards the course plan ratios. The updated Driver/Operator application ratio is now 1:6.

Chief Petty also introduced changes to Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered prerequisites. Students must take Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B prior to the Tillered course. The cadre removed Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial (1C) as a prerequisite since a large portion of tillered students are entry level fire personnel. These students will sit in the tiller box instead of operating the front part of an aerial apparatus and do not need the content from Driver/Operator 1C.

New Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered (1D) Instructors must now possess instructor qualifications for the Aerial and Tillered courses. The cadre determined that skills coaches who have completed Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial and Tillered courses may assist with Tillered course delivery but cannot lend to course ratios.

D. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Wildland (2024) Curriculum – INFORMATION ONLY

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty stated that State Fire Training updated the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Wildland (2024) Curriculum to align with NFPA 1010. The cadre revisited this curriculum to ensure effective fire apparatus roles and responsibilities for California fire service agencies.

State Fire Training will release the new curriculum on October 1, 2026 and retire the existing curriculum on December 31, 2026. On January 1, 2027, the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) will be removed from the SFT Catalog. Candidates pursuing the 2017 certification task books must submit the task books to SFT by December 31, 2027. Existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) instructors will need to complete a webform to retain their instructor qualifications and teach the new curriculum. State Fire Training will release this webform along with the new curriculum. New instructors will have until December 31, 2027 to complete their 2017 registered instructor applications.

Due to *SFT Procedures Manual* updates, assistant instructors and skills coaches were removed from all course plans and do not count towards course ratios. Only registered instructors count towards the course plan ratios. The updated Driver/Operator application ratio is now 1:6.

The cadre determined that all students planning to take Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Wildland (1E) must complete Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pump Apparatus (1B) as a prerequisite.

E. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Water Tender (2024) – INFORMATION ONLY

Presenters: Chief Petty

Chief Petty explained that State Fire Training updated the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Water Tender (2024) Curriculum to align with NFPA 1010. The cadre revisited this curriculum to ensure effective fire apparatus roles and responsibilities for California fire service agencies.

State Fire Training will release the new curriculum on October 1, 2026, and retire the existing curriculum on December 31, 2026. On January 1, 2027, the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) curriculum will no longer be available. Candidates pursuing the 2017 certification task books must submit the task books to SFT by December 31, 2027. Existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator (2017) instructors will need to complete a webform to retain their instructor qualifications and teach the new curriculum. State Fire Training will release this webform along with the new curriculum. New instructors will have until December 31, 2027 to complete their 2017 registered instructor applications.

Due to *SFT Procedures Manual* updates, assistant instructors and skills coaches were removed from all course plans and do not count towards course ratios. Only registered instructors count towards the course plan ratios. The updated Driver/Operator application ratio is now 1:6.

Chief Petty shared that the cadre added an additional course topic on filling a pumping apparatus. This content was already taught during the course but was not captured in the existing course plan. The additional content will increase the course from 27 to 32 hours.

Since the NFPA does not have a recommendation for the Driver/Operator course ratios, Andrew Kibby asked if it would be possible to increase the application ratio to 1:8. He explained that this would be a less drastic change and would support CAL FIRE and junior colleges with staffing. Chief Petty asked one of the cadre members, Candice Koshman, to share why the cadre changed the course ratios. C. Koshman explained that many classes have students who recently earned their driver's license. A growing number of students lack driving experience in cars and have little to no experience driving a large apparatus. Because of this, many classes did not have the necessary time or instructors to assist students with driver training. Chief Petty said that the cadre will consider the ratio change and bring their decision back to July STEAC.

Richard Beckman seconded A. Kibby's suggestion for application ratios. He explained that this would help community colleges meet course ratios considering the retirement of assistant instructors. He said that it will be difficult to make smaller course ratios happen in community colleges.

R. Beckman also asked if someone could be a registered instructor of Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered without being an instructor of the Aerial course. Chief Petty said yes.

R. Beckman followed up by asking if an existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered instructor would lose their ability to teach if they do not become a registered instructor for the Aerial class. Chief Petty said that the existing instructor would not lose their instructor certification. Completing the webform process will give the instructor the ability to graduate into the new curriculum.

R. Beckman asked if existing registered Tillered and Aerial instructors would lose their ability to teach the new curriculum if they were not existing instructors for the Pump Apparatus course. Chief Fowler and Chief Petty said no.

R. Beckman shared his input on student driving experience. He stated that if student experience is a concern, the committee should retain the four hours of aerial apparatus drive time. This prerequisite was removed from the updated aerial course. R. Beckman felt that students should complete aerial driving time with their department prior to the course. Chief Petty made a note of this and promised to bring this concern up to the cadre.

R. Beckman asked about course number lines that were included next to the signature lines on page five of the task books. He asked if students would need to have their task books signed off during class. Kris Rose answered that the course number lines were an error left over from the new instructor training task books. This has since been removed.

R. Beckman concluded his questions by asking if State Fire Training can post meeting documents further in advance. He shared that the Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator updates required a lot of reading and that he could not find the documents until the day before STEAC. He added that it would be nice to have meeting documents posted one week in advance. State Fire Training took note of this.

Peter Cacossa shared that he had a question about the requirements for existing Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial instructors. He told the committee that there are many existing Aerial instructors but very few Tillered instructors in the Central Valley. He was concerned about a potential instructor shortage. However, Chief Petty and Chief Fowler's responses to R. Beckman addressed his question.

VIII. State Fire Training Updates

A. Staffing

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler shared that State Fire Training conducted interviews for one Deputy State Fire Marshal position. Three of the seven candidates had successful interviews. State Fire Training looks forward to Cal HR's guidance on the candidates' eligibility. Chief Fowler added that State Fire Training will encourage the remaining two candidates to apply for another DSFM position, if one becomes available.

B. FY 26/27 Curriculum Development and Related Projects

Presenter: Chief Fowler

Chief Fowler provided an overview of State Fire Training's curriculum development plans for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. SFT will work on these courses in partnership with Sacramento State University. This June, the department will update Instructor 1, Instructor 2, and Instructor 3 to meet NFPA standards. SFT also plans to combine Group Dynamics and Problem Solving (2017), Employing Audiovisual Aids (2017), and Techniques of Evaluation (2017) into one streamlined and updated FSTEP course.

Other curriculum projects include updating the Incident Safety Awareness for Hired Vendors (2018) and Fire Service Labor/Management Relations (2017) courses.

State Fire Training is working internally with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to revamp the OSFM-administered Statutes and Regulations (2015), Motion Picture/Television – Fire Safety Office (2012), Outdoor Aerial Public Fireworks Display (2014), and Proximate Audience Pyrotechnics (2011) courses.

To continue its IFSAC/Pro Board expansion, SFT is looking into obtaining IFSAC/Pro Board accreditation for the Company Officer curriculum.

Chief Fowler added that State Fire Training will work on three new FSTEP course proposals. The first is a Dive Rescue course which aligns with NFPA 1006. State Fire Training will work with Cal OES to develop this course. The second course in development is the REMS course. This class was proposed last year but did not fit into

the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year budget. The third course will be a Professional Standards and Mediation course which would be for students at the rank of company officer or higher.

Chief Fowler asked Chief Davidson to speak about the proposed Professional Standards and Mediation course. Chief Davidson proposed this class after speaking with Training Officers and Metro organizations statewide. He found that many agencies have a need for training on the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act (FBOR) and the internal investigation process. He hopes that this course will equip fire departments to handle personnel investigations.

R. Beckman asked Chief Davidson if the Professional Standards and Mediation course would be included in the Fire Officer series. Chief Davidson said that he imagines this course would be popular at the battalion chief level, since many battalion chiefs work with human resources on investigation teams. He feels that this is needed at the chief officer level. Chief Davidson is excited to see if this curriculum is eventually included in the Chief Officer (Fire Officer 3) curriculum or remains an FSTEP course.

R. Beckman posed a second question for Chief Fowler, asking if the new Cal OES course is the previously discussed Urban Conflagration course. Chief Fowler responded that this Dive Rescue course is from a separate proposal. This class was introduced in 2024 with the Marine Fire Fighter series. Since 2024, the dive rescue population has grown and demonstrated a greater need for this training.

C. Title 19 Update

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that State Fire Training posted the *Title 19 State Fire Training Procedures Manual* on its website on April 1, 2026. The manual is now up to date with procedures through the end of 2025. State Fire Training is working on including more recent updates to the manual as well.

Chief Richwine asked how many pages are in the new manual. Chief Petty replied that there are just under 300 pages in the *SFT Procedures Manual*. *Title 19* is just over nine pages of code text.

D. Accredited Academy Steering Committee

Presenter: Chief Petty

Chief Petty shared that the committee's first meeting occurred in Sacramento on April 1st and 2nd. The committee considered many procedural and code changes, discussed regulation documents, and reviewed the SFT accreditation process. Members of the committee included Chief Petty, Deputy Luetke Porter, Matthew Jewett, Leonard Champion, Shawn Tukua, Justin Chaplin, Jesse Ingram, and Linda Vaughn. Most of the committee was present at STEAC. Chief Petty invited all committee members to speak about their experience.

Leonard Champion shared that there were a lot of great discussions amongst the committee. He said that they created a strong document of proposed changes to the accreditation process. L. Champion is eager to see them implemented.

Jesse Ingram added that it was a great opportunity to share information between ALAs and ARTPs. This committee gave them an opportunity to work together and brainstorm how to move forward as a group.

Shawn Tukua said that this was a very collaborative group. All committee members reached out to their respective stakeholders, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives and opinions were included in meeting discussions. S. Tukua felt that the committee came up with great changes and updates.

Linda Vaughn thanked SFT for bringing all of them together and said that the group was open-minded, had great discussions, and made strong compromises. The committee proposed great ideas for their students and the future of the fire service. L. Vaughn added that they got a lot of great work done in a short amount of time.

Deputy Luetke Porter took notes at the meetings. She shared that the steering committee created a list of goals and used them to guide their discussions.

- 1) Define “accredited academy” considering the needs of today’s stakeholders and fire service.
- 2) Craft consistent language and scope applicable to ALA and ARTPs.
- 3) Revise content and identify editorial clarity versus changes needed in the SFT system.
- 4) Identify a realistic implementation path for the proposed changes.
- 5) Prepare a draft that is defensible to STEAC, State Board of Fire Services, and Office of Administrative Law.

According to Chief Petty, the committee plans to meet again in spring 2026 to review their regulation documents. These documents will be presented at July STEAC. She concluded by thanking Chief Fowler, Chief Spears, and Chief Sakamoto for their support of this project.

E. Accredited Academy Boot Camp

Presenter: Deputy Luetke Porter

Deputy Luetke Porter shared the results of State Fire Training’s Accredited Academy Boot Camp. This occurred on February 27th. The boot camp had over 80 attendees and was a great opportunity for SFT staff to connect with stakeholders. Deputy Luetke Porter said that the presentation received positive feedback from attendees along with multiple requests for SFT to host another boot camp. State Fire Training plans to hold another session in the fall.

IX. Public Comment

Chief Richwine thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work and for implementing much needed changes. He then opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no public comments at this time.

X. Roundtable/Announcements/Correspondence

Presenter: Chief Richwine

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

Richard Beckman thanked Chief Spears and State Fire Training staff for attending the California Fire Technology Directors Association's March meeting in Fresno and answering stakeholders' questions. The next CFTDA meeting will be on May 14th in Huntington Beach. R. Beckman shared that CFTDA made significant progress with the Credit for Prior Learning Program. As of April 2026, approximately 24 community colleges have adopted Credit for Prior Learning courses. He concluded that this will help Cal-JAC members receive college credit for their completed training.

Keith Alexander told STEAC that Cal Chiefs will hold their annual conference on October 27-29 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles.

Gregory Barton gave an update from League of California Cities. He said that a lot of legislation is in progress. Members of the public are welcome to join their monthly meetings to hear about legislation affecting the state's fire service. He made a note to share the meeting link with STEAC.

Todd Bravermann shared that Cal-JAC and California Professional Firefighters (CPF) are preparing for their biennial conference. This will occur in Long Beach on April 29 through May 2. He added that California Professional Firefighter's President, Brian Rice, is not running for reelection. CPF expects a new president by May 2. Cal-JAC also has several upcoming EMT programs in Sacramento, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

Tierney Harrison shared Cal-JAC's progress on Credit for Prior Learning. Cal-JAC is working with the CA Map Initiative, the Chancellor's office, and SPRINT. Cal-JAC and CPF will hold workshops covering Credit for Prior Learning. The goal is to make it as easy as possible for service members to participate in JAC programs and obtain credit for prior learning.

Brett Davidson shared that 600 people attended the Fresno Symposium in March. The Training Officers appreciated State Fire Training's support and thanked instructors for volunteering their time. Chief Davidson looks forward to planning next year's conference.

CAL FIRE's Cat Frazer shared that she will retire in June. A new department training chief position will be filled. Chief Frazer will support the new training chief during this

transition. Andrew Kibby will maintain his position and a new alternate member will be added to STEAC in July. CAL FIRE remains focused on training its academies of up to forty personnel. CAL FIRE will keep an eye on the instructor-student ratios for the new Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator curriculum. This change will have an impact on their academies. Chief Frazer thanked STEAC for the opportunity to share opinions and to collaborate to improve the fire service for communities throughout the state.

Chief Richwine congratulated Chief Frazer on her retirement and thanked her for 27 years of service. Chief Sakamoto thanked Chief Frazer for her years of service and said that she leaves big shoes to fill. She added that she enjoyed working with her and wished her the best in retirement. Chief Fowler thanked Chief Frazer for her guidance and support.

Javier Lara shared on behalf of Cal OES. He stated that Chief Belk continues to work with stakeholders to keep CICC documents updated. Cal OES maintains its collaboration with federal partners on the 2026 priority training list.

Dwight Stewart told STEAC that California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) is working to connect fire fighters with colleges to promote higher learning in the fire service. CSFA has two youth programs coming up. There will be Fire Explorer Musters events in Sacramento on April 26 and in San Bernardino on May 16. CSFA also continues to sponsor State Fire Training courses throughout the state, including Driver/Operator 1A, Driver/Operator 1B, and Fire Control 3.

Don Lacy stated that Training Officers North had nothing to add. He then congratulated Chief Frazer and the rest of the committee on their accomplishments. He also acknowledged Dwight Stewart's hard work throughout the state, stating that he brings energy and enthusiasm to everything he does.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

July 10, 2026; October 9, 2026; January 8, 2027

Presenter: Chief Davidson

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.