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Date: October 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:

Las Positas College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions: Recommend Las Positas 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 September 8, 2026, at the Las Positas College facility in Livermore, CA. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Dean of Public Safety, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Health and Kinesiology (PATH) Mike McQuiston, Program Coordinator Katy Erhardt, and Academy Coordinator George Freelen serving as hosts and representatives.

The Las Positas 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 SAR review was followed by an evaluation of all classrooms and training facilities, with an opportunity to review training course records and the equipment complement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

An evaluation of the training facilities verified sufficient classroom space and a fully functioning, compliant training facility, complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to support a fire academy training program. The program utilizes the current Fire Fighter curriculum and has all the necessary materials to deliver 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 current staff is at its capacity, having tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. There is an identified need for additional full-time faculty and clerical personnel to reduce the workload of existing staff and ensure the Academy's thorough delivery, free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.
- SFT recommends additional stationary locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that cleansing stations and shower facilities be expanded to ensure the safety of students and instructors.
- 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 through fire camps and community events is recommended to support continued diversification efforts.

Las Positas College is a regional leader in the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and through diversification outreach programs to generate and sustain career interest among 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 remains dedicated to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it serves, focusing on outreach to underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. The College works exemplarily with neighboring agencies and epitomizes what it means to be a good partner. The attention to student and instructor diversity and outreach exemplifies the program's commitment to fire service advancement.

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