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Date: October 9, 2020

To: State Board of Fire Services
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Accredited Local Academy (ALA) Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend San Diego Fire-Rescue Department remain an Accredited Local Academy (ALA) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on September 14, 2020, at the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department training facility located at 2580 Kincaid Road in San Diego, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Battalion Chief Willy Melendez, Captain Kia Afsahi, and Engineer Freddy Bustillos present throughout.

A review of the Department's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was 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 opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

Analysis/Summary:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program as supplemented by satellite and

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."

partnered training sites and locations. San Diego Fire-Rescue Department currently utilizes the Fire Fighter 1 (2013) and is adequately prepared to transition to the Fire Fighter 1 and 2 (2019) curriculum. The agency possesses all necessary materials for certification testing. In-house instructors are supplemented by SFT Regional Instructors from the region.

The training facility presents appropriate academy classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. Academy recruits are provided sufficient study materials and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors participate in the Academy delivery and the Department will continue to expand its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department delivers a technical and challenging training academy with ongoing needs for equipment and facility maintenance. The training grounds generate extensive use, and improvement and renovation needs have been individually identified. The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Department has identified a specific need for additional clerical personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. Near-future expenditure recommendations include burn structure/box replacement per the usage guidelines and to monitor structural integrity deterioration for continued recruit safety as well as extractors and gross decontamination and/or cleansing stations for cancer mitigation.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department provides a robust training program, bolstered by active recruitment and outreach efforts. Well-rounded and experienced personnel provide for expansive response capabilities with a steadfast focus on serving the unique needs of the region. The Department provides comprehensive training evolutions focused on relevant and timely techniques. SDFD is an up-and-coming participant in the SFT system and is an eager host for regionally desired courses.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has demonstrated a steadfast devotion to training, safety, and standardization, efforts reliably demonstrative of this exceptional member of the California fire service. It is recommended that San Diego Fire-Rescue Department continue to be designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.