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Date: April 9, 2021

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

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)
State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Solano Community College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Solano Community College remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Re-Accreditation period of five (5) years.

Background Information:

A Re-Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on November 20, 2020, at the Winters Fire Department partnered training site located at 700 Main Street in Winters, California, with a supplemental visit to the Fairfield Fire Department in Fairfield, California. The Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Academy Coordinator Brian Preciado present throughout.

A review of the College'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. An attestation has been received verifying there have been no changes to the evaluation sites following the November 20, 2020 event.

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 partnered training sites and locations. Solano College has successfully transitioned to the Fire Fighter 1 (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification examinations.

The main campus and Winters locations each present 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 College will be expanding its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

Solano College maintains healthy and supportive relationships with neighboring agencies and associated partners, having resulted in continued training equipment and support of the Academy. The current staffing is at its capacity with staff working well beyond the typical work schedule and hours. This condition has tasked existing staff with excessive workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for full-time faculty staff members to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties. The Academy exists in a unique and under-served region of the State that warrants upgrades to curriculum, training facilities, and equipment. The program has a need for designated apparatus as it currently utilizes partner apparatus for training. The current sites provide limited locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended cleansing stations and shower trailers be procured to ensure student safety.

Working cooperatively with neighboring agencies, Solano College shares training spaces in Winters and Fairfield. This requires caravan of students between locations, resulting in instructional delays and increased liability. The logistics surrounding student and equipment transport has created a desire for procurement of a college-specific training facility to centralize training, while providing the region with a single location for enhanced availability and use. It is recommended that the College explore financial allocation and procurement of a designated training center to be utilized by the College students and partners. The College intends to expand its delivery of State Fire Training courses, with various technical rescue and specialized courses to be delivered. The staff are eager participants in the State Fire Training, maintaining excellent working relations with SFT on many levels including instructional delivery and advisory committee participation.

Solano College possesses an unwavering devotion to complete student development. The College works exemplarily with neighboring agencies and epitomizes what it means to be a good partner. The attention to student and instructor diversification and outreach exemplifies the program's devotion fire service progression. It is recommended that Solano Community College continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Re-Accreditation period of five (5) years.