



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
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**Date:** July 10, 2020

**Attachment 1**

**To:** John Binaski, Chairman  
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee  
c/o State Fire Training

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

**Subject/Agenda Action Item:**

College of the Sequoias Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Reaccreditation

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend College of the Sequoias remain an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for the Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.

**Background Information:**

A Reaccreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on June 4, 2020, at the College of the Sequoias training facilities at 7622 Houston Avenue and 925 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Hanford, California. The Site Evaluation was conducted by Deputy State Fire Marshal Caryn Petty, State Fire Training, with Fire Technology Coordinator Rick Smith 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 a tour of all classrooms and the facility with opportunity to review training course records and equipment compliment.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training ground 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. College of the Sequoias successfully adheres to the Fire Fighter 1 (2013) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for continued certification testing and can transition to the 2019 curriculum with ease in 2021.

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 College will be expanding its hosting of additional State Fire Training courses in conjunction with cooperating and neighboring agencies.

College of the Sequoias has a strong and unwavering devotion to student support, with a steadfast focus on personal development and growth. Recognizing the importance of vocational education, the College designed and built the Hanford Learning Center with the Fire Technology Program in mind. During the current Accreditation period, the ARTP appointed a FT Coordinator and enhanced SFT Company Officer course delivery to meet the needs of the region. Outdated and obsolete equipment has also been upgraded to mirror the PPE and equipment of the regional partners.

The fire academy is conducted on various sites in the region with most delivery held at the main campus and an off-site at a training site in partnership with Kings County. 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. The current training grounds possess aging structures and props in need of renovation and/or replacement and lacks appropriate locker rooms, shower facilities, and extractors to accommodate a safe and healthy learning environment. It is recommended that cleansing stations and shower trailers be procured to ensure student safety. It is recommended that the College begin exploring financial allocation for training grounds renovation and the feasibility of procuring a designated training center to be utilized by the College students and partners.

College of the Sequoias boasts a uniquely diverse student population, with many under-represented demographics participating in the Academy. The College expresses a strong desire to bolster female student participation and has various outreach efforts underway. The College is devoted to the training and development of fire service professionals, recruiting from local high schools and diversification outreach programs to generate and maintain career interest in young adults. The College maintains a dedication to providing a strong fire training program to the communities it occupies, focusing on outreach efforts to reach underserved populations, student and staff recruitment, and cooperation with neighboring agencies and training programs. It is recommended that College of the Sequoias continue to be designated as an Accredited Regional Training Program in the State Fire Training system for a Reaccreditation period of five (5) years.