



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Date: July 18, 2014

Attachment 2

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Fire Fighter I Certification Examination Process

Recommended Actions: Information/Discussion

Background Information:

At the July 19, 2013 STEAC meeting staff presented a detailed staff report proposing required capstone certification examinations and required IFSAC/Pro Board certification. After significant discussion, the consensus of STEAC was to bifurcate these two items for future discussion and action. During the January 17, 2014 STEAC meeting staff presented a detailed report addressing the implementation of the proposed Fire Fighter I certification examination process and an analysis on associated program costs. The purpose of this agenda item is to update STEAC on the steps being taken to prepare for program approval.

Staff has been reacting to comments received from stakeholders prior to, during and after the January 17, 2014 STEAC meeting. The California Professional Firefighters (CPF) has expressed concerns about implementation of this proposal and has discussed these concerns with Chief Hoover and Chief Richwine. CPF requested that State Fire Training contact all stakeholders and understand their concerns and level of support for the proposal. Furthermore, during the January 17, 2014 STEAC meeting, several members discussed their concern about availability of certification examinations in areas of the state that are not adequately served by an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP).

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

SFT has been working to address the concern raised by STEAC about the availability of certification examinations to those areas of the state that are not adequately served by an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP). To that end, staff has prepared the attached map with the assistance of the Pipeline Safety Division. This map, entitled *State Fire Training Accredited Regional Training Programs 50 Mile Radius*, plots each ARTP and highlights a fifty (50) mile radius around each location in blue. The areas outside the fifty (50) mile radius are shown in yellow. Utilizing this map as a tool, staff has discussed this concern with the California Fire Technology Directors Association (CFTDA). Both Sierra College and the South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium (both ARTPS) have expressed their availability to take the certification examination process "on-the-road" to underserved areas. Furthermore, the accreditation of Fresno City College closes a gap in the central valley. Allan Hancock College and Monterey Peninsula College adequately serve the area in southern Monterey County and northern San Luis Obispo County. The counties on the eastern side of the state are less populated and can be

adequately served by adjacent ARTPS or those willing to take the process “on-the-road.” Although staff will continue to work with CFTDA on this concern, the belief is that adequate resources are available to address the need statewide.

In response to CPF’s request that SFT contact all stakeholders and understand their concerns and level of support for the proposal, staff has been engaged in a vigorous outreach effort. To date, presentations on the proposed certification examination process have been delivered to the following stakeholder groups:

- California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) Board of Directors (February 19, 2014)
- CFCA NorCal Training Officers Board of Directors (April 15, 2014)
- CFCA SoCal Training Officers Board of Directors (April 1, 2014)
- California Fire Training Directors Association (CFTDA) (on-going)
- Accredited Local Academies (ALAs) (April 29, 2014)
- California State Fire Fighters Association (CSFA) Board of Directors (May 1, 2014)
- Los Angeles Area Fire Chief’s Association, Regional Training Group (April 2, 2014)
- FIRESCOPE Board of Directors (July 9, 2014)
- California Metro Fire Chiefs Association (July 10, 2014)

Presentations to the following stakeholder groups are pending:

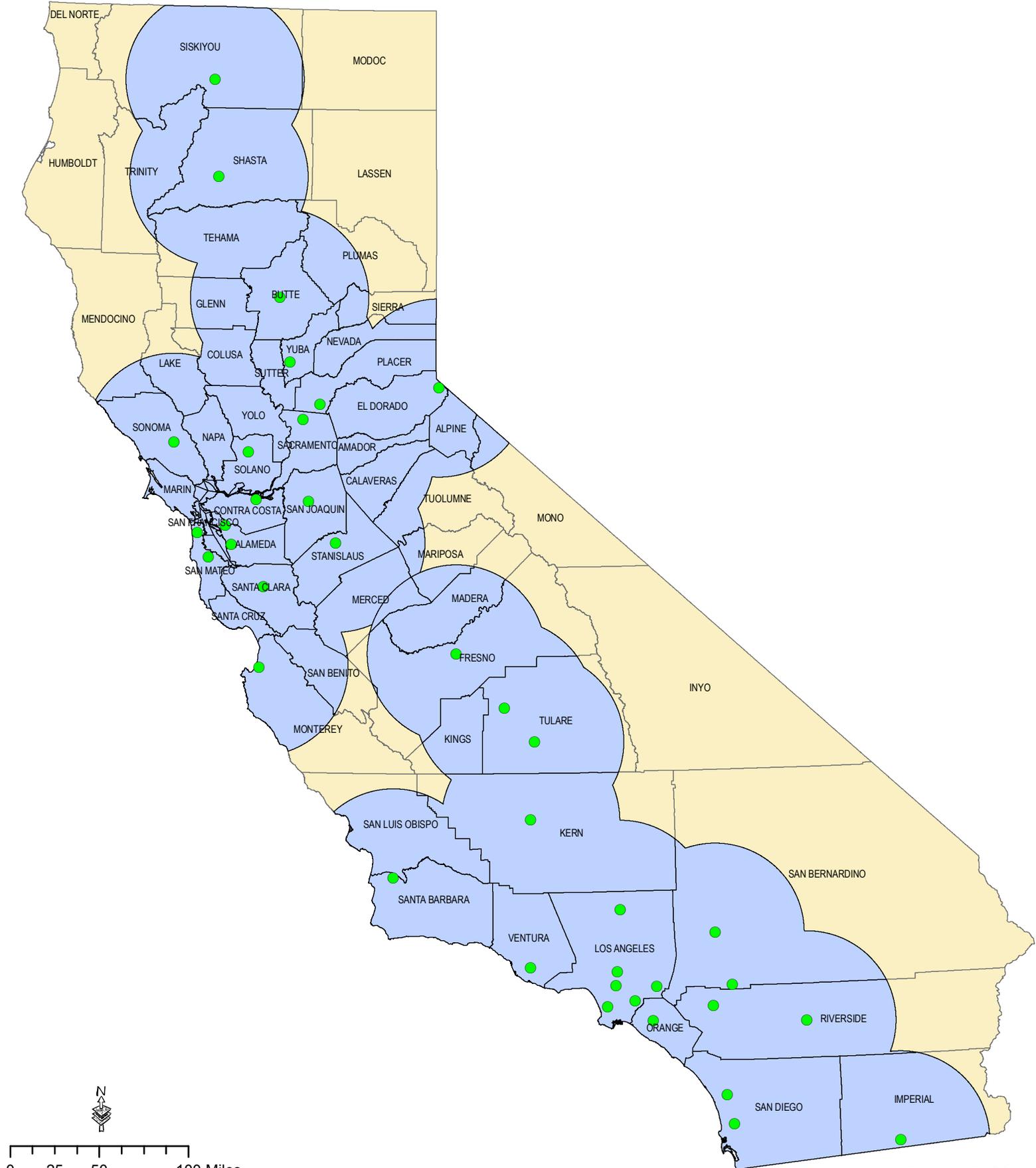
- League of California Cities, Fire Chiefs Department Board of Directors
- Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) Board of Directors

The reaction has been positive from the stakeholder groups so far. There have not been any new concerns raised that require further analysis or modifications to the proposed implementation plans. Staff will continue to engage stakeholder groups in discussion on this important initiative.

Notwithstanding a major concern that may surface from the stakeholder groups, staff is planning to bring this proposed Fire Fighter I certification examination process back to STEAC for approval at the January 16, 2015 meeting.



STATE FIRE TRAINING ACCREDITED REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS 50 MILE RADIUS



0 25 50 100 Miles

March 17, 2014