



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

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Date: July 17, 2015

Attachment 2

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

From: Michael A. Garcia, Deputy State Fire Marshal III

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Antelope Valley College Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions: Reaccredit Antelope Valley College as a State Fire Training Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP)

Background Information:

A reaccreditation site visit was conducted on April 23, 2015 at the Antelope Valley College (AVC) Fire Academy located in northern Los Angeles County. The re accreditation evaluation was conducted by Michael A. Garcia, Deputy State Fire Marshal-State Fire Training, Bill Bailey Academy Director, and Mike Hutcheson Wildland Fire Coordinator. After initial introductions and a review of the self-assessment report, a tour of the classrooms and training facilities was conducted along with an opportunity to review course records. At the time of the assessment, academy cadets were briefly interviewed.

In 2007, the AVC Fire Academy was accredited as an ARTP in the SFT system. This is the first re accreditation, and AVC continues to provide a fire academy as well as pre-service training for the northern portion of Los Angeles County. This academy does not compete with other ARTP's with the closest being Victor Valley college, Bakersfield or Glendale/Verdugo college. During the exit interview, I was able to meet with Dr. Karen Cowell, Dean of Technical Education to discuss and review SFT findings.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities, located at AVC, and at the North County Fire Training Center (L. A. County Fire Department training center) indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning training tower. There is a written agreement between AVC and Los Angeles County Fire Department for facility use.

The AVC Academy has enough tools, equipment and staff, to conduct a Firefighter I Academy between the two teaching locations. Local demographics are consistent with the most recent census and information provided by AVC.

AVC like many Fire Academies indicates a low enrollment for under-represented groups based upon local populations, especially with regard to females. AVC attempts to recruit students identified in their diversity report, and attends various job fairs, open houses and with literature (handouts) to engage the local area schools, in the search for additional diversity for the Academy program.

I am confident that the AVC Academy will continue to make strides in meeting SFT requirements, and recommend approval of the AVC continuing as an ARTP.