

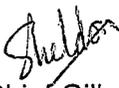


STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CHIEF RONNY COLEMAN, (RETIRED) CHAIR
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
P.O. BOX 944246
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94244-2460

May 6, 2009

Sheldon Gilbert, Chief
Alameda County Fire Department
835 East 14th Street, #200
San Leandro, California 94577

**RE: REPRESENTATION ON THE STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STEAC)**


Dear Chief Gilbert:

Over a period of the last couple of years, we have been working diligently to restore STEAC to its role of being an advisory and screening body to the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS). The preparation and distribution of Blueprint 20/20 has also provided STEAC with a Charter to get a curriculum and course development process moving in the right direction. We are now operating on our third year and have made significant advances in revising many of the components of our state fire training delivery system.

As a result, we have received several inquiries about expanding representation on this committee to include members of other subgroups that are part of the California Fire Chiefs Associations (Cal Chiefs) organizational structure. On the one hand, this is highly desirable to have organizations and individuals interested in our process. Conversely, there is an impact of expanding this group without regard to the consequences.

The purpose of this correspondence is to briefly explain the historical development of STEAC and to simultaneously provide information on our preferred course of action that is consistent with the legacy of this committee.

The STEAC was originally created as a mechanism for coordinating the activities of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), Cal Chiefs, and the Monterey Peninsula College Program, which at that time was the only facility offering the entire range of SFM course offerings. STEAC's primary charter was to make suggestions and provide advice to the SFM in the development of the statewide certification process and to filter training and education components before they go to the SBFS. STEAC's membership was eventually expanded to mirror the positions on the (SBFS) so that there would be a strong link between the research being done by STEAC and the level of acceptance by the Board.

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Philosophically, this committee is not intended to represent every individual area of specialization or curriculum content. It is aimed at the overall system delivery. In other words, the primary purpose of STEAC is, not to engage in the supportive staff work. That task is primarily accomplished through liaison with State Fire Marshal staff and through the diligent use of task forces, ad hoc committees, and specific assignments to modify and submit recommendations across the entire spectrum of training and education.

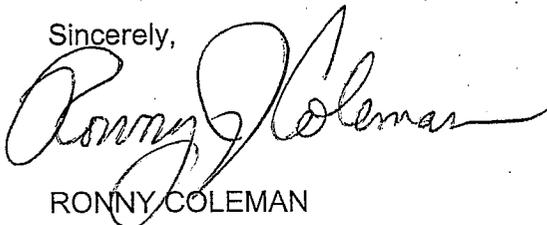
STEAC is of the opinion that to continue to expand general membership for this committee will be counterproductive. Notwithstanding the fact that the training officers are included on STEAC because they are an integral part of almost all delivery systems, It is our opinion that the entire spectrum of organizations that operate under the umbrella of the Cal Chiefs are currently represented by two fire chiefs appointed by the Cal Chiefs.

In no way do we intend to disparage the contributions of all of the specialties. To the contrary, STEAC believes that the evolution of technology and methodology is likely to create more specialization in the future. Our recommended course of action to the Cal Chiefs is to retain our current membership structure and to maximize the use of sub groups in the context of task forces and committees.

STEAC meets quarterly and its agenda is almost always populated by courses of action that have emerged from staff work done through the participation process mentioned previously. Retaining the current size of the committee is consistent with the STEAC charter and with other courses of action regarding organizational participation.

Thank you for your input and coordination in the development of this policy. I request that you distribute to the respective Cal Chiefs Sub Groups and post to your website. This letter will be submitted to the members of STEAC and agendized for discussion at a future meeting and will be posted on the State Fire Marshal website to memorialize our policy decision.

Sincerely,



RONNY COLEMAN

Chair, Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

Cc: Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal
Tonya Hoover, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Mike Richwine, Division Chief
John Malmquist, Cal Chiefs Executive Director