ATTACHMENT 6

Date: February 20, 2014

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: DAVID SHEW, Staff Chief
      Fire Plan

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:
STEPP (Severity, Treatment, Education, Planning and Prevention) Budget Change Proposal
(BCP) for Fiscal Year 2013-14

Recommended Actions:
Information / Discussion
This will provide the Board an update and current status for implementing the Planning and
Prevention components of the STEPP.

Background Information:
CAL FIRE is developing a program to become a more integrated partner in Land Use Planning with
local government agencies, as directed by SB 1241 (Kehoe). The resulting program will include
Fire Captains and Battalion Chiefs who will be working directly with local governments, at both city
and county levels, to provide input on Safety Elements of General Plans. This work will also assist
in other fire related issues. In addition, 41 new Foresters have been hired to provide help with
vegetation modification projects throughout the state. Defensible Space Inspectors are also being
hired to conduct additional required defensible space inspections (known as LE-100 inspections)
statewide.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:
Implementation of these programs will satisfy newly mandated statutes, while advancing
CAL FIRE’s efforts to provide a higher level of planning and prevention efforts throughout the state.

Attached: Outline of presentation.
STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES
February 20, 2014

Severity, Treatment, Education, Planning and Prevention
An Update on the “STEPP” BCP
Presented by Staff Chief David Shew

1. Background on STEPP and SB 1241 (Kehoe)
   a. SB 1241 approved by Governor September 13, 2012
   b. STEPP BCP approved by Legislature for FY-13/14

2. SB 1241 will consist of:
   a. One Deputy Chief – Sacramento (reporting to Fire Plan)
   b. Two Battalion Chiefs – one each in North and South Regions
   c. Eight Fire Captains – 5 assigned to South Region, 3 assigned to North Region
   d. Coordinated approach to review Safety Elements of General Plans
      i. SRA or LRA with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)
      ii. Desire for consistency through a coordinated regional approach

3. Components of STEPP include:
   a. Foresters to assist with vegetation modification projects
      i. Will provide maximum benefit to habitable structures
      ii. Many different types of projects – roadside, community risk, etc.
   b. Defensible Space Inspectors for LE-100 Inspections
      i. Dispersed throughout the state
      ii. Efforts focused on education and better defensible space
      iii. In addition to continuing inspections from field crews
   c. Education is key!
      i. Increase knowledge about heightened risk due to drought
      ii. Long term vision about importance of fuels modification
      iii. Change in behaviors

4. Questions?