



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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## ATTACHMENT 4

Date: August 25, 2016

To: **State Board of Fire Services**

From: Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist  
State Fire Training

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Berkeley Fire Department as an Accredited Local Academy (ALA)

**Recommended Actions:**

Recommend that Berkeley Fire Department becomes an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training (SFT) System.

**Background Information:**

An accreditation site visit was conducted on May 10, 2016 at the Berkeley Department Division of Training located at 997 Cedar Street, Berkeley CA 94710. The site visit was conducted by Melinda Drayton, Training Chief Oakland Fire Department, Andrew Murtagh, Training Coordinator, San Francisco Fire Department, and Rodney Slaughter, State Fire Training. Berkeley Fire Department was represented by Donna McCracken, Deputy Fire Chief and David Sprague, Training Captain along with firefighting members of the Berkeley Fire Department. On July 15, 2016, STEAC voted to recommend accreditation of the Berkeley Fire Department as an ALA.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

A tour of the training facilities revealed ample classroom and training ground spaces for the size of the BFD fire academy. The BFD maintains a classroom, along with ample tools, equipment, props, and apparatus that can easily accommodate the number of cadets going through the Fire Fighter I (2013) training program. BFD maintains course records along with summative test and answer keys that are kept safely secured. Among the best practices observed is the B-STEP program that begins with fire science courses at the high school level and progresses into EMT training in the senior year of high school. Photovoltaic shut down switches were also noted as an additional prop on the training tower demonstrating the BFD vision of future emergencies. The site visit team is unequivocal about their recommendation to accredit the Berkeley Fire Department into the SFT training system as an accredited local fire academy (ALA).