Date: October 13, 2017

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee

From: Andrew Henning, Division Chief, State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Steering Committee Report

Recommended Actions: Information/Discussion

Background Information:
At the April 2017 STEAC committee a discussion took place regarding Accredited Local Academies (ALA), Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), and the new Fire Fighter I testing process. State Fire Training committed to forming a small committee to evaluate the SFT Procedure Manual, ARTP and ALAs requirements, Certification Examination and National Recognition Procedures, and look at how and when to expand to other levels of National Certification (i.e. Fire Fighter II).

SFT has created a Steering Committee to address the issues brought up at STEAC along with the further development of our National Certification process. The initial meeting is planned to be two days, and after we anticipate quarterly one day meetings.

The key to a Steering Committee’s success is ensuring that we have representation from all of the stakeholders (ALAs, ARTPs, Cal Chiefs North and South Training Officers Sections, and labor). The opportunity to bring all the stakeholders together to ensure SFT develops, implements and delivers the best possible National Certification standards, including Fire Fighter I and II.

Steering Committee Leadership

Jeff Seaton, Certification and Curriculum Specialist – State Fire Training

Steering Committee Members

Tim Palmer - Sierra College: ARTP Rep North
Darren Hall - Miramar College: ARTP Rep South

“The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California.”
Steering Committee Cadre Reporting

The Steering Committee will make recommendations to STEAC. STEAC will then move recommendations forward for SFT to implement.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The following are initial actions items that SFT would like the Steering Committee to evaluate:

1. What other SFT CFSTES certifications should SFT seek national accreditation for. When should they be implemented? What steps need to be put in place prior to implementation?

2. Are changes needed to the SFT Procedure Manual and/or the Certification Examination and National Recognition Procedures to improve the written and skill testing for capstone testing?

3. Confirm that the Fire Fighter I curriculum can be taught in a modular format (i.e. standalone Fire Fighter I, standalone Wildland Fire Fighter I, and standalone Haz Mat).

4. Is the on-line written testing meeting the needs of the ARTP/ALAs?

5. What can be done to improve the relationships between non-ALA fire departments and ARTPs for testing.

ALAs are defined as a partnership between a fire agency serving a specific authority having jurisdiction and OSFM to deliver approved SFT curriculum within a given region. ALAs are limited to only one fire agency (e.g., Oakland Fire Department). ALAs are limited to providing training to in-house personnel. Should this be changed to allow JPAs or areas where there is a shared academy for a region.