COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

May 9, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF DLO

UPDATE: CONCERNS REGARDING THE COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM AND CONSTRUCTION AT THE DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

This is an update to the memorandum dated March 11, 2013 (attached), informing your Honorable Board of two issues facing the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department). The first issue is an audit of the College Affiliation Program (CAP) by the State Chancellor's Office. The second issue pertains to the surface rights to construct facilities at the Del Valle Regional Training Center.

COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM

1. As previously reported in the Board memo dated March 11, 2013, County Counsel, the Department and College of the Canyons (COC) agreed upon key elements of a path forward to resolve issues contained in the audit. County Counsel submitted a final draft to COC on April 19, 2013, and is waiting for feedback.

2. As reported in the Board memo dated March 11, 2013, Department chief officers and executives from COC continue to discuss the issue of asynchronous on-line training with officials from the State Fire Marshal's office and the State Chancellor's office. Discussions indicate that there is support at the State level for a regulatory change which will allow fire departments to use on-line training, as most college institutions currently allow. The Department is expecting a regulatory change by fall 2013. As stated earlier, this solution will increase accountability and consistency amongst various Department facilities, enhance the training experience through the use of multi-media, and address the issues identified in the audit.

3. Effective February 2013, all Department firefighter series personnel began using COC's on-line learning platform, "Blackboard," to complete daily drill assignments. This training format has received high praise and favorable reviews from firefighters in the field. The Department will continue to produce high quality learning videos for the "Blackboard" platform.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Department continues to work with representatives from the Chief Executive Office, Real Estate Division (CEO/RED), County Counsel, and Public Works to establish a capital project for design construction on the electrical and water infrastructure. The Department is currently exploring funding options.

I will provide your Board with another update on these two important issues by November 1, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180.

DLO:en

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka
John Krattli
Gail Farber
Brence Culp
Georgia Mattera
Rex Ball
Scott Kuhn
Sergio Vasquez
Jorge Morales
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ATTACHMENT

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

March 11, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

UPDATE: CONCERNS REGARDING THE COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM AND CONSTRUCTION AT THE DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

This is an update to the memorandum dated January 8, 2013 (attached) informing your Honorable Board of two issues facing the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department). The first issue is an audit of the College Affiliation Program (CAP) by the State Chancellor's Office. The second issue pertains to the surface rights to construct facilities at the Del Valle Regional Training Center.

COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM

1. As previously reported in the Board memo dated January 8, 2013, County Counsel, and the Department and College of the Canyons (COC) agreed upon key elements of a path forward to resolve issues contained in the audit. Over the past several weeks, County Counsel and the counsel for COC have worked to finalize a draft agreement that would resolve the audit issues.

2. Department chief officers and executives from COC continue to discuss the issue of asynchronous on-line training with officials from the State Fire Marshal's office and the State Chancellor's office. A regulatory change is being sought to allow fire departments to use on-line training, as most college institutions currently allow. This solution will increase accountability and consistency amongst various Department facilities, enhance the training experience through the use of multi-media and address the issues identified in the audit.

3. Effective February 2013, all Department firefighter series personnel began using COC's on-line learning platform, "Blackboard," to complete daily drill assignments. Blackboard enables the Department to deliver high quality training materials to every firefighter via a web-enabled device. Posted training materials address the most critical training needs of the Department. Video, slide show presentations, discussion forums, and assessments are used to engage personnel to learn how to effectively perform their duties. Battalion chiefs serve as instructors, monitor subordinate use of the system, and ensure achievement of the lesson objectives.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Department continues to work with representatives from the Chief Executive Office, Real Estate Division (CEO/RED), County Counsel, and Public Works to resolve outstanding surface rights issues with Vintage Production California LLC (Vintage). CEO/RED negotiated with Vintage and acquired a waiver of surface rights for 8.1 acres in June 2012, and in February 2013, acquired a waiver of surface rights for an additional 1.2 acres for a planned telecommunications outbuilding, an existing administrative building and support facilities.

Now that the waiver of surface rights has been obtained, and upon Vintage's approval of the proposed electrical and water infrastructure work, the CEO and the Department will establish a capital project for design and construction.

I will provide your Board with another update on these two important issues within 60 days. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180.

DLO:en

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DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

ATTACHMENT

January 8, 2013

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

UPDATE: CONCERNS REGARDING THE COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM AND CONSTRUCTION AT THE DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

This is an update to the memorandum dated November 1, 2012, (attached) informing your Honorable Board of two issues facing the Los Angeles County Fire Department (Department). The first issue is an audit of the College Affiliation Program (CAP) by the State Chancellor's Office. The second issue pertains to the surface rights to construct facilities at the Del Valle Regional Training Center.

COLLEGE AFFILIATION PROGRAM

1. With the assistance of County Counsel, the Department and College of the Canyons (COC) have agreed upon key elements of a path forward to resolve issues contained in the audit. This framework has been provided to County Counsel who is now working with counsel from COC to develop a draft agreement for approval.

2. Department chief officers and executives from COC have had meetings with the State Fire Marshal's office and the State Chancellor's office to resolve a key issue commonly referred to as asynchronous on-line training. This is a similar methodology that most on-line college courses use. A regulatory change is needed to allow fire departments to use on-line training as do college institutions. Reaction has been favorable. This solution will solve many issues identified in the audit and allow a more robust program than a synchronous training program will allow.

3. Department field use of the on-line training delivery platform remains scheduled for this month. Using video to enhance the on-line training content is the current focus. To support this enhancement, the Department has identified technology to assist with streaming HD quality video that can be viewed from Department computers in low bandwidth environments, while also conserving space on COC's servers.

DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The Department continues to work with representatives from the Chief Executive Office, Real Estate Division (CEO/RED), County Counsel, and Public Works to resolve outstanding surface rights issues with Vintage Production Company (Vintage). CEO/RED has negotiated with Vintage for the waiver of surface rights for 8.1 acres and is currently negotiating for an additional 1.2 acres for a planned telecommunications outbuilding, an existing administrative building, and support facilities.

At a meeting on December 6, 2012, representatives from Vintage stated they have experienced a number of personnel changes which has delayed the processing of the waiver of the additional surface rights. Their goal is to have the waiver approved within the next two weeks. Once the waiver of surface rights is obtained and Vintage approves the proposed electrical and water infrastructure work, the CEO and the Department will establish a capital project for design and construction.

I will provide your Board with another update on these two important issues within 60 days. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180.

DLO:jc

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