

## L.A. County Fire Department Forestry Division

### *A “Five-Star” Rating for SCE’s Training Site Resources*

Mike Takeshita, the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s Acting Division Chief for the Forestry Division, looked very pleased as he was leaving SCE’s Energy Education Center-Irwindale (EEC-I) in the spring of 2017. That’s because the department had just completed a successful four-day training session.

“This is the first time we’ve used this facility, and it worked out great,” Takeshita said, noting benefits such as the convenient East Los Angeles County location for the course participants, the classroom configuration, state-of-the-art A/V technology, and other amenities. “I can see that – moving forward – our continuing relationship with SCE is going to grow.”

The 51,000-square-foot EEC-I includes classrooms, conference rooms, and a 100-seat stadium-seating-style auditorium, as well as energy-efficiency demonstrations, technical consultations, and hands-on exhibits and displays. Local law enforcement and other municipal organizations also use the facility for training and presentations.

Deputy Forester Craig Zimmermann (Lake Hughes Forestry Unit) said the Forestry Division will keep the EEC-I in mind for future training sessions: “I give it a five-star rating.”



*Members of the L.A. County Fire Department Forestry Division at a Supply Unit training. Photo: Randall Creasey*

### *“Speaking the Same Language”*

The course held at the EEC-I meets Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) criteria for National Incident Management System, Incident Command System (NIMS-ICS) Forestry Division Supply Unit leadership. The Supply Unit provides critical logistical support – equipment, tools, supplies, and more – for operations personnel during natural and man-made disasters, from fires and floods to hazmat spills and civil unrest.

From the Fire Department, the class instructors were Deputy Forester Zimmermann and Deputy Forester Scott Gardner (San Dimas Forestry Unit). The lead FEMA instructor was SCE’s John Chappell, a technical specialist and scientist for SCE’s ICS used by the L.A. County Fire Department. This intersection between the two entities allows SCE and the Fire Department to “speak the same language,” ensuring valuable collaboration between them during emergencies.



*Instructor Craig Zimmermann, Deputy Forester, Lake Hughes Forestry Unit. Photo: Randall Creasey*

### *Ability to Train More Personnel*

When the same Supply Unit course took place in Sacramento in 2016, only two L.A. County Fire Department Forestry Division members could attend due to budget constraints and class space restrictions. But in 2017, the availability of the EEC-I and the local team of instructors made training in this area feasible. “We can train more personnel here,” Takeshita said, “which benefits the people of California.”

Once trained, Supply Unit members also benefit the national and global communities. Takeshita served on FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Team in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (2005), ordering tools and other supplies for operations personnel, plus handling the replacement and repair of lost or damaged materials. In addition, he worked at several international disaster sites, including Nepal (2015 earthquake), Japan (2011 earthquake/tsunami), and Haiti (2010 earthquake).

Takeshita said that moving forward, the EEC-I would serve as an ideal location for quarterly division training/meetings for Forestry Division members in L.A. County's eastern region; for Annual Worker Safety Training; and for the latest training from SCE on Electrical Safety for First Responders. The SCE course represents another example of our collaboration with the Fire Department, helping to ensure safe responses to incidents that impact electrical system equipment and facilities.

### *From the Classroom to the Field*

The Forestry Division's work with SCE dates to the late 1990s, when it began an annual check of our power poles in brush areas. This relationship continued over the years, and in 2012 SCE transitioned to functionally based ICS teams, allowing us to serve side-by-side at the Forestry Division's command posts during incidents and provide guidance on SCE system issues and power system restoration by our crews – with safety always at the forefront.

"We need to know the key players, and SCE is a key player," Takeshita said. Looking ahead to the use of additional SCE resources (such as the EEC-I) for training crucial in the field, he added, "Our relationship with SCE from years back makes it a lot easier to pursue new opportunities and build for the future."

#### **About SCE's Energy Education Center-Irwindale (EEC-I)**

The EEC-I's free classes, tours, displays, demonstrations, and consultations provide practical solutions to help businesses and residents make smart energy choices. Our state-of-the-art resources include the Smart Energy Experience™, which lets you experience the future of energy efficiency, including how smart grid technologies are providing smarter, cleaner, and more reliable power to our customers.

We're here to help you save energy, money, and the environment. To learn more, sign up for free classes, or a reserve a free guided tour, contact us:

#### **Location:**

SCE Energy Education Center-Irwindale  
6090 N. Irwindale Ave., Irwindale, CA 91702

#### **General Information:**

800-336-2822 or 626-812-7380  
eec-i\_info@sce.com

#### **Class/Workshop Registration:**

[sce.com/energycenters](http://sce.com/energycenters)

#### **Hours of Operation:**

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Your Resource for Power Outage Information

Learn more about our processes for maintenance and repair power outages, as well as outage communication resources and tools, at one of our free 1-hour Customer Outage Schools being held throughout the region. All courses take place from noon to 1 p.m. Upcoming dates and locations include:

- June 6, San Bernardino Area
- July 10, Irvine Area
- July 12, Rancho Cucamonga Area
- July 17, Torrance Area
- July 19, Irwindale Area
- July 24, Palm Springs Area

- July 26, Long Beach Area
- July 31, Santa Barbara Area
- August 15, Irvine Area
- August 22, Rancho Cucamonga Area
- August 29, Torrance Area

For registration and the full schedule through October, visit our [Outage School Registration Page](#). Also find more resources at our [online Outage Center](#).

## SCE Honors Businesses and Community Partners for Black History Month in Tulare

Following a Southern California celebration of Black History Month (BHM) in early February, on Feb. 23 we held our eighth annual BHM celebration at our Energy Education Center-Tulare, in California's Central Valley.

At SCE, we believe that diversity is about capitalizing on everyone's strengths, empowering people, and promoting the human spirit. As part of this vision, the BHM celebrations highlighted our energy-efficiency and supplier diversity programs by honoring African-American customer champions in these areas, as well as African-American community-based partners that join us in giving back to the communities we serve.

Congratulations to the following awardees from the BHM Tulare celebration:



(Left to right) SCE Business Customer Division Vice President Mike Marelli; Living Christ Church Senior Pastor Donahue Green; and SCE Business Customer Division Account Manager Michele Myers-Heard.

### ***Energy Efficiency Participation Award:***

***Living Christ Church:*** The church, located in Tulare, recently participated in SCE's Direct Install program. Direct Install uses third-party contractors that evaluate customer facilities (at no charge) to identify energy-savings opportunities, and then replace less-efficient equipment with more modern energy-efficient equipment. Through this program, Living Christ Church upgraded lighting in its offices and education buildings to high-quality T8 linear fluorescent fixtures. This upgrade provides savings of approximately 6,900 kWh and 2.4 kW annually, which equates to an annual bill reduction of nearly \$2,000.

**Community Partnership Award:**

**The Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission:** The non-profit Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission, established in 2006, meets the basic physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of homeless and disadvantaged women and children in the Central Valley. At no charge to participants, it provides services such as safe, temporary shelter; healthy meals and clothing; training in life skills; budgeting and financial planning; job search and resume writing; referrals to low-cost housing; and more. The Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission is funded through private donations from individuals, businesses, and churches.



(Left to right) SCE Business Customer Division Vice President Mike Marelli; Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission Director Irma Briseno; and SCE Director of Government Relations Tammy Tumbling.



(Left to right) SCE Business Customer Division Vice President Mike Marelli; RCBCB Director of Recruitment Sylvia Jackson; RCBCB President/CEO Pepi Jackson; SCE Director of Government Relations Tammy Tumbling; and SCE Business Customer Division Principal Manager Jessica Mack.

**Diverse Business Enterprise Award:**

**Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce (RCBCC):** RCBCC identifies and increases economic development opportunities for African-American and other minority groups, as well as the military veteran population in Riverside County. Its goal is to improve the number and the success of African-American and minority-owned businesses, while developing a pipeline of future entrepreneurs. RCBCC provides workshops, training, seminars, and other tools and strategies to help empower the community to overcome historical business and financial obstacles, such as access to capital and capacity building.

If you are interested in our upcoming annual customer heritage events such as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, and Hispanic Heritage Month (celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year), including potential opportunities for recognition, contact your SCE Account Manager for details. Additional background information and registration options are available at [sce-heritageevents.com](https://www.sce.com/heritageevents).

Also follow us on Twitter @SCE\_Business and @SCE\_Communities, and join our Business and Community Partnerships [Facebook](#) page, to learn more about our business programs and community initiatives. For more details on SCE's diversity commitment, cultural awareness, and outreach, visit [sce.com/diversity](https://www.sce.com/diversity).