

## What's on the Horizon?

We asked to hear from you in recent editions of this newsletter and you responded. A recurring question concerns the future of licensure for landscape architects in this State following sunset of the former Board of Landscape Architects by the legislature in 1997.



By Gretchen KJose –  
LATC Program Manager

As you know, the California Architects Board (CAB) assumed responsibility for regulating the landscape architecture profession in January 1998. Similar to other boards, bureaus, commissions, and committees within the Department of Consumer Affairs, both the CAB and LATC will be subject to sunset review again in 2004.

The LATC has worked diligently over the last several years to address issues raised by the legislature in 1996. A dynamic strategic plan that sets forth our mission, goals and objectives keeps us focused on key issues and outcomes; rules of professional conduct have been adopted; we returned to the national licensing examination, revised in 1998 based on an in-depth occupational analysis; we streamlined reciprocal licensure for

California licensees as well as out-of-state practitioners; we adopted improved citation regulations and updated our disciplinary guidelines; we developed a partnership with the California Integrated Waste Management Board to encourage licensees and consumers to find ways to protect the environment; and we created consumer guides, candidate handbooks, and other publications designed to educate the public, licensees and candidates about the role of the LATC in regulating the profession of landscape architecture. These are just a few of our accomplishments.

In the next few months, we will be conducting a market conditions assessment that will provide objective, quantitative information regarding issues in the marketplace for landscape architects from which we will determine future strategies.

The LATC remains confident in its role, the structure of the organization, the status of the profession, and its ability to respond to legislative requirements. Future updates regarding sunset review will be in each newsletter. If you would like specific areas of concern addressed, please let us know.

## Focus Group Participants Needed for Market Conditions Assessment

The LATC's market conditions assessment is underway. We are recruiting licensees, allied professionals, homeowners, insurance representatives, candidates and students, and local city/county organizations to participate in client focus groups designed to offer insight into current trends in practice, identify issues of potential consumer harm, and develop outreach strategies to communicate with consumers, building officials, developers, and other groups impacted by landscape architecture.

All sessions will be held at the Board's office in Sacramento. Travel expenses will be paid by the LATC. If you would like to volunteer or you know someone in one of the targeted categories who might be interested, please contact Justin Sotelo by March 31, 2001 at (916) 445-6573 or via e-mail at Justin\_Sotelo@dca.ca.gov.

You can make a difference!

## CAB Appoints New Executive Officer

The California Architects Board (CAB) announced the appointment of Douglas R. McCauley as Executive Officer of the CAB beginning on February 26, 2001.

With a background in design and construction, Mr. McCauley has ten years of experience working for various architectural, engineering, and construction organizations. Most recently, he has served as Executive Vice President for the California Coalition for Construction in the Classroom. Also, he has served for many years as senior director of public affairs for the California Building Officials.



Mr. McCauley, honored as Executive Director of the Year by the California Society of Association Executives in 1999-2000, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Public Administration from Golden Gate University.

As Executive Officer for the CAB, Mr. McCauley will oversee approximately 30 employees and work with a ten-member board. The CAB, established in 1901 as part of the California Department of Consumers Affairs, regulates and licenses the state's 20,000 architects and 3,000 landscape architects.

## Student Design Competition

The Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Foundation (the Foundation), a nonprofit charitable organization established for the purpose of identifying and funding research and educational projects which advance the ability of landscape architectural registration boards to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, proudly announced the winners of the inaugural Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design Competition. Four cash prizes of \$1,000 were awarded to students in landscape architectural degree programs and presented at CLARB's Annual Meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

Foundation President, Lucille C. "Lu Gay" Lanier, stated that "the purpose of this design competition was to gather outstanding examples of landscape architectural work which clearly demonstrate how the practice of landscape architecture and licensing affects the quality of life." Due to the interest of schools and students across the U.S. and Canada and the generosity of Foundation Contributors and Benefactors, the competition will continue in 2001.

Complete information and official guidelines for the competition can be found on CLARB's web site at [www.clarb.org](http://www.clarb.org) under the heading of "Student Resources" or by calling (703) 818-1300. To be eligible, a student, or team of students, must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate landscape architectural degree program or an approved extension certificate program in landscape architecture. Up to four cash prizes of \$1,000 each will be awarded. Completed submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2001.

## Examination News

Sections C and E of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) were administered on December 4 and 5, 2000 to 159 candidates in northern and southern California. The passing rates for these two sections were 36% and 24%, respectively. Official exam results will be mailed to candidates by the end of February.

Last year, the LATC adopted regulations that allow candidates to review failed graphic performance sections of their exam. Fifty-five individuals participated in this review process in November and commented that it helped them identify the level of detail CLARB looks for in each vignette. This process will be available again to those December candidates who were unsuccessful in passing the exam.

On June 11 – 13, 2001, all five sections of the LARE will be given. The final filing date for this exam is April 2, 2001. The Northern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) will offer a LARE review course on May 5-6, 2001 which will provide a comprehensive overview of each section of the exam, including study materials and tips. The registration form and exact location will be sent by the ASLA to those who file for the June 2001 exam.



## Suggestions for Contracts

As all landscape architects in California know, when agreeing to provide professional services, a detailed written contract must be provided to every client. The Landscape Architects Practice Act specifies that the written contract must include the following:

- A description of services to be provided by the landscape architect to the client.
- A description of any basis of compensation applicable to the contract, including the total price that is required to complete the contract, and method of payment agreed upon by both parties.
- A notice which reads: "Landscape architects are licensed by the State of California."
- The name, address, and license number of the landscape architect and the name and address of the client.
- A description of the procedure the landscape architect and client will use to accommodate additional services.

However, even though a written contract exists, the LATC often receives complaints from consumers who are still unclear as to what to expect from their landscape architect. Complaints range from confusion as to who owns the design plans, who will oversee the construction phase, how hours are being billed and in what increments, among others. To avoid these pitfalls, you may want to consider including the following additional items in your contracts to minimize the chance of having a complaint lodged against you.

- List the title and address of the landscape project
- Clarify who pays consultant fees, if they are required

# CIWMB Moves Ahead with Compost and Mulch Procurement Activities

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (Board), in its efforts to keep organic materials out of landfills, is nearing completion of existing projects and is moving ahead with new initiatives. The Board's general approach is to partner with key industry partners to promote the use of urban derived compost and mulch products, and to help compost and mulch producers network with these partners. The key industry sectors that the Board has identified are:

- Landscape industry
- Agriculture
- Government
- Compost and mulch producers

For more specific information, please visit the Board's Organics Outlook home page at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics). The focus of this article is on projects that are of interest to the landscape industry.

## Existing Projects:

### **CCQC Product Quality Contract**

Under contract with the California Compost Quality Council (CCQC), a technical council of the California Resource Recovery Association, the Board supported CCQC's upgrade of compost product quality disclosure program, the development of new brochures and manuals, and implementation of workshops promoting the use of compost and mulch product in landscape design and maintenance projects. CCQC is currently negotiating with the City and County of Los Angeles to co-sponsor a workshop promoting local government procurement of compost and mulch products. A track targeting landscape application may be added as well. For more information contact Mike Leason at (916) 341-6584.

### **Compostable Organic Materials Handling Regulations**

The Board will hear a discussion item at its February 20-21, 2001 meeting in

Sacramento on the compostable organic materials handling operations and facilities regulatory requirements. Staff anticipates that the regulations will be adopted within the next six months. Chipping & grinding operations will be required to meet minimum standards for public health and safety. Large commercial chipping & grinding facilities may be required to obtain a permit. In addition, an odor plan will be required for operations and facilities that handle compostable organic materials if more than 500 cubic yards of material is located on-site at any one time. For more information contact Brian Larimore at (916) 341-6579.

### **Producer Survey**

The Board conducted a contract survey of the compost and mulch industry to compile a list of known compost and mulch facilities, including chippers and grinders (processors). The facilities were surveyed concerning their operation. This survey revealed:

Total Operating Facilities:	169
Composters:	104
Processors:	65

Cubic yards of organic materials (alternative daily cover {ADC is a material used in place of soil for covering the working face of landfills}, Compost, Mulch, Blends, Fuel) produced:

Composters:	6.6 million cubic yards
Processors:	8.4 million cubic yards

For more information contact Steve Storelli at (916) 341-6591.

### **Compost and Mulch Source List**

Board staff has completed the process of contacting the producers identified in the previously mentioned survey to include them on the Board's online list of compost and mulch suppliers. The updated list should be available on the Board's Organics Outlook ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics)) web page by mid-February. For more informa-

tion contact Yvette DiCarlo at (916) 341-6587.

### **New Initiatives: Caltrans Partnership**

The Board is partnering with Caltrans landscape architecture and maintenance staff to promote the use of urban derived compost and mulch products in Caltrans highway construction, erosion control and maintenance projects. The goal is to provide information to district staff and their contractors on where to source urban derived compost and mulch products, provide information on low input design and maintenance practices, and to assist Caltrans in meeting the mandated minimum compost and mulch procurement requirements under the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign. For more information contact Mike Leason at (916) 341-6584.

### **Sustainable Environmental Design Education Program**

The Board will consider a funding reallocation item at its February 20-21, 2001 meeting in Sacramento that includes several contract concepts. One of these concepts proposes that the Board allocate \$50,000 for the development of a sustainable environmental design education program that would address both building and landscape architecture in a holistic approach. The program would promote pollution and waste prevention, energy and water conservation, and the use of recycled content building products, including urban derived compost and mulch products. The contract will call for the contractor to promote the adoption of the program by universities and professional organizations with continuing education programs. A future initiative in this area may be to seek revision of licensure examinations to include questions pertaining to sustainability. It is hoped that a combina-

## Questions And Answers

For this issue of the LATC Newsletter, we thought that it would be beneficial to provide readers with a sample of various inquiries (from licensees, other professionals, and consumers) that are received by our office on a daily basis. Hopefully, the following questions and answers will provide insight into the profession of landscape architecture, laws/regulations, enforcement, licensing, exams, etc.

**Q:** Can a landscape architect provide an evaluation and construction plan for a residence that floods as a result of water runoff from surrounding properties?

**A:** A landscape architect can provide these services for a residential project as part of his or her scope of work, as it relates to the practice of landscape architecture.

**Q:** Can a landscape architect prepare, stamp, and sign plans for the construction of concrete, non-motorized boat launches that are then pushed into place along a river?

**A:** Yes; however, appropriate permits for placement along a river must be acquired.

**Q:** Why haven't I received my license renewal notice?

**A:** Perhaps we do not have a current address of record. Please note, it is a statutory requirement for licensees to provide the LATC with a change of address within 30 days. Failure to provide updated information could result in a penalty. A change of address can be forwarded to the LATC via e-mail, fax, or regular mail. Please include your old and new addresses, license number, and a signature.

**Q:** I sent in my license renewal notice. Why haven't I received my pocket license?

**A:** Did you remember to complete and sign the disclaimer on the opposite side of the notice? A renewal cannot be processed without a signature.

**Q:** My license expires soon (or yesterday). What should I do?

**A:** Remember, you cannot practice with an expired license. To expedite renewal, send your notice and payment directly to our office at Landscape Architects Technical Committee, 400 R Street, Suite 4000, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**Q:** Can landscape architects design skateboard parks?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Can landscape architects licensed outside of California stamp plans for projects within California?

**A:** No. Landscape architects outside of

California must first apply for reciprocity, pass the California supplemental exam, and be issued a California license before proceeding with a project within the State of California.

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Because the profession of landscape architecture prides itself in safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of the general public and the built environment, it is essential that licensees, and other design professionals comply with regulations enforced by federal, state and local agencies. Storm water management is an area in which landscape architects are particularly adept. The following are examples of BMPs that can minimize site runoff and the introduction of pollutants into the environment:

- reduced width sidewalks (however, sidewalk widths must still comply with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations and other safety requirements)
- landscaped buffer areas between

sidewalks and streets

- permeable materials for private sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or interior roadway surfaces
- vegetated swales and strips; foundation planting
- infiltration basins and trenches
- storm drain inserts; catch basin screens

Questions or concerns regarding BMPs and storm water management can be directed to the LATC office at (916) 445-4954 or by e-mail at [latc@dca.ca.gov](mailto:latc@dca.ca.gov). More detailed or regional information can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board at (916) 341-5800 or at [www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov).

## Suggestions for Contracts

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- Clarify the costs that are not included in the basic fee and specify your hourly rates
- Indicate whose approval is required before additional costs are incurred
- Identify the schedule of when and what fees must be paid, including the payment at completion of the project
- Indicate the amount of the retainer fee and where it will be applied
- Provide a procedure for either party to terminate the agreement before design services are completed and a procedure for handling disputes between parties should the need arise
- Require written approval before proceeding with the next phase of work
- Identify the client's responsibilities during the life of the contract
- Be clear as to who owns the landscape architectural documents
- Get the signature of both parties on the agreement and the date the agreement was signed.

Finally, be sure to get everything in writing and take accurate notes when verbal exchanges take place.

## California's Energy Challenge

California is facing a major energy challenge. We can all help reduce consumption and improve energy efficiency. While California continues to experience electrical shortages and rolling blackouts, Governor Davis and leaders of the California Legislature are working with utilities, energy generators, and consumer groups to forge a long-term solution to this problem. In the short run, California's consumers and businesses can work to reduce electricity usage and use energy more efficiently.

The LATC, and all State of California agencies, have implemented a plan to reduce consumption by a minimum of 8 percent. During critical power shortages, State agencies will conserve 20 percent. The Governor also has asked all Californians to reduce their electricity use by at least 8 percent.

California has the power of nearly 35 million people and the sixth largest economy in the world. By implementing a few simple energy-saving measures, we can avoid shortages, lower energy bills, and have a major impact on the availability of power.

We're asking you to flex your power. Each of us has an important role to play right now.

- Reduce usage during peak demand hours - 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Turn off all nonessential lights and equipment. When you're not using it, turn it off. Unplug equipment not in regular use, such as VCRs and phone chargers. Putting computers in "sleep" mode can save up to 40 percent in energy consumption.
- Turn thermostats to 68° or lower during the day. At home, turn the temperature down to 55° before going to sleep or when gone for the day. For every one degree you lower your thermostat, you'll save up to 5 percent on your heating bill.
- At night, close shades and blinds to reduce heat lost through windows.
- Buy *Energy Star*® appliances, products, and lights, which are more energy efficient than older models.
- Seal off unused or storage areas from heating.

Kids also can save energy through their schools by turning off lights, computers, and other electrical equipment during recess and after school. Tell your kids: "Save a little, save a watt."

Taken together, each of these small steps adds up. Whether at work or at home, we can make a dramatic difference in the energy crunch.

## CIWMB Moves Ahead...

Continued from Page 3

tion of the above will result in making sustainable design an industry standard practice. For more information contact Mike Leona at (916) 341-6584.

If the Board allocates funding for this contract concept, staff will move forward with an agenda item in March to approve Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, College of Architecture and Environmental Design as the contract for the project.

### Additional Information:

For more information on the above projects, please contact the staff person listed. For additional information on other Board programs please visit the Board's home page at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov). The Board's home page contains information pertaining to State and Local Government diversion and procurement mandates;

## Steve Sands Leaves the Board

Steve Sands, former executive officer of the California Architects Board (CAB) for fourteen years, was recently appointed registrar of the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) on January 1, 2001.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy with a master's degree in public administration, Sands worked six years for the Department of Consumer Affairs before his appointment as CAB executive officer.

During Sands' term as EO, the CAB underwent a series of significant changes. Sands aimed to make improvements in the enforcement program, especially the ever-expanding building official program, which has helped local building departments, architects, and consumers.

Another accomplishment attributed to Sands' leadership was the transformation of the oral exam for architects, making it now one of the best architectural licensing exams ever developed.

Sands offered his gratitude to all of the Board members that he had the privilege of working with, as well as the staff members that provide candidates, licensees, and consumers with the services they need.

At the CSLB, Sands takes over a program with a 15-member board, approximately 500 staff members, and more than 270,000 licensees.

sources of recycled content products, including compost and mulch products; links to other solid waste management related web sites; and the location of solid waste facilities throughout California.

**California Architects Board**  
**Landscape Architects Technical Committee**

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If you wish to contact a staff member, you may do so by telephoning (916) 445-4954.

## Upcoming Events

<b>March 3 – 5, 2001</b>	<b>CLARB Regional Meeting</b>	<b>Denver, CO</b>
<b>April 2, 2001</b>	<b>Application Deadline for June LARE</b>	
<b>April 27, 2001</b>	<b>LATC Meeting</b>	<b>Davis</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Client Focus Groups</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
<b>June 11-13, 2001</b>	<b>LARE</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>July 20, 2001</b>	<b>LATC Meeting</b>	<b>San Diego</b>
<b>October 19, 2001</b>	<b>LATC Meeting</b>	<b>Pomona</b>
<b>December 14, 2001</b>	<b>LATC Meeting</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>