

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA – DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Architects Board (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the action proposed at a hearing to be held at the office of the **California Architects Board, 2420 Del Paso Road, Sequoia Room, Sacramento, California 95834, on August 6, 2012, at 11:30 a.m.** Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the Board at its office no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2012, or must be received by the Board at the hearing.

The Board, upon its own motion or at the instance of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposal substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as the contact person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference: Pursuant to the authority vested by section 5630 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC) and to implement, interpret, or make specific sections 5650 and 5651 of the BPC, the Board is considering changes to Division 26 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

A. Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

BPC section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, modify, or repeal rules and regulations that govern the examination of applicants for licenses to practice landscape architecture in California. BPC sections 5650 and 5651 entitles any person who meets the qualifications set forth in the article to an examination for a license to practice architecture subject to the rules and regulations governing examinations.

**Section 2615 – Form of Examinations:**

The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) is the national test vendor that supplies the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE), the licensing examination, to the Landscape Architects Technical Committee. In September 2012, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content of the LARE with current practice. The new exam will consist of four (1-4) rather than five (A-E) sections and will move to a fully computerized model. All sections of the LARE will consist of multiple choice questions.

**CCR section 2615 (a) – Form of Examinations** states:

“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for **the multiple choice sections** of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.”

This regulation needs to be updated to refer to the “multiple choice sections” of the LARE to “Sections 1 and 2” of the new LARE. This section also needs to address candidates who take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before they have met California’s eligibility requirements. Candidates can potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before meeting California’s eligibility requirements because CLARB’s exam scheduling system does not screen or limit candidates based on California’s requirements. This section needs to be amended to state:

“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for **Sections 1 and 2** of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. **Such candidates shall be not be eligible for Sections 3 and 4 of the LARE until the candidate has a combination of six years of education and training experience as specified in section 2620.**

**A candidate’s score on the LARE shall not be recognized in this State if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations for the examination or sections thereof.”**

This change will update the criteria for eligibility to reflect the changes in the LARE format that will be implemented in September 2012, and clearly state that the LATC will not recognize the LARE scores of candidates that were not eligible to take the exam at the time they took the LARE.

**Section 2620 – Education and Training Credits:**

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) is the accrediting organization for landscape architectural programs. As such, the LAAB develops standards to objectively evaluate landscape architectural programs and judges whether a school’s landscape architectural program is in compliance with the accreditation standards. LAAB implemented new standards and procedures during fall 2010. LAAB released their updated “Accreditation Standards And Procedures” publication on February 6, 2010.

CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. The attached

proposed language will update the name and release date of this publication to the most recent version.

CCR section 2620(a)(4) includes the phrase “city/community college.” This phrase needs to be corrected to say “community college” because city colleges and community colleges are both two-year Associate Degree programs.

B. Anticipated Benefits of Proposal

The proposed change to CCR section 2615 will update the criteria for eligibility to reflect the changes in the LARE format that will be implemented in September 2012. If the regulation is not modified, candidates with a degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture could potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before completing all of the eligibility requirements, and potentially be given examination credit for Sections of the LARE that they were not eligible to take. Updating this regulation will ensure that LARE examinees will only be given examination credit for sections of the exam that they were eligible to take at the time of examination.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620 will update the name and release date of the LAAB Accreditation Standards and Procedures publication to the most recent version. CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. This update will ensure that CCR section 2620 references the most current publication of the CLARB accreditation standards and procedures.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620(a)(4) will remove unnecessary redundancy in referring to community colleges and result in regulation language that is easier to read.

C. Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

This Board has evaluated this regulatory proposal and it is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Cost/Savings in Federal Funding to the State

None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies

None

Local Mandate

None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Sections 17500-

17630 Require Reimbursement

None

Business Impact

The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination: N/A

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs

None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Board has determined that the proposed regulation would not affect small businesses because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS

Impact on Jobs/New Businesses

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California

Benefits of Regulation

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following benefits to health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and state's environment: N/A

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Board has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the Landscape Architects Technical Committee at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834, or by telephoning the contact person listed below.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public inspection by contacting the person, named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below (or by accessing the website listed below).

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: John Keidel  
Address: California Architects Board  
Landscape Architects Technical Committee  
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
Telephone No.: (916) 575-7233  
Fax No.: (916) 575-7283  
E-mail Address: John.Keidel@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Trish Rodriguez  
Address: California Architects Board  
Landscape Architects Technical Committee  
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
Telephone No.: (916) 575-7230  
Fax No.: (916) 575-7283  
E-mail Address: trish.rodriquez@dca.ca.gov

Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found at [www.latc.ca.gov](http://www.latc.ca.gov).

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

Amend Section 2615 of Division 26 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

**§ 2615 Form of Examinations**

- (a) (1) A candidate who has a combination of six years of education and training experience as specified in section 2620 shall be eligible and may apply for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.
  - (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for ~~the multiple-choice s~~Sections 1 and 2 of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. Such candidates shall not be eligible for Sections 3 and 4 of the LARE until the candidate has a combination of six years of education and training experience as specified in section 2620.  
  
A candidate's score on the LARE shall not be recognized in this State if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations for the examination or sections thereof.
- (b) A candidate shall be deemed eligible and may apply for the California Supplemental Examination upon passing all sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.
  - (c) All candidates applying for licensure as a landscape architect shall pass all sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination or a written examination substantially equivalent in scope and subject matter required in California, as determined by the Board, and the California Supplemental Examination subject to the following provisions:
    - (1) A candidate who is licensed as a landscape architect in a U.S. jurisdiction, Canadian province, or Puerto Rico by having passed a written examination substantially equivalent in scope and subject matter required in California as determined by the board shall be eligible for licensure upon passing the California Supplemental Examination.
    - (2) A candidate who is not a licensed landscape architect and who has received credit from a U.S. jurisdiction, Canadian province, or Puerto Rico for a written examination substantially equivalent in scope and subject matter required in California shall be entitled to receive credit for the corresponding sections of the Landscape Architect

Registration Examination, as determined by the Board, and shall be eligible for licensure upon passing any remaining sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination and the California Supplemental Examination.

**NOTE: Authority cited: Section 5630, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5651, Business and Professions Code.**

Amend Section 2620 of Division 26 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

**§ 2620 Education and Training Credits**

The Board's evaluation of a candidate's training and educational experience is based on the following table:

Experience Description	Education Max. Credit Allowed	Training and/or Practice Max. Credit Allowed
(a) Experience Equivalent:		
(1) Degree in landscape architecture from an approved school.	4 years	
(2) Degree in landscape architecture from a non-approved school.	3 years	
(3) Extension certificate in landscape architecture from an approved school.	2 years	
(4) Associate degree in landscape architecture from a <del>city</del> /community college which consists of at least a 2-year curriculum.	1 year	
(5) Extension certificate as specified in subdivision (a)(3) and a degree from a university or college which consists of a 4-year curriculum.	4 years	
(6) Associate degree from a college specified in subdivision (a)(4)	3 years	

Experience Description	Education Max. Credit Allowed	Training and/or Practice Max. Credit Allowed
and an extension certificate as specified in subdivision (a)(3) of this section.		
(7) Partial completion of a degree in landscape architecture from an approved school.	1 year	
(8) Partial completion of an extension certificate in landscape architecture from an approved school where the applicant has a degree from a university or college which consists of a four-year curriculum.	1 year	
(9) A degree in architecture which consists of at least a four-year curriculum that has been accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.	1 year	
(10) Self employment as, or employment by, a landscape architect licensed in the jurisdiction where the experience occurred shall be granted credit on a 100% basis.		5 years
(11) Self employment as, or employment by, a		1 year

Experience Description	Education Max. Credit Allowed	Training and/or Practice Max. Credit Allowed
licensed architect or registered civil engineer in the jurisdiction where the experience occurred shall be granted credit on a 100% basis.		
(12) Self employment as a California licensed landscape contractor or a licensed landscape contractor in another jurisdiction where the scope of practice for landscape contracting is equivalent to that allowed in this State pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 7027.5 and Cal. Code Regs. Title 16, Section 832.27 shall be granted credit on a 100% basis		4 years

(b) Educational Credits.

- (1) Candidates shall possess at least one year of educational credit to be eligible for the examination.
- (2) A degree from a school with a landscape architecture program shall be defined as one of the following:
  - (A) Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.
  - (B) Bachelor of Science in landscape architecture.
  - (C) Bachelor of Arts in landscape architecture.
  - (D) Masters degree in landscape architecture.

- (3) The maximum credit which may be granted for a degree or combination of degrees from an approved school shall be four years of educational credit.
- (4) A degree from a school with a landscape architecture program shall be deemed to be approved by the Board if the landscape architectural curriculum has been approved by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) as specified in its publication: "Accreditation Standards ~~for Programs in Landscape Architecture~~ And Procedures" dated February ~~26, 1990~~ 6, 2010 or the Board determines that the program has a curriculum equivalent to a curriculum having LAAB accreditation.
- (5) For purposes of subdivisions (a)(7) and (8), "partial completion" shall mean that the candidate completed at least 80 percent of the total units required for completion of the 4-year degree or extension certificate program.
- (6) Except as provided in subdivisions (a)(7) and (8), no credit shall be granted for academic units obtained without earning a degree or extension certificate under categories of subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section.
- (7) A candidate enrolled in a degree program where credit earned is based on work experience courses (e.g., internship or co-op program) shall not receive more than the maximum credit allowed for degrees under subdivision (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section.
- (8) Except as specified in subdivision (a)(5) and (6) of this section, candidates with multiple degrees shall not be able to accumulate credit for more than one degree.
- (9) The Board shall not grant more than four years of credit for any degree or certificate or any combination thereof for qualifying educational experience.

(c) Training Credits

- (1) (A) Candidates shall possess at least two years of training/practice credit to be eligible for the examination.
  - (B) At least one of the two years of training/practice credit shall be under the direct supervision of a landscape architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction, and shall be gained in one of the following forms:
    1. After graduation from an educational institution specified in subdivisions (a)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section.
    2. After completion of education experience specified in subdivisions (a)(7) and (8) of this section.
  - (C) A candidate shall be deemed to have met the provisions of subdivision (c)(1)(B) if he or she possesses a degree from a school specified in subdivision (a)(1) and has at least two years of training/practice credit as a licensed landscape contractor or possesses a

certificate from a school specified in subdivision (a)(3) and has at least four years of training/practice credit as a licensed landscape contractor.

- (2) Candidates shall be at least 18 years of age or a high school graduate before they shall be eligible to receive credit for work experience.
- (3) A year of training/practice experience shall consist of 1500 hours of qualifying employment. Training/practice experience may be accrued on the basis of part-time employment. Employment in excess of 40 hours per week shall not be considered.

(d) Miscellaneous Information

- (1) Independent, non-licensed practice or experience, regardless of claimed coordination, liaison, or supervision of licensed professionals shall not be considered.
- (2) The Board shall retain inactive applications for a five (5) year period. Thereafter, the Board shall purge these records unless otherwise notified by the candidate. A candidate who wishes to reapply to the Board, shall be required to re-obtain the required documents to allow the Board to determine their current eligibility.

**NOTE: Authority cited: Section 5630, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 5650, Business and Professions Code.**

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: **August 6, 2012**

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulation: Education and Training Credits

Sections Affected: California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 26, Sections 2615 and 2620

As a result of legislative reorganization, the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC), established on January 1, 1998, replaced the former Board of Landscape Architects and was placed under the purview of the California Architects Board (Board). Business and Professions Code section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary in order to carry out the provisions under the Landscape Architects Practice Act.

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

1. Problems being addressed:

CCR section 2615 – Form of Examinations. This section needs to be updated to reflect upcoming changes in the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE). The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) is the national test vendor that supplies the LARE, the licensing examination, to the LATC. In September 2012, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content with current practice. The new exam will consist of four (1-4) rather than five (A-E) sections and will move to a fully computerized model. All sections of the new LARE will consist of multiple choice questions. The current regulation language of CCR section 2615 provides that all multiple choice sections can be taken by candidates who have received their degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture. If the regulation is not modified, candidates with a degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture could potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before completing all of the eligibility requirements. The regulation needs to be amended to refer to the multiple choice sections as Sections 1 and 2 of the new LARE. This regulation also needs to be updated to clearly state that a candidate's LARE score shall not be recognized in California if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations.

CCR section 2620 – Education and Training Credits. This section currently references the outdated Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) "Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture" publication dated February 26, 1990. The regulation needs to be amended to reflect the proper reference to the current accreditation standards publication.

CCR section 2620(a)(4) includes the phrase “city/community college.” This phrase needs to be corrected to say “community college” because city colleges and community colleges are both two-year Associate Degree programs.

2. Anticipated benefits from these regulatory actions:

The proposed change to CCR section 2615 will clarify which sections of the new LARE candidates, who have their degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture, will be eligible to take when the new LARE is implemented. Candidates with a degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture will only be able to take Sections 1 and 2 of the new LARE instead of potentially being able to take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before they are eligible to take it.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620 will update the name and release date of the LAAB’s Accreditation Standards and Procedures publication to the most recent version. CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB’s “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. This update will ensure that CCR section 2620 references the most current publication of the CLARB accreditation standards and procedures.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620(a)(4) will remove unnecessary redundancy in referring to community colleges and result in regulation language that is easier to read.

Factual Basis/Rationale

**Section 2615 – Form of Examinations**

CLARB is the national test vendor that supplies the LARE, the licensing examination, to the LATC. In September 2012, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content of the LARE with current practice. The new exam will consist of four (1-4) rather than five (A-E) sections and will move to a fully computerized model. All sections of the LARE will consist of multiple choice questions. **CCR section 2615 (a) – Form of Examinations** states:

“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for **the multiple choice sections** of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.”

This regulation needs to be updated to refer to the “multiple choice sections” of the LARE to “Sections 1 and 2” of the new LARE. This section also needs to address candidates who take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before they have met California’s eligibility requirements. Candidates can potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before meeting California’s

eligibility requirements because CLARB's exam scheduling system does not screen or limit candidates based on California's requirements. This section needs to be amended to state:

**“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for Sections 1 and 2 of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. **Such candidates shall be not be eligible for Sections 3 and 4 of the LARE until the candidate has a combination of six years of education and training experience as specified in section 2620.****

**A candidate's score on the LARE shall not be recognized in this State if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations for the examination or sections thereof. ”**

This change will update the criteria for eligibility to reflect the changes in the LARE format that will be implemented in September 2012, and clearly state that the LATC will not recognize the LARE scores of candidates that were not eligible to take the exam at the time they took the LARE.

### **Section 2620 – Education and Training Credits**

The LAAB is the accrediting organization for landscape architectural programs. As such, the LAAB develops standards to objectively evaluate landscape architectural programs and judges whether a school's landscape architectural program is in compliance with the accreditation standards. LAAB implemented new standards and procedures during fall 2010. LAAB released their updated “Accreditation Standards And Procedures” publication on February 6, 2010.

CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB's “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. The attached proposed language will update the name and release date of this publication to the most recent version.

#### Underlying Data

1. CLARB September 2012 LARE Transition – Frequently Asked Questions
2. LARE Transition Chart
3. Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, Accreditation Standards And Procedures, February 6, 2010

#### Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states, because it affects only candidates for examination and licensure.

### Economic Impact Assessment

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

- It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the health and welfare of California residents because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the state's environment because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

### Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

### Consideration of Alternatives

The LATC did not consider other alternatives to the proposed regulation because this is the best way to carry out the purpose for which the action is proposed.

No reasonable alternative to the regulatory proposal would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that ensures full compliance with the law being implemented or made specific.