

SUMMARY REPORT - FINAL

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD **Landscape Architects Technical Committee** **Teleconference**

January 16, 2009
Sacramento, California

LATC Members Present

Steve Lang, Chair
Christine Anderson
Andy Bowden
Stephanie Landregan (departed at 11:00 a.m.)

Liaison Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board (Board)

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Angelica Franco, Licensing Coordinator, LATC
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst, LATC

Guests Present

Jose Canul, Land Concern
Courtney Miller, Land Concern
Marjorie Morris, American Society of Landscape Architects
John Nicolaus, California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Rob Sawyer, Land Concern

A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum

Chair's Remarks

Public Comment Session

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Chair Steve Lang called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. LATC Program Manager Mary Ann Aguayo called roll. Four members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established.

B. Update and Possible Action on Governor's Reorganization Plan

Mr. Lang reviewed the letter dated January 2, 2009 from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Director, Carrie Lopez, which outlined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate and consolidate the LATC under the California Architects Board (Board). Ms. Aguayo

confirmed that in her meeting with DCA Chief Deputy Director Scott Reid, the LATC would be eliminated but licensure of the landscape architecture profession in California would remain. Doug McCauley stated that the proposal to eliminate the LATC and shift its regulatory function under the Board would involve review and recommendation by the Little Hoover Commission, the California Legislature, and ultimately require enacting changes to statutory language. He added that the LATC has already been consolidated since 1997 when the then Landscape Architects Board became the LATC under the purview of the Board.

Stephanie Landregan inquired whether the Board has discussed the potential elimination of the LATC. Mr. McCauley confirmed that it has been discussed with the Board President and The American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) and that they do not support the Governor's proposal. Mr. Lang questioned whether there was monetary savings by elimination and consolidation of the LATC. Mr. McCauley did not believe there would be as they are separate and distinct professions and that the Board would likely still recommend and need an advisory committee.

Ms. Aguayo reported there is going to be a meeting on January 22, 2009 of stakeholders in the profession and that the LATC has been invited. Ms. Landregan inquired whether there is any documentation reflecting cost savings. Ms. Aguayo stated that data has not been formally requested in order to show cost savings. Andy Bowden recommended that California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CCASLA) draft a letter specifically indicating that there is no cost to the State as the LATC is predominantly funded through license fees.

Christine Anderson reiterated that the LATC is already consolidated as part of the Board. Ms. Landregan suggested working with the Board to call attention to this argument. Mr. Bowden also believed CCASLA should work with AIACC on the issue. John Nicolaus reported that CCASLA is currently working on drafting a letter but not actively working with AIACC. Mr. McCauley shared that AIACC supports the efforts of CCASLA.

Marjorie Morris expressed concern that the next step would be to eliminate licensure of landscape architecture in California. Mr. McCauley explained there has not been any discussion to this effect and that the need for the licensure of the profession was demonstrated through the Sunset Review process. Ms. Landregan pointed out the landscape architecture extension certificate programs are approved by the LATC and that this approval process may be affected by the possible elimination and consolidation of the LATC. Mr. Bowden also noted there may be ramifications for California representation on the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). Ms. Landregan remarked that, as the largest licensing board in the nation, the elimination of the LATC would lose its deliberative opportunities at CLARB. Additionally, with licensure enforcement working under a different structure and without landscape architect deliberation of enforcement cases, the strength of licensure might be diminished.

Mr. McCauley reiterated the need to work closely with and in support of CCASLA, but also with CCASLA taking a lead role. Mr. Lang agreed and that the CCASLA response should reflect the concerns of the landscape architecture profession and the LATC and that Board support of the issue is important.

- **Andy Bowden moved to charge staff with drafting a point-by-point memorandum of the LATC meeting discussion including the support of the Board for submittal to DCA Director Carrie Lopez.**
- **Christine Anderson seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

Adjourn

- **Christine Anderson moved to adjourn.**
- **Andy Bowden seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.