



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH EXAMINATION, LICENSURE, AND REGULATION

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR

SUMMARY REPORT - FINAL

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
Landscape Architects Technical Committee

August 25, 2006
Sacramento, CA

LATC Members Present

Christine Anderson, Chair
Linda Gates
Stephanie Landregan (departed at 3:40 p.m.)
Steven Lang

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, California Architects Board (Board)
Vickie Mayer, Assistant Executive Officer, Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst
Mary Anderson, Exam Coordinator
Terri Villareal, Enforcement Coordinator
Patricia Fay, Licensing Coordinator

Guests Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board Liaison
Tracy Dean, Senior Budget Analyst, Department of Consumer Affairs
Jeffery Heller, Board President
Kevin Peterson, Budget Manager, Department of Consumer Affairs
Jessica Schroeder, Center for Public Interest Law
Antonette Sorrick, Deputy Director, Board Relations, Department of Consumer Affairs

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

Chair's Remarks

Public Comment Session

LATC Chair Christine Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and called roll. Four members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established. Dennis Otsuji was not present.

Ms. Anderson welcomed the newly appointed LATC member Steven Lang. Mr. Lang introduced himself to the Committee and Staff. Doug McCauley conducted the swearing in of Mr. Lang's appointment and Stephanie Landregan re-appointment to the LATC.

Ms. Anderson presented the public comment letter attached in the agenda requesting the LATC adopt a “non-active” licensee status at a reduced fee. The LATC discussed the LATC’s and Board’s status on “non-active” licensure. Linda Gates suggested researching this item and adding it to the next Strategic Planning session. The LATC agreed and directed staff to respond to the public comment letter and add this item to the next Strategic Planning session. Ms. Landregan suggested notifying licensed landscape architects of the provision in the Business and Professions Code regarding licensure and military status.

B. Review and Approve May 9, 2006 LATC Meeting Summary Report

Ms. Landregan suggested changes clarifying the discussion regarding retaining the six-year education/experience requirement. It would read, “The LATC went on to discuss the importance of universities and colleges to teach and stress landscape architecture specific to the licensure concerns that effect the public’s health safety and welfare.”

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to approve the May 9, 2006 LATC Meeting Summary Report as edited.**
- **Linda Gates seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

C. Program Manager’s Report

Mary Ann Aguayo presented the Program Manager’s Report. Ms. Aguayo discussed the status of a budget change proposal that, if approved, will provide ongoing funds to maintain an updated supplemental examination. She also notified the LATC that 2 of the 9 out of state travel requests for the 2006/2007 fiscal year were approved, one for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) annual meeting and one for the CLARB spring meeting.

Ms. Aguayo commented the newsletter has been sent to print. She also noted that there is pending legislation extending LATC Sunset Review to January 1, 2012.

Ms. Aguayo reported that LATC is implementing an Applicant Tracking System in order to automate candidate tracking functions; it is due to be completed in December 2006. Ms. Aguayo notified the LATC that the contract with CLARB was recently signed. The LATC expressed concern regarding the CLARB contracting process and plans to discuss it at the upcoming CLARB meeting.

Mary Anderson reported on recent Landscape Architect Registration Examination results stating that the scores have been trending up and that there were about 80 new applicants since last year. She went on to say that the multiple-choice examination will now be conducted every March and September in order to have an examination every 3 months.

Terri Villareal briefed the LATC on the status of new cases and completed citations stating that there were 5 new unlicensed activity complaints. She also reported that a citation hearing was held June 2006 in Los Angeles and the proposed decision on the hearing will next go to the Board for final decision. Ms. Landregan inquired and Ms. Villareal confirmed that enforcement actions will be published in the newsletter. The LATC felt enforcement actions should be accessible for consumer protection and should be a point of discussion at the next Strategic Planning session.

Ms. Aguayo reported that new regulations, CCR 2608, 2630 and 2630.1, were made effective on July 5, 2006. Additionally, she stated that two proposed regulations, CCR 2649 and 2670, are scheduled for public hearing on September 13, 2006.

D. Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

1. Report on August 24, 2006 Regional Teleconference Meeting

Ms. Landregan briefed the LATC on the teleconference; she noted every board except Utah was represented. She also stated that CLARB will be changing the way they report scores to candidates and that Buck Chaffee, the Executive Director, resigned and they have an interim replacement. The LATC discussed and decided on four items to forward to CLARB at the annual conference. They include: 1) the need to receive contract language in a more timely fashion, 2) the need for 18 months advance notice for each increase in the examination costs to allow time for the regulatory process, 3) an update/response on the pass/fail rate data detailed by state, and 4) request that open sessions for the annual and spring conferences be made available by teleconference or similar format. The LATC also went on to discuss the importance and validity of continuing education programs.

2. Review and Approve Nominations Slate

Ms. Anderson presented the nominations slate, and the LATC discussed regional and CLARB-wide positions.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved California support the candidate slate and the California representative.**
- **Linda Gates seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Review and Approve Revisions to Bylaws to Amend Nominating Committee Structure

The LATC discussed the first resolution and agreed to give it their support.

- **Linda Gates moved to support Resolution One – Allow Nomination of More than One Candidate for Office.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

The LATC discussed the second resolution and suggested some specific changes to the resolution.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to support Resolution Two – Revision to CLARB Bylaws to Amend Nominating Committee Structure with an amendment stipulating nominating committee members shall attend the mid-year meeting and be compensated by CLARB.**
- **Linda Gates seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

The LATC discussed and agreed that they would support the resolution if the amendment was not included.

- **Linda Gates moved to support Resolution Two – Revision to CLARB Bylaws to Amend Nominating Committee Structure.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

The LATC discussed the third resolution and agreed to withhold their support.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to not support Resolution Three – Revision to CLARB Bylaws to Amend Qualifications for Officers and Nominating Committee.**
- **Steven Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

The LATC discussed the fourth resolution and agreed to give it their support.

- **Linda Gates moved to support Resolution Four – Revision to CLARB Bylaws to Eliminate Nominations “from the Floor.”**
- **Christine Anderson seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

E. Review Process and Update on Occupational Analysis

Ms. Aguayo presented the progress to date on the Occupational Analysis of the landscape architecture profession. She explained the work that was done in the first two workshops on June 15-16 and July 20-21, 2006 was used to develop a questionnaire. This questionnaire along with a volunteer form was recently sent out to all California licensed landscape architects. The LATC offered to convey the importance of the questionnaire to the landscape architect profession.

Ms. Aguayo added there were six upcoming workshops scheduled. She explained items that would be covered in each workshop. The LATC suggested various ideas in order to encourage participation of the profession in this study and agreed to contact their peers.

F. Education Subcommittee Recommendations and Modification of Examination Eligibility Requirements

1. Report Outcome of Presentation to California Architects Board on June 7, 2006

Mr. McCauley presented a summary of the Board discussion relating to parity of education and experience credits to attain licensure in architecture and landscape architecture. He reported the concerns of the Board were that LATC give credit for accredited architecture degrees equivalent to that which the

Board gives for accredited landscape architecture degrees. More specifically, the Board felt that it should take an equitable amount of education plus experience for a graduate with an accredited architecture degree to qualify for the landscape architecture licensing examination as it does for a graduate with an accredited landscape architecture degree to qualify for the architect licensing examination.

2. Review and Approve Analysis on Landscape Architects versus Architects Educational Requirements for Examination per California Architects Board's Request

Ms. Aguayo reported on the Board's meeting with regard to the discussion of the Education Subcommittee recommendations. She stated the Board approved all recommendations with the exception of the item related to education requirement credits. Ms. Aguayo went on to say that the Board directed the LATC to re-examine and assess parity between educational credits the Board offers to candidates with degrees in landscape architecture and credits the LATC proposes to offer candidates with degrees in architecture, and modify its recommendation as appropriate. She presented a chart showing that parity does exist in the proposed regulatory language.

Ms. Aguayo stated the staff recommendation was that the LATC reconvene the Education Subcommittee in order to review and discuss the issues as outlined by the Board as well as other related issues. Staff would then prepare a response for review by the LATC, then forward it to the Board, subsequently report to the DCA and Legislature, and propose modifications to CCR 2620.

The LATC discussed and debated the experience and educational equivalents as it relates to licensure of landscape architects versus architects. Ms. Anderson noted the LATC's response should be responsive to the Board as well as anticipate others concern to adequately substantiate all the recommendations. Ms. Landregan questioned whether licenses from related professions should be considered. She also expressed concern over proposed language that, if approved, will allow licensee candidates with an accredited landscape architecture degree to take the multiple-choice examination sections before completing the experience requirements, whereas UCLA extension certificate holders would need to complete the experience required before testing. Mr. Lang mentioned that the Education Subcommittee looked into opening up several new avenues to licensure, yet the material reviewed convinced the Subcommittee that the landscape architect license requires at least one year of formal education.

The LATC members agreed that the Education Subcommittee should be reconvened in order to address the concerns brought forth by the Board relating to licensure parity. They further felt the Education Subcommittee take into account the "Issues for Consideration" presented and verify whether any changes they recommend conflict with the previous Education Subcommittee recommendations.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to reconvene the Education Subcommittee to address the issues brought forth by the Board as well as other issues raised, and substantiate the findings [Findings and Recommendations - California's Eligibility Requirements for Examination and Related Items 1 through 12].**
- **Linda Gates seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Review and Preliminary Approval of Proposal to Amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 26, Section 2620, Education and Training Credits

Ms. Landregan requested explanation of the regulatory language related to the UCLA certification program and asked that the Education Subcommittee provide clarification to this effect.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved that the Education Subcommittee review the entirety of the draft language in CCR 2620 with an emphasis on eligibility of extension program certificate holders to qualify for the multiple-choice examination sections, and LAAB accreditation and degree equivalency.**
- **Linda Gates seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Discuss Preparation of Structured Guidelines for Meeting Examination Experience Requirements

Ms. Anderson stated the intent on this item was to clarify the regulation prior to undertaking new guidelines. The LATC discussed various methodologies to inform candidates of the licensure requirements and possibly forming a task force to address the matter. The LATC agreed to bring the preparation of structured guidelines for meeting examination experience requirements to the next Strategic Planning session.

G. Budget Overview

Kevin Peterson and Tracy Dean from the Department of Consumer Affairs presented an overview of the Department's and LATC's budget and budget processes. Ms. Aguayo provided specific LATC budget expenditures for the 2005/2006 fiscal year by line item, and past and projected revenue in comparison to projected expenditures. The LATC discussed their concern regarding funding deficiencies in future budgets and whether legislation should be introduced to increase the landscape architecture licensure fees.

H. Review and Approve FAQ's for Amendments to Business and Professions Code Sections 5678.5 and 5679.5, Settlement/Arbitration Award Reporting Requirements

Mr. McCauley presented a brief background of the Board's experience with settlement reporting requirements. He went on to explain the FAQ regarding settlement/arbitration award reporting requirements. The LATC discussed issues pertaining to landscape architects as primary consultants and other matters related to reporting of settlements. The LATC also suggested adding to the FAQ additional information concerning landscape architects as primary consultants and stipulate what kind of settlement needs to be reported. The LATC requested the item be brought back at the next meeting with the additional questions and an example of the settlement reporting form.

I. LATC Volunteer Recognition Awards

Ms. Anderson announced the recipients of the LATC Volunteer Recognition Award are Richard Zweifel and Sandra Gonzalez. Ms. Landregan read a letter of acceptance and appreciation from Ms. Gonzalez. Since neither of the recipients was present to receive their award, the LATC discussed potential venues in which the awards could be presented.

J. Update on 2006 Strategic Plan Action Plan

Ms. Aguayo presented the Strategic Action Plan table. The LATC directed staff to update and include this item in subsequent meeting agenda packets.

K. Update on Sunset Review Committee

Ms. Landregan and Mr. Otsuji were not available to present this item. The LATC directed staff to continue this item to the next LATC meeting.

L. Review and Modify Tentative Schedule and Future LATC Meeting Dates

Future meetings will be tentatively held:

November 7, 2006

January 16-17, 2007 or January 29-30, 2007

The LATC directed staff to look into dates for a January 2007 Strategic Planning meeting date.

Adjournment

- **Linda Gates moved to adjourn.**
- **Steven Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0 (Stephanie Landregan was not present).**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.