



Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH EXAMINATION, LICENSURE, AND REGULATION

SUMMARY REPORT - FINAL

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
Landscape Architects Technical Committee

July 20, 2007
University of California Los Angeles Extension
Los Angeles, CA

LATC Members Present

Christine Anderson, Chair
Stephanie Landregan
Steve Lang

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Don Chang, Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Counsel
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst
Patricia Fay, Licensing Coordinator

Guests Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board Liaison
George Gentner, RJM Design Group
Jerry Hastings, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Extension
Anastasia Meadors, University of California Berkeley (UCB) Extension
Alexis Slafer, UCLA Extension
Diana Wu, UCB Extension

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. All three members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established.

The public members introduced themselves to the LATC. George Gentner summarized his letter to the LATC requesting consideration for relicensure. Ms. Anderson stated the Landscape Architect's Practice Act is clear on license renewal after expiration. Don Chang explained the LATC could not take action on this item, as it is not on the agenda. Stephanie Landregan suggested that this might be a chance to investigate creating suspended license status. The LATC

agreed. Ms. Landregan requested Mr. Gentner to formally send a letter with his response to the LATC and his experience with the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

Ms. Anderson addressed the public comment regarding the examination experience requirement. She stated the LATC did not have enough information at this time to address the concern. Ms. Landregan disagreed, asserting she felt the LATC did not have enough information to support a position on this matter and that the LATC could not explain why a licensed architect cannot be exempt from the experience requirement, (serving at least one year under a landscape architect) if they have completed a landscape architects program, in order to qualify for licensure. Steve Lang recalled the discussion at the Education Subcommittee regarding experience requirement and that their conclusion was based on thorough research of the topic. Mr. Chang recommended making this an agenda item so as to continue the discussion.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to review California Code of Regulations section 2620(c) requiring a licensed architect with a landscape architecture degree to possess at least one year of training under a landscape architect and bring this issue forward as an agenda item at the next LATC meeting.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

B. Approve May 4, 2007 and May 31, 2007 LATC Summary Reports

Ms. Landregan questioned the summary regarding Item E that had her making both motions. Ethan Mathes clarified that it was Linda Gates who seconded the motion. Ms. Anderson wanted Ms. Gates' second to the motion for Item F shown as a second to the "amended" motion. She also requested Item M to show that the item was continued to the next LATC meeting.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to approve the May 4, 2007 LATC Summary Report as amended.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 2-0 (Steve Lang abstained).**
- **Steve Lang moved to approve the May 31, 2007 LATC Summary Report.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

C. Program Manager's Report

Mary Ann Aguayo reported all purchasing authority is suspended until the new State budget is passed. The LATC was approved for one trip each to the Spring and Annual Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board (CLARB) meetings. She noted Ms. Anderson is currently serving in her one-year grace period, staff is continuing to work on updating various publications, and that the Mary Anderson and Jessica Molina are no longer with LATC.

Ms. Landregan asked about adding a Web page to the LATC Web site that would link to laws affecting landscape architects. The LATC agreed this would best be brought forward at the next Strategic Planning discussion. Ms. Anderson commented on the discrepancy of national versus California pass rate on Section B of the LARE. She requested that these test result comparisons be tracked for the next Sunset Review. Ms. Aguayo stated that she'd like to look into this issue further.

Mr. Mathes updated on the status of LATC regulatory actions. Ms. Landregan inquired about limits to the examination fees. Mr. Chang clarified that the LATC does not have a statutory limit pertaining to examination fees; rather, the statute states the LATC can recover the cost to purchase and administer the examination. Ms. Aguayo asked the LATC for help in acquiring technical experts in Southern California. Ms. Anderson encouraged the LATC to keep names in mind. Mr. Chang suggested reversing the review process where Northern California technical experts would review Southern California enforcement cases and vice versa.

D. Report on Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

1. Approve Officer Nominations

Ms. Landregan reported that Ms. Gates was not selected as a nominee for CLARB office due to the fact that she has not attended enough CLARB meetings. The LATC discussed the nominees for CLARB office. Ms. Landregan stated she appears to be next in line for Region V director.

- **Steve Lang moved to support the selection of Dennis C. Wilkinson for President elect, Karl "Gil" Berry for Second Vice President, and Denise Husband for Treasurer.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

The LATC expressed support for the revisions to the CLARB bylaws and also support for the new manner that CLARB uses (strikeout/underline) for recording changes to the bylaws. The LATC went on to discuss the role of CLARB and the LATC's position in the CLARB decision-making process; the LATC was concerned about the executive committee regarding its authority and duties.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to support the executive committee to have clearly defined authority with specific duties.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

E. Report on California Supplemental Examination (CSE) Redevelopment

- 1. Review and Discuss Draft Frequently Asked Questions to be Posted on the LATC Web Page**
- 2. Discuss Ongoing Redevelopment Process Improvements**

Ms. Anderson presented a summary of the California Supplemental Examination (CSE) redevelopment process to date. Ms. Landregan asked about the statement in the item summary regarding “concern” voiced by the California Architects Board (Board) and when they voiced their concern. Doug McCauley clarified there were Board meetings in the past where the Board expressed their concern that the CSE is not a valid examination and that the LATC should conduct an occupational analysis and examination validation. Ms. Landregan wanted to confirm specifically what the Board’s concern was. The LATC directed staff to research the specific Board concern and when LATC was notified of it. Staff informed the LATC that the Board’s concern was expressed at their December 4, 2003 meeting. Ms. Anderson commented, more importantly, the current concern is on the future of the CSE and its annual development.

Ms. Landregan inquired about notifying candidates on the changes to the CSE. Ms. Aguayo explained the CSE rollout process and timelines to implement the examination. The LATC requested that staff notify candidates within a week. Ms. Aguayo noted the Frequently Asked Questions still requires some clarification but that staff would be able to notify all concerned parties of the change to the CSE by next week. Notification would consist of contacting CLARB, posting information on the Web site and mailing information to all candidates. Ms. Anderson recommended selecting a better site for the annual CSE development, finding repeat volunteers, researching the process the Board uses for its annual development of its supplemental examination, and specify open communication in the bid package between the LATC and vendor (to annually develop the CSE). Mr. McCauley suggested reviewing the Board’s bid request package. The LATC agreed this would be helpful.

F. Review and Approve University of California Berkeley Extension Certificate Program Plan of Action and Timeline to Correct Unmet Standard

Anastasia Meadors notified that Heather Clendenin is no longer with the University of California Berkeley (UCB) Extension Certificate Program. She updated on the UCB Extension Certificate Program progress to date; career counseling and placement, tracking and maintenance of alumni, distribution of materials, addressing student issues, address the needs of prospective students, developing and maintaining an interactive and dedicated web site, creating a student and alumni database, building continuity within the program, and building relationships with instructors, students and administrators.

Mr. Lang suggested alumni of the UCB Extension Certificate Program speak at its open house event. UCB staff agreed this was a good idea. Mr. Lang inquired about tracking student success rates on the LARE in order to influence the ability of the UCB Extension Certificate Program to obtain accreditation. UCB staff agreed and would seek to include success rate on the LARE in its alumni survey. Ms. Aguayo suggested UCB Extension Certificate Program provide their 18-month conditional approval update by June 1, 2008. UCB staff agreed. Diana Wu reported the UCB Extension Certificate Program has started a search for a new director who will have a higher level of responsibility than the previous director.

- **Steve Lang moved to accept the University of California Berkeley Extension Certificate Program plan of action and timeline with their next report due on June 1, 2008.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**

- **The motion carried 3-0.**

Ms. Aguayo reported the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) is meeting and that extension program accreditation is still on their agenda for discussion. Mr. Lang asked about emphasizing the extension program accreditation with LAAB. Ms. Landregan related that part of the issue is CLARB's acceptance of the extension program accreditation for reciprocity candidates and that LAAB accreditation would help for reciprocity. Ms. Anderson commented the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects should push this issue forward. The LATC agreed.

G. Present the 2007 Landscape Architects Volunteer Recognition Award

The LATC announced the recipient of the 2007 LATC Volunteer Recognition Award is Ms. Slafer. Ms. Anderson commented on Ms. Slafer's important participation on the Education Subcommittee.

H. Review and Approve Proposal to Amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 26, Section 2649, Fees – Specific to the California Supplemental Examination

Ms. Anderson expressed concern for the increase in the fee to take the CSE but also acknowledged that due to the cost to annually develop the CSE it would be necessary. The LATC inquired as to the total cost to annually develop the CSE and whether the increase in the fee would cover these costs. Ms. Aguayo explained it would not capture all costs but is a start to ensure these costs would not be sustained by licensure fees. The LATC discussed the potential cost of annually developing the CSE and the fee that may be charged to candidates. Mr. Chang clarified the specific fee to take the CSE can be adjusted during the rulemaking process. Ms. Landregan suggested creating a tiered fee increase. Mr. Chang concurred that this was possible as long as it could be supported with data and meets policy concerns.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to approve the proposal to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 26, Section 2649, Fees – Specific to the California Supplemental Examination with an additional increase to \$275 effective July 1, 2009.**

The LATC discussed and debated the feasibility of the tiered increase, balanced with policy and implementation timeline concerns. Mr. Chang advised that if the LATC chose to modify the proposed language as presented the new proposed language would be required to go before the Board for approval. Rather, the LATC could approve the current proposed language and also approve a modification to the proposed language offering a tiered increase to the CSE fee, which would then go before the Board.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to amend her motion to approve the proposal to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 26, Section 2649, Fees – Specific to the California Supplemental Examination.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 26, Section 2649, Fees – Specific to the California Supplemental Examination with an additional increase to \$275 effective July 1, 2009.**
 - **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
 - **The motion carried 3-0.**
- I. Review and Approve Proposal to Delegate Administration and Reviews of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination Graphic Sections C and E to the CLARB**

Ms. Landregan inquired as to how the Board conducts its examination with its examination vendor, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). Mr. McCauley explained that the Board allows NCARB to develop and provide the national licensing examination. He encouraged the LATC to work with CLARB to be open with their examination development. The LATC agreed this was a good idea. Ms. Anderson expressed concern with CLARB controlling too much of the administration of the LARE. Mr. Chang agreed that the LATC might not want to give too much authority to CLARB and suggested including something in a contract with CLARB that would ensure LATC's continued inclusion with CLARB.

Ms. Landregan asked whether the LATC currently has a contract with CLARB to administer the multiple-choice sections of the LARE. Ms. Aguayo stated the LATC did not, the administration of the multiple choice sections are specified in a letter of understanding. Mr. Chang encouraged the LATC to acquire a contract with CLARB delineating the terms of administering the LARE. The LATC agreed; further, the LATC would retain the authority to grant approval of eligibility to take the LARE. All expectations between the LATC and CLARB should be clear and reflect any related concerns similar to the Board and NCARB.

Ms. Landregan questioned the impact on staff if the LATC did allow CLARB to administer the graphic performance sections of the LARE. Ms. Aguayo explained there is still need for an examination coordinator due to the LATC keeping its authority to grant eligibility and the annual development of the CSE. Mr. McCauley suggested researching other states in a similar position and ascertain their related concerns. Ms. Landregan also suggested investigating the effect on the health, safety and welfare of the public and also the cons of the proposal. She emphasized staff should research the effect on candidates and that any staff findings be brought back for discussion. The LATC directed staff to research other states' experiences, elaborate on the impact to staff, and come up with key points to address with CLARB that are in the LATC interest, using the Board as an example. Ms. Aguayo asked whether the LATC would like Jim Penrod to present at the next meeting. The LATC agreed more research and discussion is needed at this point.

J. Review Update of the 2007-08 Strategic Plan Action Plan and the Completed 2006-07 Strategic Plan Accomplishments – Discuss and Potentially Approve Establishing Subcommittees to Carry out Specific Objectives

Ms. Aguayo asked if there are specific goals or objectives in the Strategic Plan the LATC would like to see addressed that they could help form subcommittees using LATC members, prior members or outside licensed landscape architects. Ms. Landregan suggested prioritizing the objectives. The LATC agreed; the target dates serve as a useful means to prioritize the objectives. The LATC expressed concern in being able to find licensed landscape architects to champion specific objectives.

K. Review and Approve Letter to Landscape Architects that Certify Applicants Experience and Qualifications for Examination to Clarify Exam Content for Their Use in Providing Training Opportunities

Ms. Aguayo reminded the LATC that this item was an offshoot from the Strategic Planning meeting. The LATC agreed the goal is to lend credence to legitimize the signing off of experience served under a licensed landscape architect. Ms. Landregan suggested soliciting for volunteers at the end of the letter. The LATC suggested adding the bulk of the information provided in the letter to the Certification of Applicant's Experience and Qualifications form. Mr. Chang cautioned against adding any required action on the part of the candidate on the form, as that would require a regulation. The LATC agreed to include the language in the second paragraph and the bullets in the Certification of Applicant's Experience and Qualifications form and also to bring this issue back at the next Strategic Planning meeting.

- **Steve Lang moved to include the specified language and bullets in the provided letter to the Certification of Applicant's Experience and Qualifications form and give editorial authorization to LATC staff.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

L. Review Division of the State Architect's Requirement for an Architect or Registered Engineer Stamp on Projects Within the Realm of a Landscape Architect's License

Ms. Landregan commented the core issue is licensed architects are required to stamp work that they either did not do or do not have the qualifications to determine its merit. Mr. McCauley suggested the ASLA petition the Division of the State Architect (DSA) of any proposed change to the regulation regarding the DSA stamping issue. The LATC agreed. Mr. Chang recommended a meeting between ASLA, DSA and the LATC, to be initiated by ASLA.

M. Review and Potential Action on the Division of the State Architect Certified Access Specialist Program Proposed Regulations

The LATC recognized the proposed regulation did not reference an oversight board and also did not include LATC's suggested reference materials. Ms. Landregan noted that it is not clear in the

proposed regulation the voluntary nature of the certification and that it does not make clear the precedence of licensed landscape architects and licensed architects. Mr. McCauley commented the Board sent a letter to DSA commenting on these concerns.

- **Steve Lang moved for staff to prepare a letter to DSA reflecting the concerns of the LATC; the proposed regulation does not indicate landscape architects already perform the services specified for in this regulation and the LATC is in support of the Board's letter expressing their concerns on the proposed regulation.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

N. Review Tentative Schedule for Future Meetings and Schedule Annual Meeting

Ms. Anderson will attend the July 27, 2007 Board meeting. The LATC tentatively planned its annual strategic planning meeting for January 17-18, 2008, in Berkeley. Ms. Landregan asked to be notified of the next required ethics training.

Adjournment

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to adjourn.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.