



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
January 17-18, 2008

LATC Meeting
January 17, 2008
Berkeley, CA

LATC Members Present

Christine Anderson, Chair
Andy Bowden
Stephanie Landregan
Steve Lang

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Gary Duke, Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Counsel
Angelica Franco, Licensing Coordinator
Emon Graves, Examination Coordinator
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst
Terri Villareal, Enforcement Coordinator

Guests Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board Liaison
David Taylor, California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Richard Zweifel, Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

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

Chair's Remarks

Public Comment Session

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Chair Christine Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and called roll. All four members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established.

The LATC and staff welcomed new member Andy Bowden. Doug McCauley conducted the swearing in of Mr. Bowden's appointment.

Mr. McCauley reported the sunset review process is changing; licensing boards are not required to submit sunset review reports at this time and their sunset reviews may be delayed.

B. Approve October 9, 2007 LATC Summary Report

Stephanie Landregan asked about her request for a staff report of the communications plan. Mary Ann Aguayo explained the communications plan would be discussed at tomorrow's Strategic Planning meeting. Ms. Landregan also asked about the LATC's request for a report on the complaint and appeal process. Ms. Aguayo stated that the LATC and Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) already have a complaint process for general staff complaints and staff ensures complainants are aware that they can attend the open meetings to voice their concerns. Ms. Anderson suggested bringing this issue to the Strategic Planning meeting as part of future action for the LATC and staff. The LATC agreed.

Ms. Landregan requested readdressing the charge of the Sunset Review Subcommittee and suggested adding a staff member to the subcommittee. Ms. Anderson proposed bringing this issue up at the Strategic Planning meeting.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to approve the October 9, 2007 LATC Summary Report.**
- **Steve Lang seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 3-0 (Andy Bowden abstained).**

C. Program Manager's Report

Ms. Aguayo reported the California Supplemental Examination (CSE) development costs have not been budgeted for; therefore the ongoing development of the CSE will need to be absorbed within LATC's existing budget or require staff prepare a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) in order to fund these costs. Additionally, staff is gathering data in preparation for submitting a BCP to request that the enforcement analyst position be made full time. The proposed regulations for the Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Program are close to being finalized including suggested changes from the California Architects Board (Board). Mr. McCauley added that licensed landscape architects would be able to practice exclusively under CASp's parameters without certification.

Ms. Aguayo noted that there is still one vacancy on the LATC. Mr. Bowden recommended the California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects seek out members that may be interested in serving on the LATC. The LATC agreed.

Ms. Aguayo reported LATC's hardcopy records are vulnerable to a natural disaster and that the DCA's project to store the records electronically has been suspended due to lack of funding. Gary Duke added bureaus under the Director of DCA already electronically store their records but this may not be cost effective on a smaller scale such as the LATC. Ms. Aguayo reported DCA is going through its strategic planning process and is asking for a coordinated effort from all the boards and bureaus such as publicizing the value of licensure to professionals. DCA's

I-Licensing project is moving forward with each DCA entity paying for their use of the service, although LATC's portion should be minimal due to its small licensee population.

Ms. Aguayo reported that LATC staff continues to seek subject matter experts for the ongoing development of the CSE. Ms. Anderson reported on her experience at the computer based testing center visit on December 18, 2007; she shared that she had a good impression of the testing center and its functionality. The LATC discussed the importance of having the CSE widely available to eligible candidates.

Terri Villareal reported on enforcement and the recent implementation of an enforcement-tracking database. Mr. Bowden asked about the nature of enforcement complaints. Ms. Villareal explained most enforcement complaints deal with unlicensed activity with the rest a mixture of complaints against licensees. The majority of unlicensed activity complaints are due to a lack of knowledge of the Practice Act. The LATC discussed the challenge of communicating to consumers the scope of the practice on landscape architecture. Ms. Anderson suggested furthering this discussion at the Strategic Planning meeting as part of the LATC's public communication goals. Ms. Villareal also requested references for southern California technical experts.

Emon Graves reported that he spoke to the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) and they stated they would not be part of reviewing the accreditation of California's extension certificate programs due to dissimilar requirements between the certificate programs and degree programs. LAAB will be sending out surveys to state licensing boards and that this would be an opportune time for the LATC to make their comments clear regarding accreditation review of the extension certificate programs. LAAB indicated that if enough interest is expressed, they might establish separate accreditation criterion. Ms. Anderson encouraged the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) to look into LAAB accreditation of extension certificate programs, as the programs are an important avenue to licensure.

Ethan Mathes reported on the status of the pending fee regulation and a meeting scheduled the following week with the State and Consumer Services Agency Undersecretary regarding approval of the proposed regulatory package. Mr. Mathes also reported on recent updates to the LATC Web site. Mr. McCauley mentioned the Board's pending Web site created for students and that perhaps the LATC could look into a similar effort for landscape architecture students. The LATC discussed the impact of fees on landscape architecture candidates compared to architecture candidates. They also discussed the typical candidate's expense for gaining licensure and average number of times needed to take the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) before qualifying for licensure. Ms. Anderson reminded that these issues would come up again during the discussion on delegation of the LARE and at the Strategic Planning meeting.

D. Report on Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards

Ms. Landregan reported on the recent breach in LARE security during the December graphic examination and that a backup examination was used, which would now require the development of a new backup examination. This issue will be brought forward at the upcoming Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) Spring meeting in attempt to prevent

future examination security breaches. The LATC discussed the ramifications of examination security breaches and what CLARB could do if a breach happened again. Ms. Aguayo added that this specific issue is covered in the LATC's contract with CLARB ensuring the LATC is protected from a future occurrence. Ms. Landregan also reported CLARB is instituting a new computer system allowing them to provide better reports and data extraction for member boards.

Ms. Landregan reported that on January 1, 2008, CLARB's continuing education program was discontinued. She encouraged LATC member participation at the CLARB Spring and Annual meeting (to be held in San Diego September 4-6, 2008). Ms. Anderson noted that she would be able to attend CLARB's Spring meeting. Ms. Aguayo encouraged LATC members to participate in the upcoming CLARB teleconference.

E. Review Nominations and Approve Candidate for the 2008 LATC Volunteer Recognition Award

Ms. Anderson requested names for the 2008 LATC Volunteer Recognition Award. She nominated Cathy Blake and Ms. Aguayo noted that Ms. Blake was staff's recommendation as well.

- **Steve Lang moved to nominate Cathy Blake for the 2008 LATC Volunteer Recognition Award.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

F. Review and Approve Proposed Clean up Legislation for Business and Professions Code Section 5616 Exemptions

Mr. Duke confirmed the exemptions as provided in Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 5616 are similar to the Engineers Act. The LATC discussed requirements of a written contract, potential exemptions and the value of mimicking the exemptions as provided in the Engineers Act. Mr. McCauley recommended simplifying any necessary exemptions to written contracts. The LATC agreed with the staff summary, which states that the written contract exemptions effective January 1, 2008 in BPC section 5616 provide less protection to the health, safety and welfare of the public and recommends to remove exceptions in BPC section 5616 (c)(3)(A) through (H).

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to approve the amendments to BPC section 5616 removing exceptions in BPC section 5616 (c)(3)(A) through (H).**
- **Andy Bowden seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

G. Review and Approve Proposal to Delegate Administration and Reviews of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination Graphic Sections C and E to CLARB

Ms. Aguayo presented information reflecting that BPC 5651 had required experience under a licensed landscape architect for all licensure candidates. Ms. Anderson noted that the Education Subcommittee determined education and experience were both important aspects for licensure, but apparently the LATC had decided in the past to remove the regulatory experience requirement for reciprocity candidates. The LATC discussed the merits of requiring experience for all licensure candidates and how delegating the graphic sections of the LARE to CLARB would increase candidate costs for the examination. Mr. McCauley noted that, other than the Board's CSE, they utilize the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to administer its licensing examination. The LATC discussed their concern about candidates circumventing California's licensure requirements and agreed there is a lack of data to determine whether candidates are in fact circumventing California's licensure requirements through reciprocity. Ms. Landregan believed the increased cost to candidates as a result of delegating the graphic sections of the LARE to CLARB should be considered and requested this issue be brought back to the next LATC meeting for further discussion.

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to postpone the decision to delegate administration of the LARE Graphic Sections C and E to CLARB and to request staff bring back at the next meeting a cost comparison of candidates taking Graphic Sections C and E through California versus through CLARB.**
- **Andy Bowden seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

H. Report on Outcome of Task Group Review of Complaint Presented at October 9, 2007 LATC Meeting

Ms. Anderson summarized the nature of the complaint and that the LATC had requested at the October 9, 2007 meeting to follow up on staff's complaint process. She explained a task force met to review the internal complaint process and how it was applied to the specific complaint in question. The task force determined that the internal process is adequate and that this complaint was handled appropriately and effectively.

Review Tentative Schedule and Confirm Future LATC Meeting Dates

This agenda item was moved up from the January 18, 2008 Meeting Agenda.

Future LATC meetings will be tentatively held:

April 17, 2008, in Sacramento

May 9, 2008, Education Subcommittee, in Sacramento (tentative)

July 25, 2008, Southern California

October 24, 2008, location to be determined

Adjournment

- **Andy Bowden moved to adjourn.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Strategic Planning
January 18, 2008
Berkeley, CA

LATC Members Present

Christine Anderson, Chair
Andy Bowden
Stephanie Landregan
Steve Lang

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Vickie Mayer, Assistant Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Gary Duke, Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Counsel
Angelica Franco, Licensing Coordinator
Emon Graves, Examination Coordinator
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst
Terri Villareal, Enforcement Coordinator

Guests Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board Liaison
Adriana Rodriguez, Center for Public Interest Law
David Taylor, California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Richard Zweifel, Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**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 8:30 a.m. and called roll. All four members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established.

B. Strategic Planning Session

The LATC held its annual strategic planning session, facilitated by Daniel Iacofano of Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc (MIG).

Mr. Iacofano facilitated the discussion for drafting the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Strategic Plan. The LATC provided comments, clarification and suggested edits to Mr. Iacofano and staff. MIG will incorporate the edits into the Strategic Plan to be presented at the next LATC meeting. Upon approval by LATC, the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board for final approval.

Ms. Landregan requested that staff notate her recommendation that CLARB administer and provide examination validation for the CSE.

C. Review Tentative Schedule and Confirm Future LATC Meeting Dates

This item was addressed during the January 17, 2008 meeting.

Adjournment

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to adjourn.**
- **Andy Bowden seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.