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January 24, 2022

Mr. Jon S. Wreschinsky, Chair
California Architects Board
Landscape Architects Technical Committee
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Jon,

Thank you for your communication regarding CLARB's proposed Uniform Standard for Licensure. We are pleased to see that the LATC is already working on reducing barriers to licensure in California, including the recent change to allow for an experience only pathway. Additionally, we appreciate you sharing your concerns with the Standard and engaging with us as we try and figure out the best plan for adoption in every member jurisdiction. I have included a few points below for your consideration.

Regarding California's jurisdictional exam, the Standard was not written to reflect jurisdictions with additional exams, as a relatively small number require them. However, we do understand the unique circumstances in some member jurisdictions that require additional testing of content not covered on the L.A.R.E. As a result, nothing in the Standard would prevent California from still requiring the California Supplemental exam.

For the experience only pathway, we considered the requirements in all our member jurisdictions which ranged from 6 to 12 years as well as the requirements for licensure in engineering and architecture. While it may appear that 8 years of experience is a barrier to licensure compared to 6 years, unifying licensing requirements for "alternative pathways" will ultimately reduce barriers and time to licensure for all candidates.

Additionally, for the growing population of international candidates, and our members in Canada, it was important for the Standard to recognize programs accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council and other international equivalencies.

As far as defining "alternative pathways", we are referring to any path outside of the LAAB/LAAC or international equivalent pathway. The standard continues to place an emphasis on landscape architecture education, including non-accredited programs and certificate programs, like the UCLA Extension Program. The Standard gives credit for degrees or certificates outside of landscape architecture as well. These additional pathways would be accessible for applicants with degrees in related fields such as engineering or architecture.

As part of our "Rethink Regulation" work CLARB continues to support jurisdictions moving to "Direct Registration" for applicants holding and accredited degree in landscape architecture. Our data shows virtually no difference in performance on the L.A.R.E. for applicants coming from "Pre-approval"

jurisdictions compared to “Direct Registration” ones. Allowing for “Direct Registration” provides applicants with greater flexibility and enables them to determine when they are ready to take each section of the exam. For many candidates this reduces the time to licensure while performing as well or better on the exam.

We appreciate the continued conversation around the Uniform Standard as we know this is a big initiative and are more than happy to discuss any concerns or questions further. There is no expectation on timing for when members implement the Uniform Standard within their jurisdiction. CLARB is committed to working with the LATC to determine the timing that makes the most sense for you and supporting you through that process.

Sincerely,



Chuck Smith, President



Matt Miller, CEO

cc: Trish Rodriguez, LATC Program Manager