



MEETING MINUTES

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD Landscape Architects Technical Committee Meeting

March 22, 2024
Webex Teleconference
Sacramento, CA

Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC/Committee) Members Present

Pamela S. Brief, Chair
Patricia M. Trauth, Vice Chair (arrived at 11:04 a.m.)
Andrew C. N. Bowden
Susan M. Landry
Jon S. Wreschinsky

California Architects Board (CAB) Members Present

Ronald A. Jones, Vice President

Staff Present

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer
Jesse Laxton, Assistant Executive Officer
Kimberly McDaniel, LATC Program Manager
Nicholas Barnhart, Examination Coordinator
Kourtney Fontes, Special Projects Analyst
Coleen Galvan, Communications Analyst
Drew Liston, Board Liaison
Timothy Rodda, Regulations Manager

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Staff Present

Elizabeth Coronel, SOLID Strategic Planning Manager
Harmony DeFilippo, Budget Manager
Yvonne Dorantes, Assistant Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations
Luke Fitzgerald, Budget Analyst
Helen Geoffroy, Legal Affairs Attorney III
Brian Knox, OPES Test Developer
Karen Okicich, OPES Research Data Supervisor II
Bryce Penney, Television Specialist
Sam Singh, Legal Affairs Attorney III

Guests Present

Amy Costa, Full Moon Strategies

Stephanie Landregan, Program Director, University of California, Los Angeles
(UCLA) Extension
Ellon Brittingham, Full Moon Strategies
Tracy Morgan Hollingworth, California Council of American Society of Landscape
Architects (CCASLA)
Vicki Phillipy, CCASLA
David Tatsumi, CCASLA
Todd Traunero, California Department of Transportation

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

Chair Pamela S. Brief called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and called roll. Four members of LATC were present, thus a quorum was established.

B. Chair's Procedural Remarks and Committee Member Introductory Comments

Ms. Brief explained the meeting was held via Webex pursuant to Government Code section 11123.5, and that LATC members should keep their camera on during the meeting. She stated that all motions and seconds will be repeated for the record and votes on all motions will be taken by roll call.

C. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Brief invited members of the public to address the LATC.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stephanie Landregan asked if the Committee would discuss the sunset review process. Ms. Brief confirmed it would be discussed under agenda items J and K. Todd Traunero commented that he was attending the meeting on behalf of the California Department of Transportation.

D. Update on the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

Assistant Deputy Director of Board and Bureau Relations Yvonne Dorantes reported that the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency officially welcomed Secretary Tomiquia Moss in February. She reminded the Committee of the Department of Finance's Budget Letter that directed all state agencies under the Governor to take immediate action to reduce current year expenditures. She reported that DCA's DEI Steering Committee will hold its next meeting in April to discuss DEI actions, priorities, and language access.

Ms. Dorantes answered questions posed by members of the Committee.

E. Budget Update from DCA Budget Office

Budget Analyst Luke Fitzgerald summarized the LATC's expenditure projections and fund condition statement included in the meeting materials.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Budget Manager Harmony DeFilippo answered questions posed by members of the Committee. Ms. Brief requested a breakdown of the costs included under the "Facilities" budget category.

F. Review and Possible Action on November 17, 2023, LATC Meeting Minutes

- **Susan M. Landry moved to approve the November 17, 2023, LATC Meeting Minutes as presented.**

Andrew C. N. Bowden seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the public.

Members Bowden, Landry, Wreschinsky, and Chair Brief voted in favor of the motion. Member Trauth was absent. The motion passed 4-0.

G. Legislation Update

1. SB 1452 (Ashby) Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Executive Officer Laura Zuniga summarized and reported on the status of SB 1452. Ms. Zuniga answered questions posed by members of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stephanie Landregan asked how the bill's fiscal impact will be prepared. Ms. Zuniga explained that both the DCA Budget Office and the legislature complete a fiscal analysis for each bill. Ms. Landregan asked if the bill requires LATC to promulgate regulations. Ms. Zuniga explained that the current bill does not require LATC to promulgate regulations and confirmed that there is a fiscal component to the regulatory process. Tracy Morgan Hollingworth expressed concern about LATC possibly merging with CAB.

H. Executive Officer's Report – Update on Board's Administration / Management, Examination, Licensing, and Enforcement Programs

Ms. Zuniga reported on the Board's meetings, business modernization project, examination statistics, and enforcement activity. Ms. Zuniga answered questions posed by members of the Committee. Mr. Wreschinsky stated that the LATC should consider amending California Code of Regulations, title 16, division 26, article 1, section 2615(a)(2) to remove the requirement for candidates to hold a four-year degree in addition to an approved extension certificate.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stephanie Landregan recommended reaching out to the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) to address examination pass rates.

I. Discuss and Possible Action on Licensure Examination Pass Rates of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) and the California Supplemental Examination (CSE)

LATC Examination Coordinator Nicholas Barnhart summarized the LARE and CSE data included in the meeting materials. Mr. Barnhart answered questions posed by members of the Committee. Ms. Landry suggested collecting examination data of candidates with alternative degrees. Ms. Trauth agreed and suggested tracking pass rates of experience only candidates as well.

J. Discuss and Possible Action on Structure and Operations Subcommittee Addresses the following 2022-2024 Strategic Plan Objective:

1. Research the Economic and Consumer Protection Impact of Re-Establishing the Landscape Architects Board or Establishing a Merged Board with the California Architects Board to Provide Better Representation, Strengthen the Distinction Between the Two Entities, and Increase Efficiency

Mr. Wreschinsky reported that he and Andrew Bowden will serve on the Structure and Operations Subcommittee and will reach out to subject matter experts as needed. Mr. Bowden provided historical background on this strategic plan objective and suggested involving other stakeholders in future discussions of this topic. He asked staff to provide information on merged boards of other states. Ms. Brief asked if LATC should consider fiscal savings that could be realized with a merged board. Ms. Zuniga explained that it would be hard to put a dollar amount on potential savings. She reminded the Committee that there are vacant positions within LATC and CAB and explained that it could be possible to combine licensing and enforcement functions. Ms. Landry asked who would determine if the LATC and CAB should merge and how many landscape architect members would be on the merged board. Ms. Zuniga confirmed the Legislature would make the final determination. Ms. Zuniga answered additional questions about the sunset review hearing posed by members of the Committee. Ms. Trauth expressed support for a merged board. Ms. Brief suggested that CAB Vice President Ronald Jones work with the Subcommittee as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stephanie Landregan encouraged LATC to work closely with CAB in the sunset review process and research if the recent merge of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists caused any issues. Tracy Morgan Hollingworth expressed concern on behalf of CCASLA with the small number of landscape architects that could be on a merged board. Eilon Brittingham stated that the International Interior Design Association shares an interest in modernizing oversight for design professionals in the states and looks forward to stakeholder engagement on this topic.

K. Review and Discuss and Possible Action on Sunset Review Hearing

Ms. McDaniel reminded the Committee members that the LATC has 30 days to respond to the questions provided by the legislature. Ms. Zuniga summarized the legislature's questions for both LATC and CAB. The Committee discussed the question related to a possible merged board. Ms. Zuniga stated that staff would work with Chair Brief to prepare the final responses to the legislature.

L. Review of Future Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Zuniga reminded the Committee that LATC has the ability to meet virtually, and CAB does not.

M. Closing Comments

Mr. Wreschinsky shared that he can report on the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards' Experience Requirements Workgroup at the next LATC meeting.

N. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.