

# THE GREEN SCENE

WINTER 2026

## Executive Officer's Message: LAURA ZUNIGA



Happy New Year! For 2026, Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) is focusing on implementing its new Strategic Plan, which it adopted in 2025. State agencies are required to develop strategic plans, measurable performance objectives, and continuous improvement processes, all of which are critical to making state government programs and operations more efficient and effective. The strategic planning process results in decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does,

and why it does it. LATC staff, led by Program Manager Kim McDaniel, will actively work to implement the goals and objectives adopted by LATC members. LATC staff are all relatively new to the program, and I am thankful for their dedication to our consumer protection mission and the service and support they provide to applicants, licensees, stakeholders, and the public.

Sincerely,



LATC Executive Officer

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## Landscape Architects Technical Committee

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## Chair's Message: PAMELA BRIEF



### Welcome to the Inaugural LATC Newsletter!

We're thrilled to launch the first edition of the LATC Newsletter! Our goal is to keep you connected and informed. In each issue, we'll provide valuable information for both California consumers and licensed landscape

architects, covering licensee requirements and essential tips for consumers looking to hire. At LATC, we believe in clear communication and are dedicated to enhancing how we connect with all landscape architects and consumers across California.

Last year, we updated our Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. This year, we're diligently working to achieve the goals outlined in the plan. If you're interested in learning more, you can view a copy of the plan directly

via this link: [www.latc.ca.gov/docs/publications/strategic\\_plan\\_2025\\_2028.pdf](http://www.latc.ca.gov/docs/publications/strategic_plan_2025_2028.pdf). You can also find it on our website under the "Publications" section.

We recently submitted a letter in response to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's draft rule text. While we support certain fire protection recommendations, we also have concerns about potential implications for public health, safety, and welfare.

If you're not familiar with this regulatory proposal, we encourage you to visit the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website to learn more.

Through collaboration, increased enforcement awareness, and ongoing evaluation of how emerging technologies like AI impact our profession, we remain committed to regulating the practice of landscape architecture effectively. Our goal is to protect public health, safety, and welfare—while also safeguarding the environment.

Please feel free to submit suggestions for topics you would like us to consider for our upcoming editions.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Brief*

LATC Chair

## LATC Offers Outreach

Are you interested in outreach or having LATC host a presentation? LATC is committed to engaging with the community, supporting consumers, and protecting public health, safety, and welfare through outreach and education. If you are planning an educational seminar or student-focused gathering, LATC would be pleased to participate and share valuable information about licensure and professional standards.

LATC offers School Presentation Services (found on the Committee's website) that cover the following topics:

### Landscape Architect Technical Committee:

- An overview and history of LATC
- Roles and responsibilities of LATC

### Consumer Protection:

- The complaint process
- How to respond if contacted by LATC
- License verification
- Laws and regulations overview

### Application and Licensure Process:

- Overview of applications
- How to renew a license

### Online Services:

- LATC website
- LATC Connect Platform (application and renewal system)
- Listserv (interested parties email list)
- Social media (Instagram, LinkedIn, Bluesky)

To learn more about LATC's outreach efforts or to schedule a presentation, contact LATC at [LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov). Whether the presentation is in-person or virtual, LATC welcomes the opportunity to connect with aspiring and practicing landscape architects across California.





# LA Fires: Renewal Fee Postponement

On January 29, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-15-25, granting a one-year postponement of license renewal fees for Department of Consumer Affairs licensees whose licenses expire between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, and whose residences or businesses fall within designated wildfire-impacted zip codes.

Licensees that live or work in one of the impacted zip codes and have a license expiring during the affected timeframe may renew their license without paying the renewal fee. Note: The fee is not waived; it is only postponed until 2026.

The impacted zip codes are 90041, 90049, 90265, 90272, 90290, 90402, 91001, 91024, 91103, 91104, 91107, 91367, and 93536.

## Important Reminders:

- Licensees must still complete the renewal application on time, even if no fee is due.
- The renewal fees will be postponed until 2026.
- The renewal system will automatically recognize eligible licensees and reflect a \$0 payment due during the renewal.

For more information or to view the Executive Order, visit [www.dca.ca.gov/renewal\\_deferral/](http://www.dca.ca.gov/renewal_deferral/).

## Get Paid to Volunteer!

### Help Shape the Landscape Architect California Supplemental Exam

LATC is seeking dedicated and qualified licensed landscape architects to serve as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for the development of the California Supplemental Exam (CSE). SMEs selected to participate will receive a \$200 honorarium and reimbursement for all board-approved travel expenses.

To ensure the CSE accurately reflects current professional practice, SMEs will participate in two-day examination development workshops held virtually or in Sacramento. These workshops are critical to maintaining the integrity and relevance of the licensing process. Participants will engage in activities such as writing and refining test questions, reviewing content for clarity and accuracy, and contributing to the standard-setting process that determines passing scores.

Qualified SMEs must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a current and active California landscape architect license (not retired).
- Be actively working in the profession with up-to-date knowledge and experience.
- Not currently serving as a member of a board, bureau, or committee, to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

LATC aims to assemble a group that reflects the diversity of the profession—taking into consideration geographic region, practice specialty, ethnicity, and gender to ensure a well-rounded and inclusive examination development process.

If you are a licensed professional who is passionate about contributing to the future of the landscape architecture profession in California, LATC encourages you to get involved.

For more information on how to apply or participate, please contact LATC at [LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov).





# Frequently Asked Questions

Each newsletter will feature answers to some of the most common questions received from license candidates. This section is designed to provide helpful guidance, clarify application and examination procedures, and provide support throughout the application and licensure process.

**Q. I have submitted my application. Can you confirm I did not miss anything?**

**A.** If any information or documentation is missing or requires clarification, the Licensing and Exam Coordinator will contact candidates directly. To help avoid delays, be sure to review the application requirements carefully before submitting your materials. LATC appreciates your patience as each application is reviewed thoroughly in the order received.

**Q. What is the process for a candidate with a degree from outside the United States?**

**A.** Candidates with international education must meet the same requirements as all other candidates. These include:

- Submission of verified academic credentials
- Documentation of qualifying education and experience
- Completion of the California Supplemental Examination (CSE)
- Passing scores on the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE)

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To determine whether your degree meets California's educational requirements, LATC requires an evaluation. Candidates who received their education at colleges and universities outside the United States may be eligible to take the LARE. Candidates must submit a credential evaluation report, which includes information about the candidate's credential (diploma or degree) and its US equivalent. These reports are prepared by credential evaluation services after examining the candidate's education documentation for accuracy and authenticity. Although these companies typically offer several levels of evaluation, LATC only requires a "general" evaluation equating the degree to a comparable US degree in landscape architecture. The fees associated with obtaining a credential evaluation are the candidate's responsibility.

Upon receipt of the required documentation, the LATC Licensing and Exam Coordinator will conduct a review to determine if the candidate is eligible. The credential evaluation report is used to determine if the candidate has received an education that meets LATC's established requirements. Candidates will receive written notification regarding determination of eligibility.

### **Q. What is the application processing time?**

**A.** Please allow up to 45 days for LATC to process your application after it is received.

### **Q. What should I do if I forgot to attach something to my application?**

**A.** If you realize that you forgot to include a required item with your application, and your application has already been evaluated, and you've received communication from the Licensing and Exam Coordinator via the Connect portal, upload the missing item(s) directly to your Connect application. The item(s) will then be attached to your existing application. If your application has not yet been evaluated, email the item(s) to [LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov), and the Licensing and Exam Coordinator will ensure everything is added to your application prior to the review.

### **Q. How do I get hard cards for fingerprints mailed to me?**

**A.** Submit your fingerprint hard card request using the 'Contact Us' form at [www.latc.ca.gov](http://www.latc.ca.gov). Within three to four weeks, you will receive two FD258 hard cards, a copy of the privacy notices, a fee schedule, and instructions for printing and returning the cards to LATC. You will be required to submit a check or money order for the fingerprint card processing fee, currently \$49 (\$32 for the Department of Justice, \$17 for the FBI), when you return the cards to LATC.



# Enforcement Actions

September 2024–February 2025

## Final Citations

Michelle Langdon (La Mesa) – LATC issued a two-count citation with a \$500 administrative fine to Michelle Langdon, an unlicensed person, for alleged violations of Business and Professions Code sections 5640 and 5641.

On or about October 5, 2023, a licensed landscape architect received a set of plans in PDF format to review from a homeowners association in Poway, California. The plans were produced by Michelle Langdon, who is not a licensed landscape architect. The complainant, a licensed landscape architect, alleged that the plans provided way more details than a landscape designer is allowed to do.

Among its services, Langdon's website offers "full landscape concept plans" that include hardscape plans (elements such as patios, outdoor kitchens, pools, spas, etc.).



On the landscape concept plans for the Poway project, Langdon provides the following: exact quantities of materials and directions for how to install the tile material; physical dimensions, which are more consistent with construction drawings; and very precise and detailed linework and callout information for a BBQ and overhead trellis structure. Langdon's preparation of conceptual plans with exact quantities of materials and installation directions, physical dimensions, and precise detailed linework with callout information for a structure constitutes a violation of Business and Professions Code section 5641. Langdon's company LinkedIn profile indicates it offers "Landscape Architecture" services under "Specialties," indicating to the public that she is a landscape architect or qualified to engage in the practice of landscape architecture and constituting a violation of Business and Professions Code section 5640. The citation became final on October 6, 2024, but LATC has not been able to collect the funds.

## Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Committee Meetings for 2026

LATC is pleased to announce its next scheduled committee meetings for 2026. LATC committee meetings serve as key opportunities for members of the public and stakeholders in the landscape architecture community to stay informed, engage in discussion, and contribute to the future of the profession in California.



Detailed agendas, meeting materials, and participation instructions will be made available on the LATC website at least 10 days prior to each meeting, in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Meeting materials may be found online at [www.latc.ca.gov/about\\_us/meetings/](http://www.latc.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/).

Whether you are a licensed landscape architect, a member of the public, a student, an educator, or simply interested in the profession, attending a LATC meeting is a great way to stay connected to the regulatory landscape and contribute your voice.

# Navigating Connect

## Learn About the New Online Licensure System



### Your Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Started

Welcome to the "Navigating Connect" series, created to guide future landscape architects through LATC's new online application portal, Connect. Whether you are just starting the journey or seeking licensure by reciprocity, this series will help make the process smooth and clear.

LATC transitioned to the Connect platform in May 2023, giving candidates and licensees a streamlined way to:

- Apply for eligibility for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE)
- Apply for the California Supplemental Examination (CSE)
- Apply for or renew a California landscape architect license
- Apply for reciprocity

#### Step 1: Create Your Connect Account

Start by visiting <https://connect.latc.ca.gov>.

- Register by entering your email address. This will also be your username.
- Double-check for typos! This is critical. If your email address is incorrect, you won't receive a temporary password to log in.
- After registering, look out for a confirmation email from Connect with your temporary password to log in. This will be emailed immediately after registering. Check your spam or junk folder if you do not see the email.
- Log in using your email and temporary password.
- Change your password when prompted.
- Once your password is updated, you will arrive at your Connect dashboard.

Having trouble registering? Contact us at [LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov) for assistance.

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### Step 2: Submit Your Application

Once you are registered, it's time to apply.

- If you are new to the licensure process, complete the Eligibility Application to be found eligible to sit for the LARE exam.
- If you have passed all sections of the LARE, complete the California Supplemental Examination (CSE) Application.
- Once you have passed both the LARE and the CSE, complete the Initial License Application.
- If you are already licensed in another state, complete the Reciprocity Application.

It is important to note that only one application should be submitted at a time, and a candidate should not move on to the next application until they receive approval from LATC through their Connect portal. Also, official transcripts sent to LATC must be sent by the educational institution to the LATC email: [LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov) or mailed to:

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee  
2420 Del Paso Road #105  
Sacramento, CA 95834

### Step 3: Pay and Submit

After completing your application, you will be directed to the payment screen.

- Confirm you have selected the correct application and fee.
- Enter your payment details and submit.
- You will receive a confirmation email once payment is complete and your application has been submitted.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for review. LATC will notify you via email if you are eligible to move forward with scheduling an examination or if there is a deficiency in your application.

You can track your application status anytime through your Connect dashboard.

No update after 8 weeks? Contact LATC at  
[LATC@dca.ca.gov](mailto:LATC@dca.ca.gov).

Stay tuned for the next article in our "Navigating Connect" series, where we'll dive deeper into the next steps after your application is approved.



## Newly Licensed Landscape Architects

LATC proudly congratulates our newly licensed landscape architects on reaching this significant professional milestone.

You should have received a welcome packet containing your wall certificate, instructions for your stamp, and the *Consumer's Guide to Hiring a Landscape Architect*.

To stay informed about LATC updates and issues affecting your license, please visit [www.latc.ca.gov/](http://www.latc.ca.gov/).

Be sure to also follow LATC on social media to keep up with the latest news and developments.

Congratulations on your achievement!

LICENSE TYPE	LICENSE NUMBER	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
LA	7067	JEANNETTE	PULNIK
LA	7068	ROBERT GEORGE	NG
LA	7069	MARCO RICARDO	BARRANTES
LA	7070	MARK	PRIETO-INES
LA	7071	ELISE MARIE	HEIKKINEN
LA	7072	HOPE	HARDESTY
LA	7073	HOI YING GRACE	LAM
LA	7074	JARED RANDY	MANSILL
LA	7075	ANDREW	STINEAN
LA	7076	JOHN DAVIS	BUSH
LA	7077	JIANCHUN	ZHU
LA	7078	XIAOYE	XING
LA	7079	JENNIFER L.	MAUGHAN
LA	7080	LANCELOT	HUNTER
LA	7081	KATHRYN	LUGO
LA	7082	CHRISTINA MARIE	DU MONT
LA	7083	ZHIYU	WEI
LA	7084	BENJAMIN JOHN	RIGBY
LA	7085	CHUAN	DING

LICENSE TYPE	LICENSE NUMBER	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
LA	7086	JEANINE L.	SHARKEY
LA	7087	JUNPEI	ASAI
LA	7088	ERIC	HALEY
LA	7089	EARL H.	GRAFFAM
LA	7090	XIAO	HU
LA	7091	CHRISTOPHER ROBERT	FORTUNATO
LA	7092	EULAILIA RAE	ISHEE
LA	7093	WEN	SHANG
LA	7094	AISTA	SOBOUTI
LA	7095	ROBERT ALAN	SELING
LA	7096	MEGAN	CLERMONT
LA	7097	SCOTT G.	SLANEY
LA	7098	CONNIE	CHANG
LA	7099	BARBARA	NAZAREWICZ
LA	7100	BERTILLA	MARTIN DE BAUDINIERE
LA	7101	LOGAN	MOORE
LA	7102	JONATHAN MICHAEL	NGAI
LA	7103	YANG	LIU



**Landscape Architects Technical Committee**

2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105

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Address Service Requested

## Follow LATC on Social Media

LATC is excited to connect with the community online! Candidates, consumers, professionals, and stakeholders are invited to follow LATC on social media for timely updates, helpful resources, and important reminders.

### Follow LATC on your favorite platforms:



Bluesky: [ca-latc.bsky.social](https://ca-latc.bsky.social)



Instagram: [@CA\\_LATC](https://www.instagram.com/@CA_LATC)



X: [@CA\\_LATC](https://www.x.com/@CA_LATC)



LinkedIn: [social.latc.ca.gov](https://www.linkedin.com/company/social.latc.ca.gov)

