

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: **August 6, 2012**

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulation: Education and Training Credits

Sections Affected: California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 26, Sections 2615 and 2620

As a result of legislative reorganization, the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC), established on January 1, 1998, replaced the former Board of Landscape Architects and was placed under the purview of the California Architects Board (Board). Business and Professions Code section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary in order to carry out the provisions under the Landscape Architects Practice Act.

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

1. Problems being addressed:

CCR section 2615 – Form of Examinations. This section needs to be updated to reflect upcoming changes in the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE). The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) is the national test vendor that supplies the LARE, the licensing examination, to the LATC. In September 2012, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content with current practice. The new exam will consist of four (1-4) rather than five (A-E) sections and will move to a fully computerized model. All sections of the new LARE will consist of multiple choice questions. The current regulation language of CCR section 2615 provides that all multiple choice sections can be taken by candidates who have received their degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture. If the regulation is not modified, candidates with a degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture could potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before completing all of the eligibility requirements. The regulation needs to be amended to refer to the multiple choice sections as Sections 1 and 2 of the new LARE. This regulation also needs to be updated to clearly state that a candidate's LARE score shall not be recognized in California if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations.

CCR section 2620 – Education and Training Credits. This section currently references the outdated Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) "Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture" publication dated February 26, 1990. The regulation needs to be amended to reflect the proper reference to the current accreditation standards publication.

CCR section 2620(a)(4) includes the phrase “city/community college.” This phrase needs to be corrected to say “community college” because city colleges and community colleges are both two-year Associate Degree programs.

2. Anticipated benefits from these regulatory actions:

The proposed change to CCR section 2615 will clarify which sections of the new LARE candidates, who have their degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture, will be eligible to take when the new LARE is implemented. Candidates with a degree or extension certificate in landscape architecture will only be able to take Sections 1 and 2 of the new LARE instead of potentially being able to take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before they are eligible to take it.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620 will update the name and release date of the LAAB’s Accreditation Standards and Procedures publication to the most recent version. CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB’s “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. This update will ensure that CCR section 2620 references the most current publication of the CLARB accreditation standards and procedures.

The proposed change to CCR section 2620(a)(4) will remove unnecessary redundancy in referring to community colleges and result in regulation language that is easier to read.

Factual Basis/Rationale

Section 2615 – Form of Examinations

CLARB is the national test vendor that supplies the LARE, the licensing examination, to the LATC. In September 2012, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content of the LARE with current practice. The new exam will consist of four (1-4) rather than five (A-E) sections and will move to a fully computerized model. All sections of the LARE will consist of multiple choice questions. **CCR section 2615 (a) – Form of Examinations** states:

“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for **the multiple choice sections** of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.”

This regulation needs to be updated to refer to the “multiple choice sections” of the LARE to “Sections 1 and 2” of the new LARE. This section also needs to address candidates who take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before they have met California’s eligibility requirements. Candidates can potentially take Sections 3 and 4 of the new LARE before meeting California’s

eligibility requirements because CLARB's exam scheduling system does not screen or limit candidates based on California's requirements. This section needs to be amended to state:

“(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), a candidate who has a Board-approved degree in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from a Board-approved school in accordance with section 2620(a)(3) shall be eligible and may apply for Sections 1 and 2 of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. **Such candidates shall be not be eligible for Sections 3 and 4 of the LARE until the candidate has a combination of six years of education and training experience as specified in section 2620.**

A candidate's score on the LARE shall not be recognized in this State if at the time the candidate took the LARE, the candidate was not eligible in accordance with California laws and regulations for the examination or sections thereof. ”

This change will update the criteria for eligibility to reflect the changes in the LARE format that will be implemented in September 2012, and clearly state that the LATC will not recognize the LARE scores of candidates that were not eligible to take the exam at the time they took the LARE.

Section 2620 – Education and Training Credits

The LAAB is the accrediting organization for landscape architectural programs. As such, the LAAB develops standards to objectively evaluate landscape architectural programs and judges whether a school's landscape architectural program is in compliance with the accreditation standards. LAAB implemented new standards and procedures during fall 2010. LAAB released their updated “Accreditation Standards And Procedures” publication on February 6, 2010.

CCR section 2620 currently references the outdated LAAB's “Accreditation Standards for Programs in Landscape Architecture” publication dated February 26, 1990. The attached proposed language will update the name and release date of this publication to the most recent version.

Underlying Data

1. CLARB September 2012 LARE Transition – Frequently Asked Questions
2. LARE Transition Chart
3. Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, Accreditation Standards And Procedures, February 6, 2010

Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states, because it affects only candidates for examination and licensure.

Economic Impact Assessment

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

- It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the health and welfare of California residents because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the state's environment because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

The LATC did not consider other alternatives to the proposed regulation because this is the best way to carry out the purpose for which the action is proposed.

No reasonable alternative to the regulatory proposal would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that ensures full compliance with the law being implemented or made specific.