

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: No hearing has been scheduled for the proposed action.

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulation: Examination Transition Plan

Sections Affected: 2614 of Article 1 of Division 26 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR)¹

Background and Problem Statement

As a result of a 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 (BPC) section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions under the Landscape Architects Practice Act (Chapter 3.5 of Division 3 of the BPC). BPC section 5650 describes the qualifications for eligibility for the licensing examination. BPC section 5651 requires that the Board administer a written examination that ascertains the professional qualifications of all applicants for licenses to practice landscape architecture. BPC section 5652 authorizes the LATC to issue a landscape architecture license upon successful completion of the licensing examination.

The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) is the national test vendor that supplies the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE), the licensing examination, to the LATC. In December 2023, CLARB will implement modest structural changes to the LARE to better align the content of the LARE with current practice.

Currently, there is no transition plan in place to give examination credit to candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE.

This proposal would amend CCR section 2614 to correct minor errors on previous subdivisions (c), (d), and (e) and add subdivisions (g)(1) – (3) to address the problem of a lack of a transition plan program. By adding subdivision (g), the proposed regulations would set forth the requirements to grant examination credit to those candidates who passed sections of previously administered LARE after the new LARE is administered

¹ All CCR references are to title 16 unless otherwise noted.

starting in December of 2023. Specifically, candidates in the exam process who have previously passed sections 1 and 4 will receive transitional credit for the new LARE section titled “Construction Documentation and Administration.” If the candidate passes only section 1 or section 4, but not both, the candidate must take the new LARE section titled “Construction Documentation and Administration.”

Specific Purpose, Anticipated Benefit, and Rationale:

Amend CCR Section 2614 subdivisions (c)(1), (d)(1), and (e)(1)

Purpose:

- CCR Section 2614, subdivision (c)(1) in the first row of the transition chart has two entries entitled “Section 1,” in the left-side column headed “Previous Sections Passed PELA.” The second “Section 1” entry in subdivision (c)(1) belongs in the right-side column headed “Credit to 1997 and 1998 LARE and California Section” at the top, just prior to the words, “Aspects of Practice” which is the second half of that entry and was correctly in the left-side column.
- CCR Section 2614(d)(1) in the first entry in the right-side column of the transition chart there is no letter “A” while all the other “Sections” are listed alphabetically in the right-side column.
- CCR Section 2614, subdivision (e)(1) in the final row of the transition chart, in the right-side column headed “Credit to April 2006 and thereafter LARE,” placed a period after the word “Grading” instead of a comma.

Anticipated Benefits and Rationale: The Board anticipates that when the public, licensees, or staff review these older subdivisions within CCR Section 2614, the regulation will be more clear and easier to follow.

Add CCR Section 2614, subdivision (g)(1)

Purpose: CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(1) is being added to explain that the LARE will be restructured, and the sections renamed in 2023.

Anticipated Benefits: The Board anticipates that the adoption of CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(1) will make it clear to candidates that the LARE format will change in December of 2023.

Rationale: This proposal is necessary to establish a transition plan to grant examination credit to those candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE for the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Add CCR Section 2614, subdivision (g)(2)

Purpose: CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(2) is being added to explain that a candidate who has received credit for any section of the LARE which was administered before December of 2023 shall be given credit for the corresponding sections of the LARE administered on or after December 2023 in accordance with the transition chart.

Anticipated Benefits: The Board anticipates that the adoption of CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(2) will make it clear to candidates how transitional credit will be granted toward the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Rationale: This proposal is necessary to establish a transition plan to grant examination credit to those candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE for the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Add CCR Section 2614, subdivision (g)(3)

Purpose: CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(3) is being added to explain that a candidate shall receive credit for the “Construction Documentation and Administration” section of the new LARE that will be administered 2023 only if the candidate has passed both Sections 1 and 2 of the previous LARE. A candidate who has passed either Section 1 or 4 of the previous LARE, but not both, shall be required to pass the “Construction Documentation and Administration” section of the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Anticipated Benefits: The Board anticipates that the adoption of CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(3) will make it clear to candidates how to obtain credit for the “Construction Documentation and Administration” section on the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Rationale: This proposal is necessary to establish a transition plan to grant examination credit to those candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE for the new LARE that will be administered starting in December of 2023.

Underlying Data

1. Council of Landscape Architecture Review Boards (CLARB) LARE Structure (to be administered starting in December 2023)
2. September 16, 2022, Board Meeting Agenda, Meeting Materials, and Meeting Minutes

Economic Impact – Overview

The Board does not anticipate the creation or elimination of businesses from this rulemaking.

The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, because the proposal merely creates a transition plan to grant candidates credit for portions of the LARE taken prior to the new LARE, which will be given on and after December 2023.

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 may benefit the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that candidates for licensure have taken and successfully passed updated examinations for 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

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 less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation than the proposed regulation.

The LATC did not consider other alternatives to the proposed regulation because this has consistently been the best way to carry out the transition plans needed to give examination credit to candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE to the current LARE format.