

TITLE 16. 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: Form of Examinations

Sections Affected: Section 2615 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 a license 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.

This proposal would amend CCR section 2615(a)(2) to align the regulation text with the new LARE format by removing references to LARE Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, which will no longer be administered after December 2023; and allow California candidates to take any section of the LARE if they hold a degree in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board or an extension certificate in landscape architecture that meets the standards in CCR section 2620.5, along with a four-year degree (CCR section 2060(a)(8)). This proposal would also make non-substantive

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

changes to abbreviate references to the LARE and California Supplemental Examination (CSE) throughout.

Specific Purpose, Anticipated Benefit, and Rationale:

Amend CCR Section 2615 subdivisions (a)(1), (b), and (c)

Purpose:

- CCR Section 2615, subdivision (a)(1) is being amended to establish the abbreviation for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination as “LARE.”
- CCR Section 2615, subdivision (b) is being amended to establish the abbreviation for the California Supplemental Examination as “CSE” and abbreviate a reference to the LARE.
- CCR Section 2615, subdivision (c) is being amended to abbreviate references to the LARE and CSE throughout.

Anticipated Benefits and Rationale: The Board anticipates that when the public, licensees, or staff review these subdivisions within CCR Section 2615, the regulation will be more clear and easier to follow.

Amend CCR Section 2615, subdivision (a)(2)

Purpose: CCR section 2615, subdivision (a)(2) is being amended to specify that a California candidate who has a degree from an accredited program in landscape architecture in accordance with section 2620(a)(1) or an extension certificate in landscape architecture from an Extension Certificate Program that meets the requirements of section 2620.5 and a degree which consists of at least a four-year curriculum in accordance with section 2620(a)(8) shall be eligible and may apply to take the LARE. This subdivision is also being amended to remove references to LARE Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, which will no longer be administered after December 2023.

Anticipated Benefits: The Board anticipates that the amendments to CCR section 2615, subdivision (a)(2) will allow qualified candidates to take the LARE prior to obtaining training/practice experience; and make it clear to candidates what type of educational experience is required for early entrance to take the LARE.

Rationale: This proposal is necessary to reduce any potential barriers to the national licensure examination for qualified candidates and remove references to LARE Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, which will no longer be administered after December 2023.

Underlying Data

1. Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) LARE Structure (to be administered starting in December 2023)
2. February 24, 2023, 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 updates candidate eligibility requirements for early entrance to take the LARE.

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 potentially allowing more candidates for licensure to take and successfully pass examinations for licensure, increasing the number of landscape architects to serve the public.
- 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 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.