

**TITLE 16. CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION CONCERNING:
Form of Examinations, § 2615**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Architects Board (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest.

Public Hearing

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period. A hearing may be requested by making such request in writing addressed to the individuals listed under Contact Person in this Notice.

Comment Period

Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the Board at its office not later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023**, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

Availability of Modifications

The Board, upon its own motion or at the request of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as Contact Person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

Authority and Reference: Pursuant to the authority vested by section 5630 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), the Board is considering amending article 1 of division 26 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).¹ This regulatory proposal will interpret and make specific the language in BPC sections 5650 and 5651, concerning the Form of Examinations.

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

Informative Digest:

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

The Board is proposing the following changes:

Amend CCR Section 2615 – Form of Examinations

CCR section 2615 is being amended to align subdivision (a)(2) 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 to 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 approved extension certificate in landscape architecture along with a four-year degree. This proposal would also make non-substantive changes to abbreviate references to the LARE and CSE throughout.

Policy Statement Overview/Anticipated Benefits of Proposal

The Board seeks to 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. Specifically, the proposed amendments of CCR section 2615 permit 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 approved extension certificate in landscape architecture along with a four-year degree.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

During the process of developing these regulations and amendments, the Board has conducted a search of similar regulations on this topic and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

Fiscal Impact Estimates

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Cost/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Local Mandate: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Sections 17500-17630 Require Reimbursement: None

Business Impact: 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 it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business: The Board is not aware of any cost impact that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Effect on Housing Costs: None

Effect on Small Business

The Board has determined that the proposed regulation would not have a significant adverse impact on small businesses because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

Results of Economic Impact Assessment/Analysis:

Impact on Jobs/Businesses:

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.

Benefits of Regulation:

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal may benefit the public health, safety, and welfare by reducing any potential barriers to licensure by allowing more candidates to the national licensure examination. This regulatory proposal will not impact worker safety or the state's environment, as it does not involve worker safety or the state's environment.

This regulatory proposal updates candidate eligibility requirements for early entrance to take the LARE.

Consideration of Alternatives

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

To date, the following options were considered by the Board and rejected:

The Board considered keeping the status quo; however, this alternative was rejected because this would not address the structural changes to the LARE that will be implemented in December 2023.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing, if one is requested.

Initial Statement of Reasons and Information

The Board has prepared an initial statement of the reasons for the proposed action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

Text of Proposal

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, the initial statement of

reasons, and the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained upon request from the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical Committee at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834 or by telephoning the Contact Person listed below.

Availability and Location of the Final Statement of Reasons and Rulemaking File

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the Contact Person named below (or by accessing the website listed below).

Contact Person

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Kourtney Fontes
Address: 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
Telephone No.: (916) 575-7233
Fax No.: (916) 575-7283
E-Mail Address: kourtney.fontes@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Stacy Townsend
Address: 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
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Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found on LATC's website under [Proposed Regulation](http://www.latc.ca.gov/general_information/publications/) (www.latc.ca.gov/general_information/publications/).