

**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)<sup>1</sup>

**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. In January 2023, CLARB announced it would hold an additional LARE administration in October 2023 to allow candidates a final attempt to pass the current LARE prior to implementation of the new LARE format in December 2023.

CCR section 2614 was amended on April 1, 2023 to update the examination transition plan to grant examination credit to candidates who passed sections of the previously administered LARE after the new LARE is administered starting in December of 2023. This proposal would amend CCR section 2614(g)(2) to move the examination transition date forward from August 2023 to November 2023. This change will ensure that California candidates receive appropriate examination credit for the recently announced additional LARE administration scheduled for October 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> All CCR references are to title 16 unless otherwise noted.

## **Specific Purpose, Anticipated Benefit, and Rationale:**

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

Purpose: CCR section 2614, subdivision (g)(2) and the heading in the table in subdivision (g)(2) are being amended to move the examination transition date forward from August 2023 to November 2023.

Anticipated Benefits: The Board anticipates that the amendment will ensure that California candidates receive appropriate examination credit for the recently announced additional LARE administration scheduled for October 2023.

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

## **Underlying Data**

1. Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) LARE Structure (to be administered starting in December 2023)
2. May 19, 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 the transition plan to grant candidates credit for portions of the LARE taken prior to the administration of the new LARE format, which will be given in 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.