



August 13, 2025

Ronald A. Jones, AIA
President, California Architects Board
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834

Regarding: AB 759 – “Architect-in-Training” Proposal

Dear Mr. Jones,

On behalf of the American Institute of Architects California (AIA CA), we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process to help the Board understand the rationale and the value of the “Architect-in-Training” designation as proposed in AB 759.

Following our previous conversations with Board leadership, we’ve had conversations with a number of clients and owners who regularly work with architectural firms. These offer a valuable perspective from those in the industry to better understand how this proposal may benefit public members who regularly work with architectural firms:

“As a former public agency employee (Capital Outlay Program Manager at DGS) I see advantages of the “AIT” designation. It could be very helpful in comparing potential candidates for consulting work. A typical public entity owner sees many resumes in RFQ proposals and selection processes. Seeing a “AIT” designation identifies that individual as someone pursuing fully licensure in a recognized regulated process. Further could see distinction in candidates motivated by career advancement and in general furthering their knowledge as they stay abreast of Architectural best practices. In addition, the designated AIT allows owners to have a metric to gauge talent. Overall, I see this as a positive for the industry.”

Mike Meredith, CCM and DBIA Fellow

Vice President, Director of Design-Build Program and Services
VANIR 4540 Duckhorn Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA. 95630
P 916-575-8888 | C 916-802-0066 | mike.meredith@vanir.com | www.vanir.com

As a former undergraduate Dean of the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, and as someone who holds both M.Arch. and a Ph.D., in Architecture, I’ve had the privilege

The American Institute of Architects

AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
T (916) 448-9082
F (916) 442-5346

www.aiacalifornia.org

of supporting the education and advancement of emerging architects for nearly four decades. Always on the administration, procurement and research sides of the field, I've also worked alongside licensed professionals to help secure major public contracts—an experience that has only deepened my respect for the depth of knowledge and responsibility required in architectural practice.

The proposed “Architect in Training” (AIT) designation is a vital and long-overdue step. It brings architecture into alignment with other licensed professions, such as engineering, and provides meaningful recognition of the years of study, design thinking, and ethical responsibility undertaken by those on the path to licensure. It not only elevates aspiring architects but also reinforces public trust in the integrity of the profession.

Tonia Chao Hsieh, Ph.D. (CHOW-SHAY)

Former Undergraduate Dean, UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design

Co-Founder, Producer, KarMa Pictures, LLC

Founding Board Member, Roses in Concrete

Past Board Member, 1990 Institute

Past Board Chair, Vice Chair, Government Committee Co-Chair, The College Preparatory School, Oakland, CA

Past Facilities Manager, Stanford School of Medicine

From Alex Grosjean, Founding Principal of Landmark PM.

As an owner's rep who works with many different architects. Their teams are typically a combination of licensed architects and unlicensed staff. I am not sure how to refer to their staff when describing them to the Owner. Calling them “staff” seems to undervalue them and does not adequately describe them. I am aware that in the State of California, I cannot elaborate with the term “architectural.” So, having a sanctioned term such as “architect-in-training” or “AIT” will allow for a clearer description of who they are and what they do.

ALEX GROSJEAN

Founding Principal

C. 213.589.1620

alex@landmarkpmla.com

LANDMARKPMLA.COM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Scott Terrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Terrell" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Terrell

Director of Government Relations