



## MEETING MINUTES CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

February 26, 2026  
Palm Desert, CA

ITEMS ARE PRESENTED IN THE ORDER THEY WERE DISCUSSED, AS SOME  
ITEMS WERE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

### A. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

On February 26, 2026, Board President Ron Jones called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and Vice President Robert Pearman called the roll.

#### **Board Members Present**

Ron Jones, President  
Robert Pearman, Vice President  
Victoria Brash, Secretary  
Tian Feng  
Leonard Manoukian  
Kasheica McKinney  
Amanda Steidlmayer  
Fuad Sweiss  
Charles "Sonny" Ward (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

Six members of the Board present constitutes a quorum; a quorum was established.

#### **Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Members Present**

Pamela Brief, Committee Chair

#### **Board Staff Present**

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer  
Timothy Rodda, Regulations Manager  
Nailea Cortez, Human Resources Liaison

#### **DCA Staff Present**

Alex Cristescu, Television Specialist  
Ann Salisbury, Assistant Chief Counsel

#### **Guests Present**

Caryn, DFA  
Kathryn Hampton, California Legislative Coalition for Interior Designers (CLCID)  
Roze Weibe, California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC)

**B. PRESIDENT’S PROCEDURAL REMARKS AND BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

President Jones opened the meeting and stated that all motions and seconds will be repeated for the record and votes on motions will be taken by roll call.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NOVEMBER 6, 2025, BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Robert Pearman moved to approve the November 6, 2025, minutes.**

**Victoria Brash seconded the motion.**

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**Members Jones, Brash, Feng, Pearman, Manoukian, McKinney, Steidlmayer, and Sweiss voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 8-0.**

**E. UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA) AND DISCUSSION OF SAME**

Laura Zuniga presented the DCA update which addressed the collection of license renewal fees postponed by Executive Order N-15-25 to assist licensees affected by the Los Angeles fires, and reminders for Board Members related to travel, annual Form 700 filing, and mandatory training.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**F. PRESENTATION ON THE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM AT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT – MARINA ACOSTA AND BERT BITANGA**

Marina Acosta and Bert Bitanga shared an overview of the Architecture Program at College of the Desert and answered questions posed by members of the Board.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**J. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- 1. Discussion Regarding Pending Legislation That Impacts the Board or its Licensees, Which May Include AB 1796 (Jackson) Licensed Commercial Interior Designers Practice Act**

Ms. Zuniga summarized AB 1796 and answered questions posed by members of the Board.

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Scott Terrell, Roze Weibe and Kathryn Hampton.

Board members discussed the proposed legislation and possible issues related to clarity and justification related to consumer protection.

**Robert Pearman moved to encourage individual board members with a concern of AB 1796 to direct that to staff within the next two weeks and to allow the Board President and staff to send a response letter prior to the next Board meeting outlining the Board's concerns and inviting collaborative engagement with the bill sponsor and the parties on all sides concerned.**

**Charles Ward seconded the motion.**

No additional public comments were made on this agenda item.

**Members Jones, Brash, Feng, Pearman, Manoukian, McKinney, Steidlmayer, Sweiss and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 9-0.**

#### **G. UPDATE AND DISCUSS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS (NCARB)**

- 1. Update and Discuss Education, Experience and Examination Committee Meetings**
- 2. Update on NCARB Operations – Mike Armstrong, CEO, NCARB**
  - a. 2026 Draft Resolutions – 2026-A Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Architects Registration Board; 2026-B Amendment and Restatement of Policies Passed by Membership; 2026-C Certification Guidelines Amendment – Expanding Access to the NCARB Certification**
  - b. Competency Standard for Architects**
  - c. Artificial intelligence and the Practice of Architecture**

Mr. Armstrong provided an update on NCARB operations and answered questions posed by members of the Board.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

#### **H. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON BOARD COMMITTEES**

- 1. January 15, 2026, Regulatory and Enforcement Committee Meeting**

Vice President Pearman provided an update on the January 15, 2026 Regulatory and Enforcement Committee Meeting.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**2. January 30, 2026, Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Meeting**

**a. Consideration of, Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Amendments to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 26, Article 1, section 2611 (Abandonment of Application)**

Ms. Zuniga provided an update on the January 30, 2026 LATC meeting. Timothy Rodda explained the proposed amendments to 16 CCR 2611 (Abandonment of Application).

**Tian Feng moved to approve the proposed regulatory text for Section 2611, direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review and if no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested.**

**If the Board does not receive any comments providing objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the board in proposing or adopting the action, during the 45-day comment period, and no hearing is requested then the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any technical or nonsubstantive changes to the package, and adopt the proposed regulations at Section 2611 as noticed.**

**Charles Ward seconded the motion.**

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**Members Jones, Brash, Feng, Pearman, Manoukian, McKinney, Steidlmayer, Swiss and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed 9-0.**

**3. February 19, 2026, Communications Committee Meeting**

Fuad Swiss presented an update on the February 19, 2026 Communications Committee meeting and answered questions posed by members of the Board.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

## **I. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION: BOARD'S ADMINISTRATION / MANAGEMENT, EXAMINATION, LICENSING, AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS**

Ms. Zuniga reported on the Board's upcoming outreach events, regulation changes, examination statistics, and enforcement activity. Ms. Zuniga answered questions posed by members of the Board.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

## **K. REGULATIONS UPDATE**

### **1. Consideration of, Discussion, and Possible Action on Proposed Addition of CCR, Title 16, Division 2, Article 2, section 109.05 (Architect-in-Training) and Amendments to Article 7, section 144 (Fees)**

Timothy Rodda explained the proposed addition of 16 CCR 109.05 (Architect-in-Training) and amendments to 16 CCR 144 (Fees). Mr. Rodda answered questions posed by members of the Board regarding the proposed application fee. Vice President Pearman suggested to modify the proposed fee for the Architect-in-Training application to one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

**Robert Pearman moved to approve the proposed regulatory text as modified for Sections 109.05 and 144, direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review and if no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested.**

**If the Board does not receive any comments providing objections or adverse recommendations specifically directed at the proposed action or to the procedures followed by the board in proposing or adopting the action, during the 45-day comment period, and no hearings were requested then the Board authorizes the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any technical or nonsubstantive changes to the package, and adopt the proposed regulations at Section 109.05 and 144 as noticed.**

**Charles Ward seconded the motion.**

Public comments on this agenda item were made by: Scott Terrell.

**Amanda Steidlmayer moved to amend the motion by striking out one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) and inserting one hundred thirty-one dollars (\$131).**

**Victoria Brash seconded the amendment to the motion.**

**Members Jones, Brash, Feng, McKinney, Steidlmayer and Sweiss voted in favor of the amendment to the motion. Members Pearman, Manoukian and Ward voted no. Motion passed 6-3.**

No additional public comments were made on this agenda item.

**Members Jones, Brash, Feng, Pearman, McKinney, Steidlmayer, Sweiss and Ward voted in favor of the amended motion. Member Manoukian voted no. Motion passed 8-1.**

**L. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES**

The Board discussed future Board and Committee meeting dates.

No public comments were made on this agenda item.

**M. CLOSED SESSION - Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(a)(1) and (c)(3), the Board Will Meet in Closed Session to:**

- 1. Deliberate and Vote on Disciplinary Matters**
- 2. Approve February 20, 2025, closed session minutes**
- 3. Perform the Annual Evaluation of its Executive Officer**

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned after closed session.