



Support letter to APLD members

Landscape designers possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise in various areas of landscape design, management, and installation, and can provide vital services in the prevention of and recovery from the devastating effects of fire, flood and other environmental disasters in residential areas. However, the current CA Landscape Architects Act limits the capacity of landscape designers to fully utilize their skills and qualifications in a safe and equitable manner.

It does not make sense that anyone in California is permitted to design a two-story wood frame house, including a basement; but that same person is not allowed to design the fence (pergola/patio) that stands outside that house.

This inequity is dramatically highlighted when compared with the exemptions in the Architects Practice Act (AP). The LAP Act (Landscape Architects Practice Act) is far more restrictive.

The LAP Act further restricts an unlicensed person from preparing construction documents, details, or specifications for tangible landscape objects or features, and for site grading or drainage plans.

Clearly, the design of two-story dwellings with a basement, four multiple-family dwelling units, and other structures authorized under the Architects Act are of much greater consequence to the safety of the public than what is allowed by unlicensed persons under the LAP Act; only allowing an unlicensed person to prepare plans, drawings, and specifications for the selection, placement, or use of plants, or for the conceptual design and placement of tangible objects and landscape features for single-family dwellings.

We believe that expanding the exemption in the LAP Act will allow landscape designers to more effectively respond to the needs of consumers and the public, ensuring high-quality service and innovation.

The APLD CA Advocacy committee believes that it is crucial to modify the Landscape Architects Practice Act to better reflect the practices that serve residents and safeguard public health, safety and welfare.

We need your support to be able to accomplish this for all Landscape designers in California.

APLD CA Advocacy Committee

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