



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum, and Chair's Introduction

Board Chair Diana Love called the meeting of the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to order on November 15, 2023, at 8:02 a.m. via WebEx teleconference.

Board Members Present

Diana Love, Chair
Joel Barton
Rodney Cobos
Miguel Galarza
Amanda Gallo
Susan Granzella
Alan Guy
Jacob Lopez
Steve Panelli
Michael Mark
James Ruane
Mary Teichert

David De La Torre has an approved absence.

CSLB Staff Present

David Fogt, Registrar
Michael Jamnetski, Chief Deputy Registrar
Yeaphana La Marr, Chief of Legislation
Katherine White, Chief of Public Affairs
Jason Perez, Chief of Information Technology
Steve Grove, Chief of Enforcement
Henry Duong, Licensing Manager
Stacey Paul, Budgets Manager
Robin Williams, Executive Technician
Amy Lawrence, Television Specialist
Natalie Rosenberger, Information Officer
Natalie Watmore, Information Officer

DCA Staff Present

John Kinn, DCA Legal

Board Vice Chair Michael Mark led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was established.

Mary Teichert joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

**B. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda and Future Agenda Item Requests**Board Member Comment

There was no board member comment.

No Public Comment

There was no public comment.

C. Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on CSLB's Proposed Responses to Prior Issues from 2018 Sunset Report and New Issues for the 2024 Sunset Report Before the California State Legislature

Legislative Chief Yeaphana La Marr explained the issues being presented were still in draft form and would only discuss any changes made from the previous review. Chief La Marr directed the board that each issue has five parts. The first part is the questions the Legislature is asking CSLB, the second is the background, the third is the Committee Staff recommendations, the fourth being the CSLB's 2018 response to recommendation, and the fifth response is the current response for approval by the Board in December.

1. Staffing

Chief La Marr explained the staffing issue regarding challenges impacting operation remained the same and the only substantive change was the removal of references to a new issue that would allow applicants to submit insurance after determining that it should be dropped.

2. Board Member Vacancies

Chief La Marr explained that the issue of board vacancies has not impacted CSLB's ability to establish a quorum, and there are no substantive or non-substantive changes to be made from the September review.

3. Implementation of Recent Legislation

Chief La Marr discussed due to not having delayed implementation, the Information Technology (IT) does not have time to secure staffing resources in the form of contractors and staff, therefore the CSLB has absorbed significant IT workload implementing legislation. Chief La Marr stated the only edit made to this issue was removing the same new issue removed from Issue No.1.

4. Fund Condition

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

**5. Pro Rata**

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

6. Examination Passage Rates

Chief La Marr explained the response to this issue was substantively edited and referenced paragraph 3, page 14 of the Board packet for the additional response.

7. Licensing and Certifications

Chief La Marr stated the response to this issue was edited with additional text regarding expanding the hazardous substance removal certificate to include debris removal in declared disaster areas.

8. Enforcement Priorities

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

9. Workforce Development and Disaster Response

Chief La Marr explained the non-substantive change made to the response of this issue was to add a chapter number after SB 601 by Senator McGuire was signed by the Governor.

10. Workers' Compensation

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

11. Tree Worker Safety

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

12. BreEZe

Chief La Marr stated the response to this issue is still in process and the Information Technology Chief will provide an update in December 2023.

13. Technical Changes May Improve Effectiveness of the Law Administered by the CSLB

Chief La Marr explained the proposed technical amendments will likely be on the December 13 agenda.

14. LLCs

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

15. Unsatisfied Judgments

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

**16. C-10 License Category Fee Collection**

Chief La Marr stated the response to this issue was substantively edited, noting that the \$20 fee to C-10 electrical contractors' renewal was set by SB 610 in 2019 so CSLB is no longer requesting this amendment. Chief La Marr also described why more positions have not been dedicated to electrician certification requirements.

17. Should The CSLB Be Continued?

Chief La Marr explained the proposed response to this issue remains unchanged.

Board Member Comment

There was no board member comment.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Proposed New Issues Summaries for 2024 CSLB Sunset Report

Board Chair Diana Love and Member Miguel Galarza presented the proposed new issues for the 2024 CSLB Sunset Report.

1. Reimbursement for Industry Expert Costs

Chair Love explained the proposal would allow CSLB to recover costs of reimbursement payments made to pay industry experts being charged to contractors who have been alleged in a complaint when the investigation concludes with a letter of admonishment or citation. Chair Love stated this proposal would offer a deterrent to contractors who are repeat offenders.

2. Adopt Enforcement Fine Minimums in Statute Consistent with Other Boards and Bureaus

Chair Love explained that this proposal would raise minimum administrative fines and adopt them in statute and stated the fine needs to be correspond with the public harm caused to serve as a deterrent to future citations.

3. Expand Hazardous Substance Certification to Include Excavation and Debris Removal

Chair Love explained this proposal would require a contractor to obtain a hazardous waste removal certificate to perform debris removal in disaster declared areas.

4. Correct License Examination Fee Structure to Reduce Costs to Applicants and to CSLB

Member Galarza explained this proposal amends the CSLB statute fee to state applicants shall pay the exam rescheduling fee directly to PSI. This would eliminate



CSLB receiving payment for rescheduled exams and no longer pay PSI for \$50 per exam.

5. Licensing Tribes

Member Galarza explained this proposal would remove barriers specific to tribal-owned business that seek to lawfully engage in contracting. Chair Galarza stated the proposal also recognizes the various ways in which a tribal business can be organized along with the registration of the Secretary of State

6. Cash Bond In Lieu Of Surety Bond – Potential Liability for Attorney Fees

Member Galarza explained this proposal would exempt CSLB from responsibility of paying attorney's fees in private civil cases between contractor's bond claimants and contractors. Member Galarza stated this proposal makes clear CSLB is not a surety and does not sell sureties and has no discretion to release a cash deposit and is not subject to financial liability.

Board Member Comment

Board Member Michael Mark supported the proposal for New Issue No. 2, regarding raising fine minimums.

Public Comment

Analise Rivero, Associate Director of Policy at CalTrout, supported the proposal for Issue No. 5 regarding tribal-related contractors being recognized licensed construction companies.

Issues No Longer Recommended for 2024 Sunset Review

7. Issue: Requirements and Restrictions for Qualifiers on Multiple Licenses

Registrar Fogt explained this issue is no longer recommended for the 2024 Sunset Review process and stated there will be a stakeholder meeting on November 28 to evaluate the issues and concerns and possibly bring it back to the board on a later date.

8. Issue: Workers' Compensation Certificates to be Submitted by Applicants, Licensees, or Insurers

Registrar Fogt explained this issue is no longer recommended for the 2024 Sunset Review process and said with research, the current process, and programs of verifying proof of workers' compensation are sufficient.

9. Issue: Removal or Deletion Of C-61 / D-49 Tree Service Contractor License

Registrar Fogt explained this issue is no longer recommended for the 2024 Sunset Review process. Registrar Fogt stated the creation of the C-49 license and exam focuses on tree safety and will eventually become the standard classification while the



D-49 will decline through attrition and therefore there is no need to include this as a new issue.

Board Member Comment

There was no board member comment.

Public Comment

Ernesto Macias, Vice President of Risk Management, Labor Relations of West Coast Arborists, supported the creation of the C-49 Tree Service classification and thanked staff for their efforts and work.

D. Adjournment

Vice Chair Love adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 8:48 a.m.