CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH EXAMINATION, LICENSURE, AND REGULATION

CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATION (CSE) HANDBOOK

PSI

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3210 E. Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89121
www.psiexams.com
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions about examination scheduling and administration should be directed to:

PSI licensure: certification
3210 E. Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89121
(877) 392-6422 • TTY (800) 735-2929
www.psiexams.com

Questions about examination content and licensing should be directed to:

California Architects Board
2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-7220 • FAX (916) 575-7283
www.cab.ca.gov • email cab@dca.ca.gov

SCHEDULING INFORMATION (SEE PAGE 3 FOR CONFIRMATION INFORMATION)

Date Scheduled:  ________________________________________________________________

Name of Scheduler:  ____________________________________________________________

Date of Exam:  ________________________________________________________________

Time of Exam:  ________________________________________________________________

Test Site Location:  _____________________________________________________________
PURPOSE

The California Supplemental Examination (CSE) Handbook is designed to provide a candidate with important information regarding examination procedures, processes, and content. The CSE is the final requirement for obtaining an architect license in California.

The California Architects Board strongly recommends that candidates thoroughly review the CSE HANDBOOK, the CSE Test Plan, and the recommended CSE Reference Materials (available at www.cab.ca.gov) to prepare for the examination. The CSE Handbook describes in detail what to expect upon arrival at the examination site. It also provides other recommendations on how to prepare for the examination, information on the format of the examination, the CSE Test Plan content, and information on receiving examination results.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

The Board is mandated to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare. The CSE assesses whether candidates for licensure demonstrate minimum standards of competency necessary to meet the requirements of current architectural practice in California.

As in other states with unique needs and regulatory requirements, California requires a supplemental examination in addition to the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). The CSE ensures that candidates are able to demonstrate they have the necessary architectural knowledge and skills to respond to the unique conditions present in California.

The setting for architectural practice in California is distinct from that of other states in terms of the breadth, magnitude, and complexity of the individual circumstances that create its context. California’s large physical size, large and diverse population, varied landscape and climate, high seismicity, regulations and entitlements, and massive economy create an unusually demanding context for architectural practice. Additionally, the varying interplay of these conditions for specific projects gives rise to even more complicated settings for the conduct of architectural practice in the state.

Please use the CSE Handbook as a study guide, as well as a resource to understand the administrative procedures and processes for the CSE. Candidates, who have questions, may refer to the contact information available in this handbook.

EXAMINATIONS BY PSI

The Board, through the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), contracts with PSI to administer the CSE. PSI provides examinations through a network of 17 computer examination sites in California and 22 additional nationwide sites.

All questions regarding the scheduling and administration of examinations should be directed to PSI.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE

All examination sites are physically accessible to individuals with disabilities. Scheduling services are also available via PSI Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) by calling (800) 735-2929.

The Board and PSI recognize their responsibilities under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act by providing testing accommodations or auxiliary aids or services for candidates who substantiate the need due to a physical or mental disability or qualified medical condition.

Accommodations will not be provided at the examination site unless prior approval by the Board has been granted. Reasonable, appropriate, and effective accommodations may be requested by submitting a Reasonable Accommodation Request form for CSE to the Board. This form is available at www.cab.ca.gov.

Requests for accommodation must be received a minimum of 90 days prior to the desired test date to allow for processing. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the examination is intended to test will not be granted.

Do not schedule an examination with PSI until written notification has been received from the Board regarding a request for accommodation.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Once a candidate has established eligibility for the CSE by the Board, the candidate becomes responsible for contacting PSI to schedule an appointment to take the examination. A candidate may do so via the Internet at www.psiexams.com or over the telephone at (877) 392-6422.

Current policy allows one test attempt per application. If a candidate does not pass the examination, the candidate must reapply to the Board.

The PSI examination sites are open for testing during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and operating hours on Saturday, except for the following major holidays:
INTERNET SCHEDULING

A candidate may schedule an examination by completing the online Test Registration Form available at www.psiexams.com. Please note that PSI’s website works best with Internet Explorer; other Internet browsers are not supported at this time. Scheduling an examination may be made via the Internet 24 hours a day.

1. Complete the registration form online and submit to PSI via the Internet.
2. Upon completion of the online form, a candidate will be given the available dates for scheduling an examination.
3. A candidate will need to choose a date in order to complete their registration.
4. Upon successful registration, a candidate will receive a traceable confirmation number.

TELEPHONE SCHEDULING

Call PSI registrars at (877) 392-6422, Monday through Friday between 4:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Pacific Time, to schedule an examination appointment. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available at (800) 735-2929.

CANCELING AN EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

A candidate may cancel and reschedule an examination appointment without forfeiting the fee IF A CANCELLATION NOTICE IS RECEIVED TWO (2) DAYS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION DATE. For example, for a 9:00 a.m. Monday appointment, the cancellation notice would need to be received before 9:00 a.m. on the previous Saturday. A candidate may call PSI at (877) 392-6422 or use the PSI Website.

Note: A voicemail or email message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the PSI website or call PSI and speak directly to a Customer Service Representative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Closed Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Closed July 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Closed September 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Closed November 26-27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Closed December 24-25, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Years Day</td>
<td>Closed January 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.</td>
<td>Closed January 18, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Closed May 31, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MISSED APPOINTMENT OR LATE CANCELLATION

A candidate who misses their appointment will not be able to take the examination as scheduled. Further, the examination fee is forfeited if a candidate:

- Does not cancel their appointment two (2) days before the scheduled examination date;
- Does not appear for their examination appointment;
- Arrives after their examination start time; or
- Does not present proper identification to the proctor at the exam site (see page 8).

REEXAMINATION

A candidate who fails the CSE may not retake the examination for at least 90 days from the date they last took an examination. See Examination Results section for additional information regarding reexamination.

EXAMINATION SITE CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY

In the event that severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination site on a scheduled examination date, the examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact candidates in this situation. However, candidates may check the status of an examination appointment by calling (877) 392-6422. Every effort will be made to reschedule a candidate’s examination at a convenient time as soon as possible. Candidates will not be penalized. They will be rescheduled at no additional charge.

CONFIRMATION OF EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

The Board recommends that candidates confirm their examination appointment with PSI prior to traveling to an examination site. An examination appointment can be confirmed by calling (877) 392-6422.
### CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION SITE LOCATIONS

The CSE is administered at the following PSI examination sites in California:

Table: PSISEXAMS.COM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGOURA HILLS</td>
<td>30851 AGOURA RD SUITE 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AGOURA HILLS, CA  91301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(818) 851-9266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**From the East:** Take US-101 N/Ventura FWY West to Reyes A provoke Rd (Exit 38). Turn Left onto Reyes A provoke Rd. Turn Right onto Agoura Rd. 30851 Agoura Rd is on the Right. From the West: Take US-101 S to Lindero Cyn Rd (Exit 39). Turn Right onto Lindero Canyon Rd. Turn Left onto Agoura Rd. 30851 Agoura Rd is on the Left.

**ATASCADERO**

7305 MORRO RD, SUITE 201A

ATASCADERO, CA 93422

(805) 462-8983

From US-101 N, Take the CA-41 Exit: Exit 219 Toward Morro Rd. Turn Left onto El Camino Real. Turn Left onto CA-41/Morro Rd.

From US-101 S, Take the Morro Rd/CA-41 Exit: Exit 219, Turn Right onto CA-41/Morro Rd.

**BAKERSFIELD**

5405 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY

SUITE 103

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(661) 734-5351

From Interstate 5-South, Take the Stockdale Highway Exit, Exit 253. Turn Right onto Stockdale Highway. End at 5405 Stockdale Highway.

From Interstate 5-North Toward Bakersfield, Keep Left to Take California 99 North Via Exit 221 Toward Bakersfield/Fresno. Take the California 58 East Exit Toward Tehachapi/Mojave. Take the Exit on the Left Toward California State University/Stockdale Highway/Brundage Lane. Turn Left onto Wible Road. Turn Slight Left onto Stockdale Highway. End at 5405 Stockdale Highway.

**CARSON**

17420 AVALON BLVD, SUITE 205

CARSON, CA 90746

(310) 400-7393

From CA-91 E/Gardena FWY Take the Avalon Exit. Off ramp will lead you onto Albertoni St. Make a Right onto Avalon Blvd and we are located on the Right-Hand Side (Same Parking Lot as Carls Jr).

From CA-91 W Take the Avalon Exit. Make a U-Turn on Avalon Blvd and Albertoni St. We are located on the Right-Hand Side. (Same Parking Lot as Carls Jr).

**DIAMOND BAR**

21660 EAST COPELY DR SUITE 260

DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765

(909) 860-8158

From I-10 E, Take the Grand Ave Exit, Exit 38A. Turn Right onto S Grand Ave. Turn Right onto Golden Springs Dr. Turn Left onto Copley Dr.

From 60 West, Take Grant Ave Exit, Exit 24B. Turn Left onto Grand Ave. Turn Right onto Golden Springs Dr. Turn Left onto Copley Dr. 21660 Copley Dr, Ste 260 is on the Left.

**EL MONTE - SANTA FE SPRINGS**

10330 PIONEER BOULEVARD, SUITE 285

SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670

(562) 325-8113

From the I-5 North Take Normand Blvd Exit #121, Turn Right onto Normand Blvd. Turn Left onto Imperial Hwy/CA-90. Turn Right onto Pioneer Blvd. Testing Center will be on your Right.

**FRESNO**

351 E. BASTOW, SUITE 101

FRESNO, CA 93710

(559) 538-3975

From CA-41 S, Take the Bullard Ave Exit. Turn Left onto E Bullard Ave. Turn Right onto N Fresno St. Pass through the intersection of Fresno and Bastow Ave. Take the first Driveway on the Right-Hand Side.

From CA-41 N, Take the Shaw Ave Exit toward Clovis. Turn Right onto E Shaw Ave. Turn Left onto N Fresno St. Turn Left into the last Driveway before Bastow Ave. Testing Center is in the Office Complex on the SW Corner of Barstow and Fresno St.

**IRVINE**

8 CORPORATE PARK, SUITE 200

IRVINE, CA 92606

(949) 418-9653

From I-405 S - Use the 2nd Lane from Right to Take Exit 7 for Jamboree Rd. Then use the Left 2 lanes to Turn Left onto Jamboree Rd. Go about 1.5 miles then Turn Right onto Beckman Ave. Take the first Right onto Corporate Park. 8 Corporate Park is the Second Building on the Right.

From I-5 S - Take Exit 100 for Jamboree Rd. Use the 2nd from Right Lane to Turn Right onto Jamboree Rd. Take the ramp to Jamboree Rd then keep Left at the fork to Continue onto Jamboree Rd. Go about 2.2 miles then Turn Left onto Beckman Ave. Take the first Right onto Corporate Park. 8 Corporate Park is the Second Building on the Right.

Once parked, proceed through the front entrance and take the elevator to the second floor. The Test Center is in Suite 200.

**LAWNDALE**

THE BAYTOWER CORPORATE CENTER SUITE 330

15901 HAWTHORNE BLVD

LAWNDALE, CA 90260

310-793-1200

From I-55, Merge onto CA-110S, which becomes I-110S. Merge onto I-105W. Take the I-405S/I-405N Exit and Merge onto I-405S. Turn Right onto Inglewood Blvd. Turn Left onto Manattan Beach Blvd. Turn Right onto Hawthorne Blvd.

**REDDING**

2861 CHURN CREEK, UNIT C

REDDING, CA 96002

(530) 221-0945

From I-5 S, Take the Cypress Avenue Exit (677). Turn Right onto E. Cypress Ave. Turn Right onto Churn Creek Rd.

From I-5 N Toward Sacramento, Take the Cypress Ave Exit (677). Turn Left onto E. Cypress Ave. Turn Right onto Churn Creek Rd.

From 299 E Toward Redding, Start going West on CA-299. Merge onto 1-5 S Ramp on the Left towards Sacramento. Take the Cypress Ave Exit (677). Turn Left onto E. Cypress Ave. Turn Right onto Churn Creek Rd.


**RIVERSIDE**

7888 MISSION GROVE PARKWAY S., SUITE 130

RIVERSIDE, CA 92508
FROM THE CA-91W TOWARD RIVERSIDE/BEAU CITIES, TAKE THE CENTRAL AVENUE EXIT TOWARD MAGNOLIA CENTER. TURN LEFT ONTO CENTRAL AVE. CENTRAL AVE BECOMES ALSANDOLOBlD. VEER TO THE RIGHT, THEN STAY STRAIGHT TO GO ONTO TRAUTWEN RD (YOU WILL PASS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER DR). TURN LEFT ONTO MISSION GROVE PKWY W.


SACRAMENTO
8950 CAL CENTER DR, SUITE 158
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826
(916) 476-5926
FROM US-50 E: USE THE RIGHT TWO LANES TO TAKE EXIT 11 FOR WATT AVE. USE THE RIGHT 2 LANES TO TURN RIGHT ONTO WATT AVE. USE THE LEFT LANE TO TURN LEFT AT THE FIRST CROSS STREET onto FOLSOM BLVD. USE THE LEFT TWO LANE TO TURN LEFT ONTO MANLOVE RD. TURN LEFT ONTO CAL CENTER DR. BUILDING 8950 WILL BE ON THE LEFT.

FROM US-50 W: USE THE RIGHT TWO LANES TO TAKE EXIT 11 FOR WATT AVE. USE THE LEFT 2 LANES TO TURN LEFT ONTO WATT AVE. USE THE LEFT LANE TO TURN LEFT AT THE FIRST CROSS STREET onto FOLSOM BLVD. USE THE LEFT TWO LANE TO TURN LEFT ONTO MANLOVE RD. TURN LEFT ONTO CAL CENTER DR. BUILDING 8950 WILL BE ON THE LEFT.

SAN DIEGO
5440 MOREHOUSE DRIVE, SUITE 2300
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121
(858) 550-5940
FROM I-805 S, TAKE THE SORRENTO VALLEY RD/MIRA MESA BLVD EXIT. TURN LEFT ONTO MIRA MESA BLVD, TURN LEFT ONTO SCRANTON ROAD. TURN RIGHT ONTO MOREHOUSE DRIVE.
FROM I-805 N TOWARD LOS ANGELES, TAKE THE MIRA MESA BLVD/VISTA SORRENTO PKWY EXIT. TURN RIGHT ONTO MIRA MESA BLVD. TURN LEFT ONTO SCRANTON RD. TURN RIGHT ONTO MOREHOUSE DR.

ADDITIONAL PARKING CAN BE FOUND (on top of the AT&T building) BY CONTINUING ON MOREHOUSE PAST OUR BUILDING AND TURNING LEFT AT THE NEXT DRIVEWAY UP THE HILL.

SAN FRANCISCO
150 EXECUTIVE PARK BLVD., STE 2400
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94134
(415) 844-0008
1-80 W BECOMES US-101 S. TAKE EXIT-429 A TOWARD MONSTER PARK/TUNNEL AVE. TAKE THE RAMP TOWARD 3COM PARK. TURN RIGHT ONTO ALANNA RD. TURN LEFT ONTO EXECUTIVE PARK BLVD.

SANTA CLARA
2936 SCOTT BLVD
SANTA CLARA, CA 95054
(408) 844-0008


SANTA ROSA
160 WIKIUP DRIVE, SUITE 105
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403
(707) 791-3113
FROM US-101 N, TAKE MARK WEST SPRINGS/RIVER ROAD EXIT. TURN RIGHT ON MARK WEST SPRINGS. TURN LEFT AT OLD REDWOOD HIGHWAY. TURN RIGHT ON WIKIUP DRIVE. FIRST DRIVEWAY ON RIGHT.

FROM US-101 S, TAKE MARK WEST SPRINGS/RIVER ROAD EXIT. TURN LEFT ON MARK WEST SPRINGS. TURN LEFT AT OLD REDWOOD HIGHWAY. TURN RIGHT ON WIKIUP DRIVE. FIRST DRIVEWAY ON RIGHT.

UNION CITY
32960 ALVARADO-NILES RD, SUITE 650
UNION CITY, CA 94587
(510) 901-7992
FROM I-880 N - AT EXIT 23, TAKE RAMP RIGHT AND FOLLOW SIGNS FOR ALVARADO NILES RD. TURN RIGHT ONTO ALVARADO NILES RD. AFTER ABOUT A MILE, MAKE A U-TURN AT DOWE AVE. TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT INTO THE OFFICE PARK AND THEN TAKE THE FIRST LEFT ONCE ON THE PROPERTY. SUITE 650 WILL BE IN THE FIRST BUILDING ON YOUR RIGHT.
FROM I-880 S - AT EXIT 23, TAKE RAMP RIGHT AND FOLLOW SIGNS FOR ALVARADO NILES RD. TURN LEFT ONTO ALVARADO NILES RD. AFTER ABOUT A MILE, MAKE A U-TURN AT DOWE AVE. TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT INTO THE OFFICE PARK AND THEN TAKE THE FIRST LEFT ONCE ON THE PROPERTY. SUITE 650 WILL BE IN THE FIRST BUILDING ON YOUR RIGHT.

VENTURA
4245 MARKET ST, SUITE 208
VENTURA, CA 93003
(805) 650-5223
FROM US-101N, TAKE THE TELEPHONE ROAD EXIT 65. TURN LEFT ONTO TELEPHONE ROAD. TURN RIGHT ON MARKET STREET.

VISALIA
3400 W MINERAL KING AVE., SUITE D
VISALIA, CA 93291
(559) 627-6700
FROM CA-99N, MERGE ONTO CA-198E VIA EXIT 96 TOWARD VISALIA/SEQUOIA NAT’L PARK. TAKE THE EXIT TOWARD DEMAREE STREET. MERGE ONTO W NOBLE AVENUE. TURN LEFT ONTO S COUNTY CENTER DRIVE. TAKE THE 1ST LEFT ONTO W MINERAL KING AVENUE.

WALNUT CREEK
175 LENNON LANE, SUITE 203
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598
(925) 906-9165
FROM I-5N, KEEP LEFT TO TAKE I-580W TOWARD TRACY/SAN FRANCISCO. MERGE ONTO I-680N VIA EXIT 44B TOWARD SACRAMENTO/WALNUT CREEK/CONCORD. TAKE THE YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD EXIT AND TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ONTO LENNON LANE.

OUT-OF-STATE EXAMINATION SITE LOCATIONS

The CSE is administered at the following out-of-state examination sites:

ALBUQUERQUE
2820 BROADBENT PARKWAY
SUITE E & F
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107
FROM I-40 W TAKE EXIT 159D, FOLLOW FRONTAGE RD. N TO MENAUL BLVD NE, MAKE A LEFT ONTO MENAUL BLVD NE, MAKE A RIGHT ONTO BROADBENT PKWY NE. BUILDING WILL BE ON THE RIGHT.

ATLANTA (MARIETTA)
2100 ROSWELL ROAD NE, SUITE 2128
MARIETTA, CA 30062
FROM I-75 NORTHBOUND, TAKE EXIT #263 - THE 120 LOOP, EAST TOWARDS ROSWELL. DRIVE APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES (PAST POWERS FERRY AND LOWER ROSWELL ROADS) AND EXIT RIGHT TOWARD ROSWELL. MAKE A RIGHT AT THE LIGHT OFF OF THE EXIT AND ONTO ROSWELL ROAD. PAVILIONS AT EAST LAKE SHOPPING CENTER IS 1/2 MILE ON RIGHT. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN SUITE 2128 IN THE SAME SHOPPING CENTER AS KROGERS.

www.psiexams.com
FROM I-75 SOUTHBOUND, TAKE EXIT 265-GA 120 LOOP/EAST. TURN LEFT ONTO NORTH MARIETTA PKWY. AFTER 1.4 MILES, TAKE THE RIGHT-SIDE OFF RAMPS TO GA-3/ROSWELL/MARIETTA. TURN LEFT ONTO GA-120 EAST/ROSWELL RD. GO .3 MILE TO PAVILIONS AT EAST LAKE SHOPPING CENTER. TURN RIGHT INTO SHOPPING CENTER. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN SUITE 2128 IN THE SAME SHOPPING CENTER AS KROGERS.

BOSTON (CHARLESTOWN)
WASHINGTON CROSSING
56 ROLAND ST, SUITE 305
CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129
FROM THE NORTH: TAKE I-93 SOUTH. EXIT 28-BOSTON/SULLIVAN SQ./CHARLESTOWN. MERGE INTO MYSTIC AVE. TAKE I-93 RAMP TO BOSTON/SULLIVAN SQ./CHARLESTOWN (TAKE RAMP DO NOT GET ON HIGHWAY). MAKE SLIGHT LEFT TURN ON TO MAPPAW. MAKE SLIGHT RIGHT TURN ON TO CAMBRIDGE ST. AT FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHT, MAKE LEFT ON TO CARTER STREET. TURN RIGHT ON TO ROLAND STREET. END AT 56 ROLAND. ENTER THROUGH NORTH LOBBY. DO NOT PARK IN THE BUILDING'S PARKING LOT.

FROM THE SOUTH: TAKE I-93 NORTH. EXIT 28 - RT 99/SULLIVAN SQ./SOMERVILLE. MAKE LEFT ON TO CAMBRIDGE ST. AT FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHT, MAKE LEFT ON TO CARTER STREET. TURN RIGHT ON TO ROLAND STREET. END AT 56 ROLAND STREET (BUILDING ON LEFT, PARKING LOT ON RIGHT). ENTER THROUGH NORTH LOBBY. DO NOT PARK IN THE BUILDING'S PARKING LOT.

CHARLOTTE
TYVOLA EXECUTIVE PARK 1
5701 WESTPARK DR, SUITE 202
CHARLOTTE, NC 28217
FROM I-77S TOWARDS COLUMBIA, EXIT TYVOLA ROAD (EXIT #5). TURN LEFT AT TYVOLA ROAD. MAKE A RIGHT AT WESTPARK DR.

FROM I-77N, EXIT TYVOLA ROAD (EXIT #5). BEAR RIGHT AT TYVOLA ROAD. TURN RIGHT AT WESTPARK DR.

CHERRY HILL
950 N. KINGS HWY, SUITE 301
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034

CHICAGO
332 S. MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 410
CHICAGO, IL 60604

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
CRANBERRY CORPORATE BUSINESS CENTER
213 EXECUTIVE DR., SUITE 150
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066
FROM I-79 EXIT CRANBERRY-MARSH ROUTE 228, GO WEST. CROSS OVER ROUTE 19 ONTO FREEDOM ROAD. GO THREE TRAFFIC LIGHTS THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO EXECUTIVE DRIVE. BUILDING IS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM HAMPTON INN.

DALLAS
1701 N COLLINS BLVD, SUITE 130
RICHARDSON, TX 75080
FROM US-75 NORTH TAKE EXIT 26 ONTO N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY TOWARD COLLINS BLVD. /CAMPBELL RD. TURN LEFT ONTO CAMPBELL RD. TURN LEFT ON COLLINS BLVD. BUILDING IS ON RIGHT.

HOUSTON (NORTHWEST)
9800 NORTHWEST FREEWAY, SUITE 200
HOUSTON, TX 77092
FROM HWY 290 DRIVING SOUTHEAST, MERGE ONTO LOOP 610 NORTH. EXIT AT T.C. JESTER AND THEN U-TURN UNDER LOOP 610. STAY ON THE FEEDER ROAD, SHERATON HOTEL IS ON THE RIGHT AS THE ROAD CURVES RIGHT. TURN INTO THE PARKING LOT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SHERATON HOTEL AND BEFORE THE OFFICE BUILDING. CENTER IS ON THE 2ND FLOOR.

LAS VEGAS
3210 E TROPICANA AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NV 89121
FROM I-15 - EXIT EAST ON TROPICANA, TRAVEL APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES, TURN LEFT ON MOJAVE, TURN RIGHT INTO THE PARKING LOT.

FROM I-95 - EXIT WEST ON TROPICANA, TRAVEL APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE, TURN RIGHT ON MOJAVE, TURN RIGHT INTO THE PARKING LOT.

MILFORD
500 BIC DRIVE, SUITE 101
MILFORD, CT 06461
FROM HIGHWAY I-95 EXIT 35. GO TOWARD BIC DRIVE. GO .5 MILES TO 500 BIC DRIVE WHICH IS AT GATE 1 OF THE FORMER BIC COMPLEX. GO TO THE REAR OF THE LOT AND PARK. WALK DOWN THE HILL IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING AND ENTER THE FRONT DOOR. SIGNS WILL DIRECT YOU TO SUITE 101 (PSI).

NASHVILLE
THE OAKS
1100 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 103
NASHVILLE, TN 37217

FROM I-40 WEST: TAKE EXIT ONTO BRILEY PARKWAY, TURN LEFT ONTO BRILEY PWY. EXIT ONTO MURFREESBORO RD. STAY IN THE RIGHT LANE. TURN RIGHT ONTO KERMIT DRIVE. PSI IS IN THE FIRST BUILDING ON YOUR LEFT.

NORTH SALT LAKE CITY
25 NORTH 400 WEST, SUITE 7
NORTH SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84054
(THE CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE NOT SALT LAKE CITY PROPER. THE PSI TEST SITE IS IN DAVIS COUNTY JUST NORTH OF THE FLYING J REFINERY.)

FROM SALT LAKE CITY AND THE SOUTH. MERGE ON TO I-15N. TAKE EXIT 312 AND MERGE ON TO US89 NORTH FOR ABOUT 1.8 MILES. TURN LEFT ONTO E CENTER ST AND GO WEST FOR ABOUT .6 MILES. TURN RIGHT ON TO 400 W.

FROM THE NORTH MERGE ONTO I-15 S SALT LAKE. TAKE THE CENTER ST., EXIT 314. TURN RIGHT ONTO W CENTER ST. TURN RIGHT ONTO 400 W.

FROM I-80 EAST MERGE TO I-215 NORTH. TAKE THE REDWOOD RD/UT-68 EXIT 28 AND TURN RIGHT ONTO CENTER STREET.

PHOENIX
5727 N 7TH ST., SUITE 301
PHOENIX, AZ 85014
FROM I-17 SOUTH EXIT TO BETHANY HOME ROAD. GO LEFT (EAST) ON BETHANY HOME. TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) ON 7TH STREET. THE PSI SITE IS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET JUST BEFORE MISSOURI. IT IS A 4 STORY GLASS BUILDING.

QUEENS
THE SHOPS AT ATLAS PARK
71-19 80TH STREET, SUITE 8307
GLENDALE (QUEENS), NY 11385

WWW.PSIEXAMS.COM
FROM I-678 S, TAKE THE J ROBINSON PKWY EXIT- EXIT 7. TAKE THE FOREST PARK DR EXIT- EXIT 4- TOWARD MYRTLE AVE / WOODHAVEN BLVD. TAKE THE RAMP TOWARD MYRTLE AVE / WOODHAVEN BLVD. TURN SLIGHT RIGHT ONTO FOREST PARK DR. TURN RIGHT ONTO MYRTLE AVE. TURN LEFT ONTO 80TH ST. GO TO 2ND LIGHT PAST MYRTLE AVE OVER SMALL OVERPASS MAKE A RIGHT INTO ATLAS PARK. MAKE A RIGHT AT STOP SIGN TO GET INTO PARKING LOT. ONCE PARKED, GO TO TOP FLOOR OF PARKING LOT, TURN RIGHT AND WALK UNTIL YOU SEE "MARKET PLAZA". TAKE ELEVATOR TO THE 3RD FLOOR. OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE RED BRICK BUILDING.

RICHMOND
MOOREFIELD VI BUILDING
620 MOOREFIELD PARK DRIVE, SUITE 205
RICHMOND, VA 23236
FROM I-64E, TAKE THE PARHAM RD EXIT AND TURN RIGHT. N PARHAM RD/VA-73 S BECOMES VA-150 S/CHIPKENHAM PKWY. MERGE ONTO VA-76 S/POWHITE PKWY. MERGE ONTO MIDLOTHIAN TURNPIKE WEST. TURN LEFT ON MOOREFIELD PARK DR.

SOUTHFIELD (DETROIT AREA)
2640 LAHSER ROAD, SUITE 150
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033
FROM I-96 E MERGE ONTO I-696 E. THEN MERGE ONTO MI-10 S. TAKE THE LAHER ROAD EXIT. KEEP LEFT AT THE FORK IN THE RAMP. TURN LEFT ONTO NORTHWESTERN HWY. TURN RIGHT ONTO LAHER ROAD. YOU MAY ACCESS THE BUILDING FROM THE BACK USING THE NW DOOR.

WEST DES MOINES
1001 OFFICE PARK ROAD, SUITE 315
WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265
FROM I-235, EXIT 8TH ST/73RD ST AND PROCEED SOUTH. TURN RIGHT ON OFFICE PARK ROAD. TURN RIGHT INTO THE DRIVEWAY.

WEST HARTFORD
1245 FARMINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 203
WEST HARTFORD CT.
FROM I-84 WEST, TAKE EXIT 40 TOWARD CT-71/NEW BRITAIN AVE/CORBINS CORNER. TURN RIGHT ONTO RIDGEWOOD RD. TURN LEFT ONTO WOOD PONT RD. TURN LEFT ONTO TUNKIS RD. TURN RIGHT ONTO BROOKMOOR RD. TURN RIGHT ONTO BUENA VISTA RD. TURN LEFT ONTO EVERETT AVE. TURN RIGHT ONTO FARMINGTON AVE. DESTINATION IS ON THE RIGHT.

WILSONVILLE
2519S SW PARKWAY AVENUE, SUITE 105
WILSONVILLE, OR 97070
GOING SOUTH: OFF 15, TAKE EXIT 286 (ELLINGENS/BOONES FERRY RD). TURN LEFT AND CROSS BACK OVER THE FREeway. TURN LEFT AT 2ND SIGNAL LIGHT (PARKWAY AVE.) TURN INTO PARKWAY PLAZA PARKING LOT (ACROSS THE STREET FROM SHRINER'S). WE ARE LOCATED IN THE MAIN ENTRANCE FIRST DOOR ON THE RIGHT.

WOODBURY
6053 HUDSON RD, SUITE 210
WOODBURY, MN 55125
FROM I-94 GO SOUTH ON CENTURY TO THE FIRST LEFT (WHICH IS THE FRONTAGE ROAD ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTRY INN). ENTER THE OFFICE COMPLEX THROUGH THE SINCLAIR GAS STATION AND ALONG BACK OF THE INN. 6053 IS THE BUILDING DIRECTLY AHEAD. THE ENTRANCE ON THAT (WEST) SIDE IS ACTUALLY ON THE 2ND FLOOR. SUITE 210 IS DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO THE RIGHT. PLEASE USE THE WEST ENTRANCE ON SATURDAYS.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

To prepare for the CSE, the Board recommends the following:

- Thoroughly Read the CSE Handbook. In addition to the CSE Test Plan, the CSE Handbook contains valuable information on: examination procedures, administrative processes, etc. Candidates should take time to read all available material and contact the Board well in advance of the examination appointment if they have questions.

- Study the CSE Test Plan. The CSE Test Plan is made up of four areas of task and knowledge statements and was used by the Board to develop the examination questions. No questions will be asked that are not based upon the material found in the CSE Test Plan. Candidates may find it helpful to compare their experience and knowledge with each area of the CSE Test Plan.

- Use the CSE Reference Materials. The Board provides a list of reference material on its website at www.cse.ca.gov. It is strongly recommended that candidates thoroughly review these materials and check the list regularly, as it is updated when necessary. The list details the resources with which to be familiar and knowledgeable, and how they may be obtained. Some of the materials are available for a nominal cost, and others are free. Candidates should check with the source agency of each publication for availability and current pricing.

- Engage in Self-Directed Study. For areas of the CSE Test Plan for which candidates may have limited knowledge or experience, they should engage in self-directed study (e.g., Architectural Experience Program training areas, continuing education, The American Institute of Architects Handbook of Professional Practice, etc.).

- Examination Seminars or Study Guides. The CSE Handbook is the only official examination preparation publication for the CSE. The Board does not contribute to nor endorse any examination seminars or study guides for the CSE. The Board’s Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) may not contribute to or participate in any examination seminars or study guides. In addition, individuals and organizations that offer examination seminars or study guides are not given any information beyond what is available or referenced on the Board’s website or in the CSE Handbook.

Per Civil Code section 1798.61(b), individuals and organizations that provide educational information regarding examinations are provided with a list of the Board’s candidates’ names and addresses upon request (unless a candidate indicates on the examination application that he or she wishes to not have this information shared).

REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION SITE

On the day of the examination, candidates must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to a scheduled appointment time. This allows time for check-in and identification verification and provides time for the candidates to familiarize themselves with the examination process. Candidates who arrive late may not be admitted to the examination site, and they may forfeit the examination registration fee. Even though candidates will be thumb printed, they are still required to comply with any identification requirements established by the Board.
REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION AT THE EXAMINATION SITE

A candidate must provide one of the following valid and current forms of government issued identification with photograph in order to test:

- Driver's license issued by a state, territory, or province of the U.S. or Canada
- Identification card issued by a state, territory, or province of the U.S. or Canada
- Passport issued by the U.S. or Canada
- U.S. Government-issued Passport Card
- U.S. military identification card

All identification photographs must be recognizable as the person to whom the identification card was issued. Also, the name on a candidate’s identification card must match the name on their application submitted to the Board. If a candidate has recently changed their name with the Board, he or she may want to contact PSI to verify that PSI has the correct name on file.

If a candidate cannot provide the required identification, the candidate must call (877) 392-6422 at least three (3) weeks prior to their scheduled appointment to arrange a way to meet this security requirement. Failure to provide the required identification at the time of the examination without notifying PSI is considered a missed appointment, and a candidate will not be able to take the examination.

CALIFORNIA LAW SECURITY PROCEDURES

California Business and Professions Code section 123 states it is a misdemeanor for any person to engage in any conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination, including, but not limited to:

- Conduct which violates the security of the examination materials;
- Removing from the examination room any examination materials without authorization;
- The unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the actual licensing examination;
- Aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the actual licensing examination;
- Paying or using professional or paid examination-takers for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination;
- Obtaining examination questions or other examination material, except by specific authorization either before, during, or after an examination;
- Using or purporting to use any examination questions or materials which were improperly removed or taken from any examination for the purpose of instructing or preparing any applicant for examination;
- Selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination;
- Communicating with any other examinee during the administration of a licensing examination;
- Copying answers from another examinee or permitting one’s answers to be copied by another examinee;
- Having in one’s possession during the administration of the licensing examination any books, equipment, notes, written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed, or otherwise authorized to be in one’s possession during the examination;
- Impersonating any examinee or having an impersonator take the licensing examination on one’s behalf.

Nothing in section 123 precludes prosecution under authority provided for in any other provision of law. In addition to any other penalties, a person found guilty of violating section 123, is liable for the actual damages sustained by the agency administering the examination not to exceed $10,000 and the costs of litigation.

Additionally, section 496 states:

“A board may deny, suspend, revoke, or otherwise restrict a license on the ground that an applicant or licensee has violated Section 123 pertaining to subversion of licensing examinations.”

PSI SECURITY PROCEDURES

No guests, visitors, or family members are allowed in the testing or reception areas. Failure to follow these procedures may result in disqualification of the candidate’s examination.

Note: Each candidate will be provided with notepaper and a pencil at the test site so that notes can be taken during the examination. This notepaper will be retrieved by the proctor after the examination.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TAKING AN EXAMINATION

1. All candidates will have their thumbprint taken during examination check-in. The thumb print must be matched after candidates return from a restroom break and any time the candidate leaves and returns to the test site after check-in.

2. The temperature in the testing room is maintained at a moderate level. Candidates are advised to layer clothing. Acceptable layered clothing includes lightweight shirts, sweaters, and pullovers without pockets or hoods. These items must be worn upon check-in, while you wait to enter the testing room, and during your initial seating for the examination. If the layered item is removed during the examination, you will be required to store it in the lobby while time continues to count down on your examination. Outerwear (coats, heavy jackets, vests, shawls, scarves, etc.) is not allowed in the testing rooms.

3. There are timing mechanisms available in the testing room and on the computer console to help candidates keep track of time during the test administration. Candidates are not permitted to bring watches or other timekeeping devices into the testing rooms.

4. Only one candidate will be allowed to take a restroom break at a time. Candidates are required to sign out when leaving and returning to the testing room. If a candidate’s restroom break takes longer than 5 (five) minutes, a...
proctor will check on the candidate and will notify the applicable regulatory entity of the occurrence. The regulatory entity will investigate and take appropriate action.

5. The following is a non-exhaustive list of personal items that are not permitted in the testing rooms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Permitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purse</td>
<td>Briefcases/daypacks/luggage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular phones</td>
<td>Pagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks (including water)</td>
<td>Food/candy/snacks/gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good luck items</td>
<td>Luggage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculators</td>
<td>Reading materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any recording device</td>
<td>Smart devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic devices</td>
<td>Headphones or earphones/earbuds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal pens or pencils</td>
<td>Therapeutic items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameras</td>
<td>Over-the-counter medication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>Fashion scarves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats/baseball caps/visors</td>
<td>Sunglasses**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulky, large or noisy jewelry**</td>
<td>Prescription drugs****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Headwear worn for religious purposes is subject to inspection. **Prescription and non-prescription eyeglasses may not be worn for the photo. Eyeglasses subject to inspection. ***Jewelry that is allowed into the examination room is subject to inspection. ****Drugs that are medically necessary during the pendency of the examination may be brought into the examination site, in a container bearing a proper prescription label with the name of the candidate and of the drug; any such medication is subject to examination by a proctor upon check-in.

Examination proctors will have considerable discretion to refuse permission of clothing and/or items that compromise the integrity or security of the examination.

During the check-in process, all candidates will be asked if they possess any of the prohibited items and all candidates will be asked to empty their pockets. If prohibited items are found during check-in, candidates must return these items to their vehicle or other place of safekeeping. Neither PSI nor the Department of Consumer Affairs will be responsible for the items. Any candidate possessing prohibited items in the testing room will have his or her examination results invalidated, and PSI will notify the appropriate regulatory entity of the occurrence.

6. Shoes must be worn at all times and feet are not permitted on the chairs. Feet must remain on the floor during examinations.

7. Copying any portion of the examination content by any means or communicating examination content for the purpose of aiding its unauthorized reproduction, whether before, during, or after the examination, is a violation of PSI security policy and existing law. Either one may result in the disqualification or invalidation of examination results, the denial of your license, and may result in criminal prosecution.

8. If a candidate is asked by a proctor to step into the lobby during your examination, the proctor will suspend the candidate’s examination, so all remaining test time will be retained.

Only candidates, and those individuals with prior regulatory entity approval, are allowed to be present in the testing sites.

If candidates require that an exception be made to ANY of the abovementioned security procedures, candidates must contact their regulatory entity PRIOR to the date of their examination. The regulatory entity must provide the exception to PSI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION BY COMPUTER

The examination will be administered via computer. You will be using a mouse and computer keyboard.

**IDENTIFICATION SCREEN**

You will be directed to a semiprivate testing station to take the examination. When you are seated at the testing station, you will be prompted to confirm your name, identification number, and the examination for which you are registered.

**TUTORIAL**

Before you start your examination, an introductory tutorial is provided on the computer screen. The time you spend on this tutorial, up to 15 minutes, DOES NOT count as part of your examination time. Sample questions are included following the tutorial so that you may practice answering questions and reviewing your answers.

**TEST QUESTION SCREEN**

The “function bar” at the top of the sample question provides mouse-click access to the features available while taking the examination.

One question appears on the screen at a time. During the examination, minutes remaining will be displayed at the top of the screen and updated as you record your answers.

**IMPORTANT**: After you have entered your responses, you will later be able to return to any question(s) and change your response, provided the examination time has not run out.
EXAMINATION ITEMS

The CSE consists of 100 scorable multiple-choice items. The examination may also contain an additional number of items for the purpose of pretesting (non-scorable items). Pretesting allows performance data to be gathered and evaluated before the items are scorable in a future examination. These pretest items, distributed throughout the examination, are not identified or used in calculating the examination score.

All of the items in the CSE have been written and reviewed by multiple panels of California-licensed architects. The items are based on the knowledge and ability statements contained in the CSE Test Plan and are written at a level to assess minimum standards of competency necessary for practice in California. Items are supported by reference material and have been pretested to ensure statistical performance standards are met.

There is only one correct answer for each item. The “incorrect” answers are typically common errors and misconceptions, true but not relevant statements, or incorrect statements. There are no “trick” questions in the examination. Scores are based on the number of correct answers. It is to the candidate’s advantage to answer every question.

The CSE consists of individually timed sections that may include general multiple-choice items and project scenario related items pertaining to the content within the CSE Test Plan and applicable knowledge and ability statements. Each section of the exam will have a designated time limit displayed on the computer monitor. If a section is completed before the designated time has expired, the remaining time may not be carried over to another section. Once a section is complete, a candidate must proceed forward to the next section of the examination and may not go back or review answers from a prior completed section. Candidates will have approximately 3.5 hours to take this examination.

The project scenario questions pertain to hypothetical project(s) and related documents. The exam proctor will provide the candidate with a handout at check-in, which may include: a) written information, such as the project program, site description, and architect and client profiles; b) graphics, such as a site plan, floor plan, elevations, sections, and/or details; and c) other project-related information, such as a letter from the client, a transmittal from the contractor, a memo from the planning department, etc. for each project. The project name(s) on the cover of the handout should match the project name on the computer screen for the Project Scenario items. The handout must be returned to the proctor upon completion of the project scenario items of the exam.

A candidate who needs to take a restroom break during the examination will not receive additional time to complete the examination.

EXAMINATION EVALUATION

PSI, in cooperation with the Board, will be continually evaluating the examinations being administered to ensure that they accurately measure competency in the required knowledge areas. Comments may be entered on the computer keyboard during the examination. Candidate comments regarding the questions and the examinations are welcomed. Comments will be analyzed by PSI examination development staff. Although PSI does not respond to individuals regarding these comments, all substantive comments are reviewed. If a discrepancy is found during the comment review, PSI and the Board may reevaluate candidates’ results and adjust them accordingly.

AFTER PASSING THE EXAMINATION

Candidates are eligible to apply for licensure as an architect in California after passing the CSE. To apply, candidates must submit an Application for Licensure and the required fee to the Board. An Application for Licensure is only provided to a candidate when he or she passes the CSE. Allow 30 days for processing of an Application for Licensure and fee and approximately six to eight weeks for issuance of the license.

DEVELOPMENT OF CSE TEST PLAN

The CSE Test Plan specifies the content on the exam. The process to develop the plan must follow a specific methodology and comply with psychometric and legal standards. To commence development, OPES conducted an “occupational analysis” (OA) of practice in California. The purpose of the OA is to define architectural practice in terms of actual job tasks new licensees must be able to safely and competently perform.
The results of the OA serve as the basis for determining the tasks and knowledge that comprise practice in California.

OPES began the OA by conducting stakeholder and architect focus groups. The purpose of the focus groups was to identify the qualities stakeholders determined that an architect should possess and the areas of practice that could be improved. The focus groups included: contractors, engineering professionals, landscape architects, and building officials. An additional focus group of architects reviewed the results and identified changes and trends in practice anticipated over the next five to eight years.

OPES also conducted practitioner interviews. The purpose was to identify the tasks performed by newly licensed architects, and the knowledge required to perform those tasks in a safe and competent manner. The interviews were also used to follow up on topics arising from the focus groups and to inform the development of a preliminary list of task and knowledge statements.

Following the stakeholder focus groups and practitioner interviews, two additional focus groups were conducted by OPES. The purpose of these sessions was to develop and refine the task and knowledge statements. As a result of the practitioner’s correlation of task and knowledge statements, new statements were created while others were eliminated.

The Board sent invitations to approximately 9,000 architects requesting completion of the OA questionnaire. The final sample size was 17%.

OPES performed data analyses on the task and knowledge rating responses and combined the task ratings to derive an overall criticality index for each task statement. The mean importance rating was used as the criticality index for each knowledge statement.

After the data was analyzed, two additional focus groups were conducted with practitioners. The purpose of these focus groups was to evaluate the criticality indices and determine whether any task or knowledge statements should be eliminated. The practitioners also established the linkage between job tasks and knowledge statements, organized the task and knowledge statements into content areas, and defined those areas. In addition, the practitioners evaluated and confirmed the content area weights.

The resulting description of practice for California architects is structured into six content areas. The description of practice specifies the job tasks and knowledge critical to safe and effective practice at the time of licensure and forms the basis for the content included in the CSE Test Plan.

EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT

The CSE is developed and maintained by OPES, a division of the DCA. OPES staff consists of test validation and development specialists trained to develop and analyze occupational licensing examinations.

Architects who participate in examination development and review workshops are referred to as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). SMEs write and review multiple-choice items for the examination. SMEs are trained by OPES staff in established examination development processes and measurement methodologies. The cooperative efforts among these members of the architectural profession, the OPES and the Board are necessary to achieve both the measurement and content standards for examination construction.

ESTABLISHING THE PASSING STANDARDS

The CSE measures knowledge and skills required for architectural practice in California and represents a standard of performance that architect SMEs agree is the minimum acceptable level for licensing in the profession.

To establish pass/fail standards for the CSE, a criterion-referenced passing score methodology is used. The intent of this methodology is to differentiate between a qualified and unqualified licensure candidate. The passing score is based on minimum competence criterion that are defined in terms of the actual behaviors that qualified architects would perform if they possessed the knowledge necessary to perform job activities.

During a criterion-referenced passing score procedure, a panel of architect SMEs also consider other factors that would contribute to minimum acceptable competence, such as: prerequisite qualifications (e.g., education, training and experience), the difficulty of the issues addressed in each multiple-choice item, and public health and safety issues. By adopting a criterion-referenced passing score, the Board applies the same minimum competence standards to all licensure candidates.

CSE TEST PLAN CONTENT

The new examination outline for the CSE is structured into four content areas weighted by criticality relative to the other content areas. The CSE examination outline specifies the job tasks and knowledge specific to California practice that a California-licensed architect is expected to have mastered at the time of licensure. An overview of the final test plan is provided below.

Categories and Subcategories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Subcategory</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. General Practice</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Programming/Design</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Development/Documentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Bidding/Construction</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The percentage of exam content listed above is approximate.

Each category includes a definition and a list of knowledge or ability statements. The questions asked from a category will cover a sample of the knowledge or ability statements in that category. Therefore, while not every statement will be addressed by every form of the examination, candidates should be prepared to respond to questions dealing with any of the CSE Test Plan Knowledge and Ability Statements. The
candidate's knowledge will be measured in the context of tasks architects perform.
I. General Practice (14%)

This area assesses the candidate’s knowledge related to core areas of practice applicable across types of projects, construction contract arrangements, and project delivery methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Statements</th>
<th>Knowledge Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Advertise and solicit services in compliance with professional and legal</td>
<td>1. Knowledge of the provisions of the Architect’s Practice Act and CA Code of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requirements.</td>
<td>Regulations related to architect’s business and professional requirements (e.g.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Evaluate the project’s opportunities and constraints for alignment with</td>
<td>contracts, architectural corporations, responsible control, architect’s stamp).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>client goals and requirements.</td>
<td>2. Knowledge of different project delivery methods and the architect’s and project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Assess preliminary project requirements including budget and schedule</td>
<td>team’s corresponding roles and responsibilities (e.g., to client, as part of team).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relative to own firm’s/organization’s business goals, resources, and expertise.</td>
<td>4. Knowledge of types of contracts and their application to the scope of work and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Evaluate potential contractual risks and determine strategies to manage</td>
<td>the project’s service requirements (client, consultant, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>them.</td>
<td>5. Knowledge of methods for limiting professional liability (e.g., contractual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Collaborate with client to determine scope of work, project delivery</td>
<td>allocation of risk, standard of care, client and project selection).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>method, deliverables, and compensation, etc., to prepare owner-architect</td>
<td>7. Knowledge of methods for evaluating own/firm’s capabilities and capacities in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agreement.</td>
<td>relation to project requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Identify the local, state, and federal regulatory jurisdictions impacting</td>
<td>9. Knowledge of methods and procedures for identifying the regulatory agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project.</td>
<td>having jurisdiction over the project and their specific requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Identify the project team members (e.g., architects, engineers, speciality</td>
<td>13. Knowledge of architect’s role and responsibilities for managing project and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consultants) and who is responsible for the contracting, management, and</td>
<td>contractual risk for the architect and client.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coordination of each member.</td>
<td>15. Knowledge of the architect’s role and responsibilities in orchestrating the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Collaborate with client to determine the specific roles and responsibilities</td>
<td>architect’s consultants and the entire project team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of project participants (e.g., owner’s representative, architect, contractor,</td>
<td>16. Knowledge of the architect’s professional and contractual responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>construction manager).</td>
<td>related to the client.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Solicit the consultants to be contracted under the architect and evaluate</td>
<td>20. Knowledge of methods and techniques for resolving conflicts that occur during</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their qualifications and scope of services based on project requirements.</td>
<td>design and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Implement strategies for managing contractual risk (QA/QC, peer review).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Implement strategies for managing and documenting communication (e.g.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point of contact, reporting methods) between the architect, client, and team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and between the design team and external parties (e.g., agencies, stakeholders).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Implement strategies to control risk and manage liability for the client</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e.g., due diligence, accessibility).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Knowledge of the architect’s role and responsibilities in orchestrating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project team.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Knowledge of the architect’s professional and contractual responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>related to the client.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Knowledge of architect’s role and responsibilities for managing project and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contractual risk for the architect and client.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Knowledge of the architect’s professional and contractual responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>related to the client.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Conduct periodic progress meetings with design and project team to identify</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>potential issues in work processes or team communication and develop plans to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>address the issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Manage the design team’s fees, deliverables, and schedules to conform to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contract.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Programming/Design (36%)

This area assesses the candidate’s ability to identify and evaluate site and project opportunities and constraints in developing design concepts that meet the client’s, user’s, and stakeholder’s needs and applicable California regulations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Statements</th>
<th>Knowledge Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20. Perform or evaluate site feasibility studies (e.g., size, gradient,</td>
<td>23. Knowledge of methods for developing design solutions with the involvement of client, users, consultants,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infrastructure, environmental conditions) to clarify and address project</td>
<td>and stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requirements.</td>
<td>25. Knowledge of environmental conditions regulated in California (e.g., wetlands, coastal regions,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Assist client in evaluating design concepts based on budget, aesthetics,</td>
<td>habitats of endangered species) related to design and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc., to determine design direction.</td>
<td>27. Knowledge of the impacts to project from environmental conditions (e.g., seismic activity, fire,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Review program with client to validate project requirements and gain</td>
<td>winds, floods, flood zone, hazardous materials) and their potential mitigations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>approval to proceed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Provide consultants with program and background information to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collaboratively develop the design concept.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Task Statements</td>
<td>Knowledge Statements</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Develop the project program using multiple approaches (e.g., surveys, interviews) to identify and evaluate user needs.</td>
<td>28. Knowledge of processes and procedures for obtaining discretionary approvals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Present project to community groups and other stakeholders for their input and feedback.</td>
<td>29. Knowledge of processes and procedures for compliance with local codes and ordinances related to design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Integrate sustainable design strategies and technologies into design.</td>
<td>30. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) related to design and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Identify the specific requirements of regulatory agencies and discuss their incorporation into the design/program with client and design team.</td>
<td>31. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with California Coastal Act as it related to design and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Prepare and submit exhibits and application forms to governing agencies (e.g., Planning Department, Coastal Commission, Design Review Board) for discretionary approvals.</td>
<td>32. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with California Clean Air Act related to design and construction (e.g., air quality requirements for dust mitigation, limitations on generator exhaust).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Work with agency staff to incorporate proposed conditions of discretionary approval into project documents.</td>
<td>33. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with State regulatory requirements (e.g., Essential Services Building Seismic Safety Act, Field Act, Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act) related to the design and construction of hospitals, schools, fire/police stations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Develop design concepts based on program requirements and constraints placed by applicable laws, local codes, ordinances, etc.</td>
<td>34. Knowledge of what is encompassed by the California Building Standards Code (e.g., building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, energy) and how the CBSC is distinct from the model codes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with the California Water Quality Act related to design and construction.</td>
<td>37. Knowledge of methods and procedures for complying with the California water quality regulations related to design and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regard to how it impacts architectural practice (e.g., client and architect responsibilities, design, construction).</td>
<td>38. Knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regard to how it impacts architectural practice (e.g., client and architect responsibilities, design, construction).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Knowledge of national standards (e.g., UL, ANSI, ASTM, Factory Mutual) relevant to design and construction.</td>
<td>40. Incorporate final conditions of discretionary approval into</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Development/Documentation (30%)

This area assesses the candidate’s knowledge regarding developing design solutions, managing a project team, and preparing design and construction drawings and documents in conformance with the project program and applicable California regulations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Statements</th>
<th>Knowledge Statements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33. Lead the preparation of design development documents that integrate the architectural design and engineered building systems.</td>
<td>41. Knowledge of methods and procedures for evaluating and integrating building systems (e.g., structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, life safety, conveying, building systems controls) into the project design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Analyze and coordinate the selection and design of building systems (e.g., structural, mechanical, electrical, fire safety, security) with consultants.</td>
<td>42. Knowledge of methods and procedures for evaluating building materials (e.g., material characteristics, performance, testing standards) for selection into the project design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Lead the project team in the integration of the regulatory requirements into the design development documents.</td>
<td>46. Knowledge of architect’s role and responsibilities in leading project team in order to obtain necessary agency approvals at the appropriate time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Coordinate design with input from client and the overall project team (e.g., general contractor, building official), and evaluate/incorporate their inputs based on project requirements.</td>
<td>48. Knowledge of methods for performing a QA/QC review of Design Development documents including constructability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Perform value engineering and life-cycle cost analyses to advise owner about approaches for managing project costs.</td>
<td>49. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating design compliance with State regulatory requirements for environmental quality: CEQA, Coastal Act, Clean Air Act, water quality regulations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Analyze and integrate the selection of sustainable design strategies and technologies into the design.</td>
<td>50. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating</td>
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<td>Task Statements</td>
<td>Knowledge Statements</td>
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<tr>
<td>42. Coordinate the preparation of the construction documents (e.g., architectural, structural, mechanical, civil, electrical, specs) and resolve potential conflicts or errors.</td>
<td>51. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating design compliance with State regulatory requirements (e.g., Essential Services Building Seismic Safety Act, Field Act, Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act) related to design and construction of hospitals, schools, fire/police stations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Manage distribution and review of documents during the construction document and permit phases.</td>
<td>52. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating design compliance with local regulations: zoning, planning, general plan, CBSC modifications, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Prepare construction documents that meet program requirements and project goals, and present to client for approval.</td>
<td>53. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating design compliance with federal laws and authorities: ADA, Army Corps of Engineers, FAA, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Prepare construction documents and verify conformance with the conditions of prior agency approvals and applicable codes and regulations.</td>
<td>54. Knowledge of methods and procedures for demonstrating design compliance with National Standards: NFPA, ASTM, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Perform a detailed review of construction documents for constructability and incorporate changes into final documents.</td>
<td>55. Knowledge of methods for performing a QA/QC review of construction docs including constructability, code compliance, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Manage the submittal of construction documents to regulatory agencies through initial submittal, coordinating responses, and obtaining approvals.</td>
<td>56. Knowledge of methods and procedures for managing the distribution and review of documents during the construction document and permit phases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>57. Knowledge of contents of contract documents (e.g., construction drawings, specifications, project manual) required for agency approval, bidding, and construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>58. Knowledge of methods for documenting the anchoring of nonstructural elements as defined by the California Building Code (e.g., fixtures and equipment items, nonbearing partitions, suspended ceilings).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>59. Knowledge of methods and procedures for working with regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over the project to obtain final approvals (local, regional, State, federal).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>60. Knowledge of interrelationships between regulatory agencies and their impact on the approval process (e.g., sequence of approvals, hierarchy of jurisdictions).</td>
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<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>61. Knowledge of the architect’s role and responsibilities related to construction bidding and negotiation processes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>62. Knowledge of the interrelationships and responsibilities between the owner, architect, and contractor during construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>63. Knowledge of methods and procedures for resolving conflicts that occur during construction (e.g., mediation, arbitration, litigation).</td>
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<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>64. Knowledge of procedures for determining general conformance of construction with contract documents.</td>
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</table>

IV. Bidding/Construction (20%)

This area assesses the candidate's knowledge related to California regulations associated with project bidding, construction, and post-construction activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49. Assist client in the bidding process (e.g., distribute documents, conduct pre-bid meetings, prepare addenda).</td>
<td>66. Knowledge of architect’s role and responsibilities related to construction bidding and negotiation processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Prepare bid documents appropriate to the selected delivery method.</td>
<td>68. Knowledge of California laws related to design professional and contractor liens and their implications for the architect’s and client’s responsibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Manage the initiation/processing of documents to record construction changes (e.g., Construction Change Directives, Architect’s Supplemental Instructions, Change Orders).</td>
<td>70. Knowledge of the interrelationships and responsibilities between the owner, architect, and contractor during construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Participate in pre-construction and pre-installation meetings with contractor as required by the contract documents.</td>
<td>71. Knowledge of methods for resolving conflicts that occur during construction (e.g., mediation, arbitration, litigation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. Monitor project construction costs and schedule (e.g., review and certify contractor applications for payment, verify lien releases).</td>
<td>73. Knowledge of procedures for determining general conformance of construction with contract documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Statements</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>55. Review test, inspection, observation schedules, programs and reports for conformance with construction documents.</td>
<td>(e.g., observation, submittal reviews, RFIs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. Review shop drawings and submittals during construction for conformance with design intent.</td>
<td>74. Knowledge of methods and procedures for implementing changes during construction (e.g., Architect’s Supplemental Instructions, Change Orders).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. Conduct periodic site observations/field reports to confirm that construction is in general conformance with contract documents.</td>
<td>75. Knowledge of procedures for monitoring construction costs and schedules (e.g., reviewing and certifying payments to contractor, reviewing lien releases).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. Respond to contractor Requests for Information.</td>
<td>76. Knowledge of procedures for performing project close-out (e.g., Certificate of Substantial Completion, Notice of Completion, final lien releases).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. Assist client with evaluating possible changes to the project during construction (e.g., cost, scope, schedule, quality).</td>
<td>77. Knowledge of the California construction laws related to minimum warranty periods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. Manage project close-out procedures (e.g., Certificate of Substantial Completion, Notice of Completion, verification of final lien releases, verification of public agency approvals) per contract.</td>
<td>78. Knowledge of code-required special inspections and testing (e.g., field welding, high-strength concrete).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61. Conduct post-construction services (e.g., post-occupancy evaluations, extended commissioning, record drawings) per contract.</td>
<td>79. Knowledge of State inspection, testing, reporting, and documentation requirements for construction of hospitals, public schools, and essential services buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. Assist owner with resolving post-occupancy issues, (e.g., evaluation of building performance, warranty issues).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
NOTICE OF CSE ELIGIBILITY

The CSE Handbook provides important information regarding CSE procedures, processes, and content. To schedule an examination, please refer to the instructions in this handbook.

Upon passing the CSE, a candidate is eligible to apply for an architect license in California. Information about applying for a license is included in this handbook.