

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

**(Joint Oversight Hearing, March 6, 2017, Senate Committee on
Business, Professions and Economic Development and the Assembly
Committee on Business and Professions)**

IDENTIFIED ISSUES, BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

History and Function of the California Council for Interior Design Certification

SB 153 (Craven, Chapter 396, Statutes of 1990) initially enacted the California law relating to certification of interior designers. The current law provides for a voluntary system whereby an interior designer may become certified and obtain a stamp from an interior design organization by demonstrating competency by means of education, experience and examination (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 5800 - 5812). The California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC or Board) was created by a coalition of professional interior design organizations in January 1992 with the intent of being the organization responsible for determining whether interior designers met the education, experience and examination requirements.

SB 1028 (Marks, Chapter 891, Statutes of 1995) amended BPC § 5800 to change the definition of an interior design organization to a “nonprofit professional organization of certified interior designers whose governing Board shall include representatives of the public.” SB 136 (Figueroa, Chapter 495, Statutes of 2001) further refined the definition to remove “professional” from “professional organization” and to require the nonprofit organization to be registered as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. The bill also established “title protection” for the term “certified interior designer” by making it an unfair business practice for an individual to represent himself or herself as a certified interior designer unless they comply with the requirements of the certified interior designer law. (BPC § 5812).

The legislation that initially established the Sunset Review process in California, SB 2036 (McCorquodale, Chapter 908, Statutes of 1994) established the sunset date of the certified interior designer law for July 1, 1996. In 1996, the law was allowed to sunset, and SB 435 (McPherson,

Chapter 351, Statutes of 1997) reinstated the sunset date in an urgency measure for one year, and the law has been extended periodically by legislation since that time.

From 1996 until 2000, the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) had been creating a new universal international building code, the ICC 2000, for adoption in all states, including Canada and Mexico. The language in this code that was of concern to interior designers was the definition “Registered Design Professional.” Many in the interior design field were concerned that adoption of this code and definition might prevent interior designers in California from being able to submit plans to local building officials for building permits, since in California the title “Certified” is used, and not the title “Registered.”

In an effort to address that concern, CCIDC and the California Legislative Conference on Interior Design (CLCID) jointly sponsored AB 1096 (Romero) in 1999, which would have provided for the registration of interior designers by a Board of Interior Design within the Department of Consumer Affairs. That bill was vetoed by the Governor, citing that the bill “creates a new regulatory program for an industry where there is no demonstrated consumer harm.”

Since that time, two other bills have been introduced to establish interior designer registration/licensure under a state licensing and regulatory agency. Both bills (SB 1312 [Yee in 2008] and AB 2428 [Ma in 2012]) were sponsored by Interior Design Coalition of California. These bills received strong opposition and ultimately died in the legislative process.

SB 136 (Figueroa) in 2001 further required all examinations utilized by CCIDC for the certification process to comply with BPC § 139, which establishes the uniform policy for examination development, validation an occupational analysis for all professional examinations under the DCA.

The current CCIDC mission statement, as stated in its Sunset Report is as follows:

“To establish and implement professional standards and educational requirements, educate the public, and facilitate interior design professional's compliance with our standards and code of ethics in order to provide for the protection, health, safety and welfare of the public.”

Board Structure and Membership

BPC § 5800 (b) provides for an “interior design organization” to administer voluntary certification. The organization is defined as a “nonprofit organization, exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) (3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, of Certified Interior Designers whose governing Board shall include representatives of the public.”

Under the current bylaws of CCIDC, the board is composed of no more than eleven members, five of whom will occupy a seat for each of the designated national professional interior design associations, namely the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID); the Interior Design Society (IDS); the International Interior Design Association (IIDA); the International Furnishing and Design Associates (IFDA); and the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA). There is also a professional member of the board who is not affiliated with any of these organizations who represents the “independent” or

non-affiliated interior designers. Representing educators on the board is a seat designated for the Interior Design Education Council (IDEC).

Both ASID and IDEC have chosen not to participate on the appointment of their respective designated seat holder, so the full CCIDC board makes the choice from suitable volunteer candidates possessing the appropriate designations and qualifications.

Lastly, there are four public member positions on the board, none of whom are associated, or ever have been, with the interior design profession in any way whatsoever.

All “professional” (i.e. non-public) members of the CCIDC board are, and must be, Certified Interior Designers in accordance with the CCIDC bylaws. All board members must be residents of California.

Each director serves a three-year term with a two-term maximum. The board has occasionally granted a one year grace period to certain termed out directors in order to stagger terms and avoid too many leaving the board at one time, or in other instances to allow for continuity for a special project of program.

CCIDC has not had a problem making a quorum for any of its meetings in the past four years. CCIDC board meetings are very well attended by all board members all of the time with very few exceptions.

Since the last Sunset Review, the Board leadership has changed at least one time with the executive officers. The current board make-up is as follows:

Patsy Zakian Greenough, CID, NKBA	CHAIR
Brian Kaneko, CID, Independent Designer	VICE CHAIR
Cheri Lemons, Public Member	SECRETARY
James Ogden, Public Member	TREASURER
Kimberly Alonzo, CID, IDS	
Judith Clark, CID, IFDA	
Kathleen Galipeau, CID, Educator	
Eduardo Melgar, CID, IIDA	
Rebecca Soechtig, CID, ASID	
David Cardone, Public Member	

There is currently one vacancy for a public board member, which has been posted publicly since January 2017 on the CCIDC web site and in CCIDC newsletters. A suitable and qualified candidate has come forward for this position and the Board hopes to confirm this person at the next board meeting. All public members are nominated, approved, and confirmed through a motion by the full board at board meetings.

Every January, a new meeting calendar is established for the three regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year, namely end of January, May and September. As other board activities become known, they too are added to the calendar including special events. These dates are also posted on the

web site under “News” and included in the monthly electronic newsletter. Meetings are not shown via webcast.

CCIDC does not have public committees per se, only six internal committees. These are the Executive, Compensation, CALBO, Marketing & Outreach, Education & Examination, and Compliance Committees.

- 1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – The Executive Committee is made up with the duly elected officers of the corporation, the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the board on day-to-day issues governing the operation of CCIDC and its staff. If an emergency arises that cannot wait until the full board can be convened the Executive Committee can make determinations on behalf of the board in order to maintain the integrity and operational stability of the corporation in accordance with its Bylaws.
- 2) COMPENSATION COMMITTEE – Made up of the executive officers of the board, Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. They prepare and survey anonymously the entire board on the performance of the Executive Director on an annual basis and determine compensation and benefits.
- 3) CALBO COMMITTEE – Made up of one or two active board members, including ex-officio and past board members and the CCIDC Executive Director to interact, attend, and liaise with CALBO (California Local Building Officials) especially at the CALBO Annual Business Meeting, which is held at various locations around the state. This gives CCIDC the opportunity to explain and discuss certification to hundreds of building officials from all over the state where Certified Interior Designers submit their plans for permitting purposes. Reports by this committee are made three times per year at every board meeting.
- 4) MARKETING & OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Again, made up of one or two active board members, including ex-officio and past board members and the Executive Director as well as outside paid consultants as needed. The purpose of the committee is to assist in the development of strategies for CCIDC to reach out to various constituencies through Internet web based programs, print media and personal contact. The main communication to and from CCIDC is through its web site at www.ccidc.org where four distinct portals on the web site reach out to consumers, CIDs, students and non-Certified Interior Designers, and building officials. Reports by this committee are made three times per year at every board meeting.
- 5) EDUCATION & EXAMINATION COMMITTEE – This committee is typically made up of board members who are not only Certified Interior Designers, but interior design school educators as well as staff. The purpose of this committee is to review the examination process CCIDC uses to qualify candidates for certification, and to ensure such examination(s) conform to California standards as codified in BPC § 139 and the policy promulgated by the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) under the DCA. The CCIDC board has also determined that in order to protect California consumers, any examination used to qualify Certified Interior Designers in this state must be relevant to the California Building Codes,

Title 24, and all other regulations and codes applicable to the practice of interior design in California.

Reports by this committee are made three times per year at every board meeting.

- 6) **COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE** – This is a standing committee and has been in existence since the inception of CCIDC. The purpose of the compliance committee is to ensure the integrity of the CID approval process, which is moving a candidate for certification to being an actual certified interior designer. A candidate for certification has to comply with specific education and work experience conditions as well as passing an approved examination by the CCIDC board.

Fiscal, Fund, and Fee Analysis

CCIDC as a private non-profit organization does not receive any public money from the State General Fund or from any State Special Fund.

CCIDC’s budget year runs from January 1 through December 31 each year. The economy over the past several years continues to struggle for the interior design profession in California. It has been especially more difficult in the residential field due to the slowdown in the housing market for new and resale homes. CCIDC has experienced a large number of Certified Interior Designers retiring as the baby boom generation reaches maturation, or moving to other states or into other professions. This continues to be a significant loss of revenue.

Since CCIDC started administering the California based examination (IDEX California) it has helped offset some of these losses due to shrinking certificate holders. The current reserve level is lower than desired. CCIDC’s renewals run high and low over a two-year cycle with odd years having more renewals than even years. This has resulted in uneven income year to year since the inception of CCIDC in 1992.

Fund Condition					
(Dollars in whole numbers)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Beginning Balance	23,100	21,700	23,100	32,900	24,900
Revenues	313,000	339,600	303,700	297,400	
Total Revenue	\$336,100	\$361,300	\$326,800	\$330,300	
Budget	325,200	328,300	311,500	314,500	302,700
Expenditures	321,100	308,800	298,600	314,000	
Loans	11,800	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued Interest	1,400	600	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	\$ 21,700	\$23,100	\$32,900	\$ 24,900	
Months in Reserve	1.00	1.25	2.0	1.25	

CCIDC Fee Authority

CCIDC is not planning to raise certification or renewal fees at this point in time as it may result in more losses of current CIDs unwilling to absorb an increase. Examination fees have held steady since the introduction of the IDEX California examination, however the examination administrator, Castle Worldwide, has increased the individual proctor fee in the past 4 years from \$75.00 per candidate to \$82.50 per candidate, a 10% increase. So far, CCIDC has absorbed that cost increase and has not passed it on to candidates. The contractual agreement with the examination administrator will expire in May 2017. CCIDC anticipates another proctor fee increase within the new agreement and may have to pass this through to the candidates. This will be determined by the Board at the appropriate time at a regularly scheduled board meeting in 2017.

The original one time only application fee of \$150.00 from 1992 remains unchanged to this day. The authority under which CCIDC charges fees is contained within the CCIDC Bylaws, Article V, Section 5.01(n).

The certification renewal fee for Certified Interior Designers is bi-annual. The original fee for the initial two years and subsequent two year renewal fees at the inception of CCIDC in 1992 was \$200.00. That remained for 16 years and then was raised to \$250.00 for both the two year initial and the two year renewal fee in 2008. All other fees have remained the same other than the IDEX California fee, which was introduced in 2008. The IDEX fee is \$375.00, which is less than any of the national examination fees, most of which exceed \$1,000.00.

Fee Schedule and Revenue							
(listed revenue dollars in whole numbers)							
Fee	Current Fee Amount	Statutory Limit	FY 2012 Revenue	FY 2013 Revenue	FY 2014 Revenue	FY 2015 Revenue	% of Total Revenue
Application Fee – One time only fee	\$150.00	N/A	17,350.00	14,400.00	14,400.00	13,350.00	4.4%
Certification/Renewal Fee Bi-Annual	\$250.00	N/A	249,136.00	280,899.00	245,841.00	243,145.00	75.3%
Penalty Late Fee – Per occurrence	\$100.00	N/A	800.00	800.00	700.00	1,900.00	0.31%
Emeritus Status Fee Bi-Annual	\$150.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,680.00	0.27%
IDEX Examination Fee per registration	\$375.00	N/A	41,250.00	42,385.00	41,850.00	35,150.00	11.85%
Other Income CEU/CID Pages		N/A	4,465.00	1,150.00	1,008.00	200.00	0.05%

It should be noted that the “Inactive Status” was eliminated by CCIDC at the end of 2007, with a one-year grace period through to the end of 2008. It was determined by CCIDC that 278 Certified Interior Designers were paying the inactive status fee of \$25.00 per year, but still using the full “current” title in violation of the CCIDC Rules and Regulations. After a review of policies on inactive status of comparable state boards, it was determined by the CCIDC board to allow those on inactive status one year to return to “current” status, or go to a retired or delinquent status, and eliminate the inactive status category altogether.

In May of 2014 the CCIDC board by a unanimous motion created an additional entry path to becoming certified. The board created Path 3, which provides an application discount of \$100.00 and recognition to those individuals who have taken any one of five national examinations relative to interior design or architecture by waiving some the application documentation that was already proven by their examination passage.

The CCIDC board has also created a new Emeritus category for CIDs who were over 62 years of age and contemplating retirement from the profession, but who wanted to keep their certification credential without having to comply with continuing education requirements or the need for a CID stamp. The fee was established at a lower rate of \$150.00 for every two years.

The following table shows the amount of expenditures in each of CCIDC’s program areas. Since CCIDC works on a lean staff of two, they do not break out administration costs by examination and certification. CCIDC tracks personnel expenses in the form of salaries, insurances for health and worker’s compensation, payroll expenses, employer taxes, etc., in order to arrive at an “Administration” number. The Operating Expenses & Equipment associated with that number in the adjacent column under “OE&E” are all of the other expenses not directly associated with the certification or examination processes. This would be office rent, equipment leases for the copier and postage meter, office supplies, computer maintenance and acquisition, bank fees, accounting fees, board meetings, etc.

Expenditures by Program Component (listed dollars in whole numbers)								
	FY 2012		FY 2013		FY 2014		FY 2015	
	Personnel Services	OE&E	Personnel Services	OE&E	Personnel Services	OE&E	Personnel Services	OE&E
Examination	INCL.	13,900	INCL.	12,325	INCL.	13,105	INCL.	22,292
Certification	INCL.	50,197	INCL.	41,186	INCL.	34,787	INCL.	40,102
Administration *	206,764	50,239	203,816	51,473	207,688	43,020	207,039	44,567
TOTALS	\$206,764	\$114,336	\$203,816	\$104,984	\$207,688	\$90,912	\$207,039	\$106,961

*Administration includes costs for executive staff, CCIDC, administrative support, and fiscal services.

The OE&E expense under “Examination” are those costs CCIDC expends to an outside vendor for administering the IDEX California. They do not break out or track personnel time or costs to in house administration of the examination – that is covered under “Administration”. Please note that there was an increase in this particular number in 2015 over previous years, and this was due to a revalidation of the entire examination due to the new building codes being adopted in 2014.

The same applies to “Certification” which is all of the costs associated with getting new people certified to renewing certifications for existing CIDs, issuing stamps and I.D. cards, invoicing, postage, etc. This number varies each year depending on the number of new applications CCIDC gets to the number of existing CIDs who choose to renew.

Because CCIDC is a private non-profit board it does not have “Enforcement” rights or privileges so this item has been removed from “Expenditures by Program Component” table. CCIDC also does not

deal with “Diversion” for the same reasons, although if a CID is disciplined by the board for any reason, the goal of the board is to rehabilitate that person through education requiring attendance at appropriate classes for things such as ethics and business practices.

Staffing Levels

The CCIDC staff is comprised of two people, namely the Executive Director and the Administrative Director. CCIDC reports that there have been no issues with staffing levels.

The Executive Director is a Certified Interior Designer by training and vocation for almost 40 years before taking on the role at CCIDC, and is also experienced and trained in financial administration, which allows all of the financial recording responsibilities to be administered by the same person, thus alleviating the need for extra staff.

The Administrative Director is very experienced and highly trained in all aspects of the programs and software used by the organization covering the day-to-day operations. Using state of the art software programs and equipment, most of the organization’s needs are met with these two people.

As a private organization, CCIDC also has the ability to hire outside consultants as needed to deal with workload spikes. CCIDC currently utilizes a consultant web designer for its Internet presence, as well as other consultants and volunteers to reach out to consumers and students at interior design educational programs.

It should also be noted that CCIDC does not have “cite and fine” authority and therefore does not need investigators, staff attorney, or a liaison staff with the DCA.

Certification Program

In 2015, CCIDC has 2,310 active certified interior designers. In 2015, CCIDC received and approved 94 applications, and renewed approximately 903 certificates.

Certification Population					
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Certified Interior Designer	Active	1786	1912	2099	2310
	Out-of-State	515	521	529	534
	Out-of-Country	14	15	15	15
	Expired	987	1066	1161	1227
	Retired	1168	1297	1315	1346
	Deceased	50	54	58	61
	Revoked	2	2	2	2

CCIDC provides extensive application forms online on its Website for all candidates to fill out. Application forms are aligned with the different paths to certification. All applications must eventually be accompanied with sealed original school transcripts verifying education, a resume of affidavit, or tax return proving work experience, and passage of the IDEX California.

All applicants for certification as a certified interior designer must take and pass the IDEX California, regardless of passing a national exam. The IDEX California examination is broken into three distinct domains, namely: Domain 1: California Code and Regulations; Domain 2: Business Practices and Ethics; and Domain 3: Design Standards. Domain 1 and Domain 2 are very specific to California. CCIDC allows anyone with a minimum of 40 semester units in interior design education or a minimum of 5 years diversified interior design working experience to sit for the IDEX California examination. This becomes inclusive of all California Community Colleges who offer interior design courses. CCIDC uses 40 semester units to equal 2 years of education, 60 semester units to equal 3 years and 80 semester units to equal 4 years. The examination is given for the entire month of May and the entire month of October each year and computerized results are typically available within one or two weeks after the examination window is over.

The California Codes and Regulations Examination (CCRE) was eliminated in 2012. This examination was replaced by the IDEX California examination developed in 2008 and first administered in 2009. There was a grace period from 2008 to 2012 allowing candidates who had previously taken and passed the CCRE to become certified without having to take the IDEX California examination.

To attain a certificate as a certified interior designer, an applicant must meet at least one of the following requirements (Business and Professions Code Section 5801):

- (a) He or she is a graduate of a four- or five-year accredited interior design degree program, and has two years of diversified interior design experience.
- (b) He or she has completed a three-year accredited interior design certificate program, and has completed three years of diversified interior design experience.
- (c) He or she has completed a two-year accredited interior design program and has completed four years of diversified interior design experience.
- (d) He or she has at least eight years of interior design education, or at least eight years of diversified interior design experience, or a combination of interior design education and diversified interior design experience that together total at least eight years.

There is also an additional path for applicants who have passed national examinations. This path is typical to most other certification paths except that their education and work experience documentation is not required because they hold one of the accepted national examinations. Most of the exams exceed CCIDC's certification application requirement. For example, just to sit for the NCIDQ exam in 2018, an applicant must have 3 years of education and three years of work experience. These applicants also receive a \$100.00 application fee discount as an incentive to becoming certified and because of the shortened documentation process. After a candidate provides proof of passage of a national examination to the Board, the applicant will also need to sit for the IDEX California to be tested on specific California Codes and Regulations.

As soon as an applicant has met all of the statutory and examination requirements, the goal of the Board is to turn the approval process around within one or two days at the most. It is then up to the candidate to complete the process by making a payment. As soon as they have paid for their first two years of certification fees, they can start using the certified interior designer title and unique number assigned to them. The board also orders their stamp and I.D. card and prepares a CID binder that covers all of the information and requirements for being a CID.

CCIDC does not approve or recommend interior design educational facilities. However, all those that currently offer interior design education programs in California are listed in detail on the CCIDC web site in a separate section, those thinking of becoming an interior designer, or for existing designers looking for further education. The listing is reviewed continuously for changes and updates. There are currently 59 California based interior design programs and 3 online accredited programs. All the programs listed are accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

CCIDC's Application Verification Process

The process time for applications has been decreased over many years through the use of online electronic application forms and the ability for candidates to use scanning and electronic transmissions directly to CCIDC. All application forms are available and fillable online on the CCIDC web site. The only requirements for original documentation are certified school transcripts preferably mailed in sealed envelopes directly by the institution to CCIDC, and an original signed copy of the CCIDC code of Ethics and Conduct.

CCIDC uses several methods to verify information provided by candidates on an application. One example is that all education must be verified by original sealed transcripts provided by the institution in question mailed directly to the CCIDC office. There are exceptions to this process for foreign student applicants or applicants who graduated from a program that no longer exists or has gone out of business. In those cases, CCIDC will accept whatever documentation the applicant can provide, such as unsealed copies of transcripts or a copy of the certificate or degree in interior design or architecture.

For work experience verification CCIDC requires a complete resume of the period the applicant is applying to their application that states when, where and for whom they worked for and in what capacity. Resumes must include the name, address, and telephone numbers of their employers so that they can be contacted for verification.

For self-employment verification, CCIDC will accept copies of tax returns for the periods in question that denote the applicant's occupation, financial numbers can be redacted, or an affidavit from an attorney or accountant (CPA) that handles business affairs for the applicant attesting to the application requirements.

Because CCIDC is a private non-profit board, it does not have access to criminal history information of databases. All applications do however ask each applicant whether they have ever been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction, and if the answer is "yes" to provide further information and detail as to the nature of the conviction for the board's consideration. CCIDC has never received such an

application. Candidates are also asked if they are currently certified, licensed, or registered as an interior designer in any other jurisdiction so that CCIDC can refer to that entity for further information.

All applications are signed by applicants under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the application and all writings and exhibits that are attached are true and correct. The potential ramification for a violation is a rejection of the application or a revocation of the certification after the fact, if an applicant has falsified the same.

Continuing Education (CE)

There is no statutory requirement for continuing education for certified interior designers, however the CCIDC has a board motioned Policy 3.1: CEU Requirements for Certified Interior Designers. It requires every CID to obtain a 1.0 CEU (10 hours) every 2 years between renewal dates on subjects relative to the practice and business of interior design, but of their own choosing. There are no longer any mandatory specific courses.

The CCIDC accepts all approved courses by the Interior Design Continuing Education Council, or any other interior design or architectural organization such as AIA, ASID, IDS, IFDA, IIDA, NKBA, etc. CCIDC also accepts from related organizations such as CALBO (building officials), CSI (construction specifiers) and many other construction/design industry organizations. CCIDC also provides a page on its web site for CIDs that offer relevant CEU courses, many of which are free. The Board continuously monitors CEU accounts through the online registry.

There have been no changes to this policy since its inception from the beginning of CCIDC.

Enforcement

CCIDC does not have an enforcement program because it does not have any statutory cite and fine authority. This is because certification for interior designers is a voluntary program and nothing prevents anyone from practicing interior design or calling themselves an interior designer. Other than certification and those who submit to the title act for certified interior designers, the practice of interior design in every other form is unregulated.

It should be noted that most complaints against interior designers are related to financial or contractual obligations. However, there have been several complaints against persons practicing architecture or engineering outside of their training and expertise and without a suitable state license for such work. The same has also applied to designers operating as contractors without a license. CCIDC directs the complainant to refer these types of complaints to the appropriate state board under the jurisdiction of DCA.

Enforcement Statistics (Complaints)			
Year	Number of Complaints overall	Number of Complaints Against CIDs	Number of Complaints Against NON-CID
2011	9	3	6
2012	3	0	3
2013	8	6	2

2014	6	0	6
2015	4	1	3
2016	1	1	0
Total	31	11	20

Since the last review, CCIDC has experienced a relatively flat number of consumer complaints against interior designers.

CCIDC has 197 documented “official” complaints since it was founded in 1992. “Official” complaints are where a person has filled out a formal complaint form citing specific violations relative to the CCIDC Code of Ethics and Standards.

Out of the 197 complaints received since 1992, 80 were against Certified Interior Designers. Since 2012, the last sunset review, one certificate was permanently revoked after a court action was brought against that person for committing fraud in excess of \$64,000.00. The 117 complaints against non-certified interior designers are recorded as a matter of record because the person filing the complaint chose to fill out a formal complaint form even though CCIDC had no jurisdiction in those complaints. In these instances as well, CCIDC reports these complaints to an appropriate DCA board if the Board believes the issue falls under the specific entity’s jurisdiction.

Unofficial complaints are not recorded because some people choose not to pursue a complaint with CCIDC and prefer to seek alternative remedies such as the courts. In other words, a member of the public calls for advice, especially when they find out the person in question is not a CID and that CCIDC has no jurisdiction over them.

In some cases, CCIDC has mediated formal complaints and obtained satisfactory results for both parties. In others, CCIDC has provided expert witness information for a deposition, or in Small Claims court, or helped obtain an expert witness for plaintiffs for an impending legal action. CCIDC often requires CIDs who have been disciplined or suspended by the board, in order to remediate them, to take approved classes on Ethics and Business Practices. All disciplinary actions are noted on the CCIDC web site for public consumption.

The CCIDC statute of limitations is one year when filing a complaint that requires the complainant follow up with any requested documentation or evidence. Failure to do so indicates a lack of interest and the case is closed.

CCIDC does not have cite and fine authority so there is little CCIDC can do other than revoke or suspend a CID’s certification.

Consumer Outreach & Education

Since the last sunset review, CCIDC has employed various means to reach the public and to educate them on the importance of hiring Certified Interior Designers. The most successful tool for reaching the general public, potential CIDs, students, continues to be the CCIDC web site. The web site

continues to grow in visitors each year and has a vast source of information geared to consumers, CIDs, students and building officials alike.

There are also pages for consumers to see consumer alerts, how to file a complaint against a designer, including an online complaint form, complaint statistics, disciplinary actions against CIDs, and a consumer feedback and satisfaction survey. Consumers can also sign up to get the monthly CCIDC electronic newsletter for free.

One of the most visited areas on the web site, other than that for consumers, is the interior design program college, university, school page listing. They have listed all of the interior design programs in California including web sites and contact information along with faculty contact names where available.

CCIDC also has an online database (“Verify a Designer”) where the public can search for a CID by entering the designer’s certification number, or any of the following key words: first name, surname, city, or state. After an inquiry online is made the information provided is the designer’s full name; certification number; certification status, i.e. current, delinquent, expired, retired, suspended, or revoked, etc. For example, in cases where the “city” or “state” is put in as the search parameter, all of the CIDs located in that city or state will come up.

CCIDC had a special section where CIDs could post their own web page link on the CCIDC web site under the heading “Find a Designer”. This feature will be integrated into the new web site as an included service for all CIDs. They will be able to input all of their personal or business contact information, including a link to their own web site if they have one. This will allow them to provide their personal contact information, their areas of specialty and other attributes as value added information to the general public from the CCIDC web site. A CID currently does not have to pay to have their name listed in this database.

If a consumer wants a contact list within their specific area of CIDs, they can contact CCIDC via E-mail or phone and CCIDC will provide a list from their database and send it to them. With this list, they will be able to contact individual CIDs by name and telephone number in order to set up consultations or interviews for selection. There is no cost associated with this for a consumer.

For privacy reasons, CCIDC does not divulge home addresses, or E-mail addresses, of CIDs to the general public.

All disciplinary actions are posted on the CCIDC web site.

PRIOR SUNSET REVIEW: CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

CCIDC was reviewed in 2013, at which time five issues were raised. Below are actions which have been taken over the last five years to address a number of these. In November 2016, CCIDC submitted its required sunset report to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees). In the report, CCIDC described actions it has taken since its prior review to address the recommendations of the Committees. For those which were not addressed and which may still be of concern, they are addressed and more fully discussed under “Current Sunset Review Issues.” Items completed or pending based on recommendations from the Committees include the following:

- **ISSUE #1: Has the CCIDC amended interior design law to require CID’s to use a written contract when entering into an agreement with a client for interior design services?**

Section 5807 was added to the Business and Professions Code with the passage of Senate Bill 308 (Lieu) in 2013. This section enumerated the requirements for a written contract for interior design services to be executed by the certified interior designer before commencing any work. CCIDC has published this requirement to the entire certified interior designer community through multiple electronic newsletters as well as being published on the CCIDC web site. All new CIDs are given a copy of the entire Section 5800 – 5812 upon becoming certified in a special binder outlining their obligations and duties as such. CCIDC has no statutory authority to discipline CIDs when they fail to use written contracts or letters of agreement.

- **ISSUE #2: Did the CCIDC amend BPC § 5812 to include the term “CID” in the title protection provisions?**

Section 5812 was amended to include the appellation “CID” with the passage of Senate Bill 308. There have so far been no further issues with the unlawful use of this appellation.

- **ISSUE # 3: The International Building Code uses the term “registered design professional” which has caused many local building officials to refuse to accept nonseismic/nonstructural plans submitted by CID’s. Has the CCIDC achieved a consensus with the stakeholders in regards to this issue?**

Since 2012, CCIDC has engaged with many of the stakeholders involved in this process and specifically with the California Association of Local Building Officials (CALBO). CCIDC has prepared a specific legislative proposal, which it hopes will garner the support of all or most of the stakeholders.

Because of the ambiguity of the word “safety” in the exemptions, some building officials demand an architect’s stamp on the interior designer’s plans because they interpret this to apply to what are clearly nonstructural, non-seismic elements with the building. Trying to bring an architect into the equation at this point serves no purpose other than to delay and

increase the costs of doing business for the building owner, the tenant and the interior designer.

CCIDC realizes that changing the word “safety” or eliminating it altogether would be an impossible task given that it is in another profession’s statute. Changing the architect’s statute should be the business of the architects and not CCIDC. However, part of that statute does reside within the certified interior designer’s statute and this should be addressed.

CCIDC accepts that the word “safety” should be of concern to building officials and should remain in BPC § 5538. It should however be removed from BPC § 5800 and addressed in a different manner.

CCIDC proposes that amendments be made to BPC § 5800 that clarify exactly what certified interior designers can and cannot do. Certified interior designers are held to a higher standard than “laypersons” vis-à-vis a codified standard of education, work experience, and a California specific examination that thoroughly tests on California building codes, Title 24, California regulations and laws, ethics and conduct, and design standards. These are not laypersons that BPC § 5537 and 5538 was originally intended for and enacted to exempt although they do fall under those exemptions.

(The proposed amendments are laid out in the “Current Issues – Issue #1” section of this report.)

- **ISSUE # 4: Has the CCIDC given consideration to, or discussed with the Committee the idea of, accepting the NCIDQ as an alternative to the IDEX California to qualify for interior design certification in California?**
 - *The NCIDQ is not a valid examination in California and does not conform to California legal requirements, BPC § 139.*
 - *Does not allow for “experience only” candidates as required by BPC § 5801(d).*
 - *Going to one California examination addressed the Legislature’s concerns at that time by removing barriers to entry to the profession and reducing costs and time, which CCIDC was asked to address by BPC § 5811.*
 - *Going to a California specific examination ensures CIDs are conversant with California codes and Title 24 in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.*
 - *As argued by IDCC, “the NCIDQ is an independent, non-profit organization”, and as such can do anything it pleases without oversight from any state or government body. Also, the same is argued by IDCC and its affiliates with respect to CCIDC, however CCIDC reports to the state of California through the Sunset Review process, like all state governed boards and commissions, and is held accountable as such, which NCIDQ or any other private examination vendor is not.*

- *If CCIDC were to accept any one of the three national examinations for interior designers it would be petitioned to accept the other two as it was before the 2003 sunset review. The situation would then revert back to the same situation before the requirement of BPC § 5811 with three national examinations, none of which test on California codes. Therefore, CCIDC would once again require a California specific examination like the now defunct CCRE in order to do so. CCIDC would be back to having two examinations in order to become a certified interior designer, recreating a barrier to entry to the profession.*
- *Federal RFP's do not require the NCIDQ examination as the only requirement in order for an interior designer to bid as there is no Federal law requiring such. It is part of several applicable qualifications, including "Certification" and as noted in the example below the Federal interior designer reserves the right to approve or disapprove the qualifications of the interior designer chosen by the "contractor". The Federal interior designer could approve an interior designer without any qualifications whatsoever. In just about all cases where an interior designer is required on a Federal contract, and which also applies to a State contract, the "prime" professional, or "contractor", bidding on the contract is nearly always a licensed architect. The interior designer is one of many sub-contractors, including mechanical, electrical, civil, and structural engineers as examples, under the auspices of the "prime" professional and therefore is chosen as part of the prime professional's team.*

The following excerpt is taken directly from a Naval Facilities Command RFP and is standard verbiage used on Federal RFP's. The "contractor" referred to in the first line would be the "prime" professional who would be awarded the actual Federal contract.

The contractor shall have an Interior Designer, certified by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), or state and/or jurisdiction Certified, Registered, or Licensed Interior Designer, prepare both the SID and the FF&E Package and participate in any design charrettes to develop the building floor plan. As required, the contractor shall obtain services of equipment specialists to specify the shop or specially equipment. The Interior Designer and any Specialists shall not have any affiliation with the products specified. The NAVFAC Interior Designer reserves the right to approve/disapprove the qualifications of the Contractor's Interior Designer.

- *The last issue refers to control of outside or private examinations. CCIDC has control over the IDEX California examination, both in terms of content and eligibility. The California legislature has control over CCIDC through the Sunset Review process and the reporting of CCIDC's activities. Contained within the certified interior designer statute under BPC § 5801.1 are the examination validation requirements in California as defined under BPC § 139 and the DCA policy promulgated by that statute. None of this exists for any other examination under discussion in this report.*

In 2004, NCIDQ proposed significant changes to their eligibility requirements for examination application. They required at that time that all exam candidates with work experience after

January 1, 2008 be required to complete that experience under the direct supervision of an NCIDQ certificate holder or a registered architect who offers interior design services. If a state had mandatory licensing for interior designers in order for a graduate to practice interior design it would have created a possible scenario of indentured servitude as graduates would be scrambling to find a suitably qualified person to work for in order to gain said work experience.

This caused a lot of industry outcry, and one example is the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), a national organization of interior design educators, took up this issue at their March 2004 annual conference in Pittsburgh. Because of the pushback from a variety of industry groups changes were made to try to ameliorate the situation, and certain planned eligibility restrictions or changes were either modified or lifted.

At that time, NCIDQ had several paths for eligibility made up of combinations of education and work experience, most of which add up to 6 years or more. This is just to sit for their examination.

One of the paths, route 5 was specifically for those applicants who had an Associate's Degree of no less than 40 semester units (2 years) of interior design coursework and 7,040 hours (4 years) of "qualified" interior design work experience. This encompassed all or most community college students, especially in California.

In 2008 NCIDQ decided to eliminate this path altogether by December 1, 2018, which means this will disqualify all students who graduated from a community college after 2014 with 40 units or more, but less than 60 units who wish to take the NCIDQ examination. Anyone who graduated after 2014 in this situation will have to go back to college and acquire the necessary extra semester units. The NCIDQ examination eligibility requirements do not meet the basic community college interior design program, graduation certificate standard, in California.

For these graduates this means another year of schooling, which is a barrier to students of limited means, or a burden to those who are taking out school loans in order to further their education. These are ongoing barriers of entry to the profession, and CCIDC believes, based upon past actions of NCIDQ, that it is only a matter of time before those requirements are changed unilaterally by NCIDQ to a full Bachelor's degree, or 4 years of education and two years of work experience.

As a comparison CCIDC accepts candidates for the IDEX California Examination with 40 semester units or more and no work experience so that graduates from community colleges can take this examination upon graduation. Under Path 1, these graduates possessing the IDEX California examination can become CIDs automatically after completing the necessary work experience. The CCIDC IDEX California examination is the only examination that meets the basic community college interior design program graduation certificate standard, in California. It also leads to the title of certified interior designer as codified into statute.

This further allows graduates to demonstrate to prospective employers or clients that they are already on the path to becoming a professional designer. As BPC § 139 advocates for all California examinations, “minimum competency criteria at an entry level to the profession”.

As a further example of private examinations being uncontrolled by California boards, in July of 1987 the California Architects board (CBAE) went away from the national Architects Registration Examination (ARE) due to scoring and other issues with NCARB, the private national purveyor of that examination. The CBAE introduced the California Architectural Licensing Examination (CALE). It was administered for 3 years until 1989 when concerns with the NCARB examination were resolved and the CBAE went back to the national examination. It should be noted however that California architects are still required to take a California specific supplemental examination in addition to the national examination.

- **ISSUE #5: Did the CCIDC amend the interior designer law to require that the meetings of an interior design organization issuing stamps under Section 5801 shall be subject to the rules of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act?**

CCIDC complied with this statute prior to it being enacted and as soon as it was recommended. All CCIDC board meetings were, and continue to be open to the general public and are advertised as such on both the CCIDC web site and in CCIDC electronic newsletters sent out several months in advance of each board meeting.

CCIDC, after discussion with regular board meeting attendees and the board itself changed the meeting format to start the open portion of the meeting first so as not to inconvenience attendees and to allow them to participate before the board goes into a closed session for disciplinary actions when and if necessary.

CCIDC board meetings are rotated up and down the state in order to allow maximum access to its constituency and certificate holders, and are always held on a Saturday morning in a public place so as not to interfere with regular work hours during the week.

CURRENT SUNSET REVIEW ISSUES FOR THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

The following are unresolved issues pertaining to CCIDC, or those which were not previously addressed by the Committees, and other areas of concern for these Committees to consider, along with background information concerning the particular issue. There are also recommendations the Committees' staff have made regarding particular issues or problem areas which need to be addressed. CCIDC and other interested parties, including the professions, have been provided with this Background Paper and can respond to the issues presented and the recommendations of staff.

ADMINISTRATION OF CCIDC

ISSUE #1: (ACCEPTANCE OF STAMP) What has CCIDC done to facilitate the acceptance of the certified interior designer stamp by local building officials?

Background: Under BPC § 5537 and 5538 of the Architect's Practice Act are exemptions for "laypersons" to do non-structural and non-seismic work where a licensed/registered architect or engineer is not required to stamp and or sign drawings that may be needed for a building permit issued by a local jurisdiction. "Laypersons" are anyone who is not a licensed/registered design professional, i.e. architect or engineer. Persons who fit into this definition are licensed contractors or sub-contractors, building designers, owner builders, developers, interior designers, interior decorators, and members of the general public that possess the skills necessary to prepare drawings that require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them.

Certified interior designers are a group within the above definition, who practice under the exemptions of BPC § 5537 and 5538, that have been specifically tested on California Codes and Title 24, along with California laws and statutes that are relevant to interior designers, and that must have a specified amount of education and/or experience. This is codified in BPC § 5800 – 5812. CCIDC contends that because of the requirements of BPC § 5800 – 5812 certified interior designers should not just be considered "laypersons". CCIDC believes that "certified interior designers are held to a higher standard than 'laypersons' vis-à-vis a codified standard of education, work experience, and a California specific examination that thoroughly tests on California building codes, Title 24, California regulations and laws, ethics and conduct, and design standards."

CCIDC reports that plans designed by certified interior designers, which encompass non-structural, non-seismic interior design plans, have been denied by local jurisdictions without an architect or an engineer's stamp. In the past, the Committee has reviewed proposals seeking to license interior designers under a practice act within the Business and Professions Code. Both of these bills, SB 1312, (Yee in 2008) and AB 2428 (MA in 2012) were the focus of a good deal of controversy and failed passage in the legislative process. Proponents of these bills argued that a state program for interior designers would provide greater acceptance in local building departments across the state.

Since these proposals, local jurisdictions have continued to deny certified interior design plans without an architect or engineer's stamp. To fix this issue, CCIDC has proposed amendments to the definition

of “certified interior designers”. The Board believes the change in definition will clarify to local jurisdictions what certified interior designers can and cannot do.

CCIDC has put forward the following changes to the CID definition. The words below with strikethrough text highlight deleted words, and the words italicized and underlined highlight new language.

“Business and Professions Code 5800. As used in this chapter:

“Certified interior designer” or the initials “CID” as used in this context shall mean an Occupations Title Standard for a person who meets all of the following requirements:

(1) ~~Prepares and submits non-structural or~~ and non-seismic plans and documents consistent with Sections 5805 ~~and 5538~~ to local building departments that are of sufficient complexity so as to require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them, and that require a building permit.

(2) ~~and who~~ Engages in programming, planning, designing, and documenting the construction and installation of non-structural or and non-seismic conventional and standard construction elements, finishes, veneers, ~~and~~ furnishings and the administration of construction observance and installation thereof.

(3) Provides plans and documents that illustrate non-structural and non-seismic conventional and standard partition layouts, horizontal exiting, rated corridors, reflected ceiling plans and lighting orientation, locate power and communications outlets, materials and finishes and furniture, including storefronts, interior alterations, fixtures, millwork, appliances and equipment for all buildings as described in 5537 and 5538, including but not limited to high-rise office and high-rise residential buildings.

(4) Engages in coordination and collaboration with other allied design professionals who may be retained to provide consulting services, including but not limited to architects, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers, and various specialty consultants.

(5) ~~within the interior spaces of a building, and has~~ Demonstrated, by means of education, experience and examination, the competency to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(6) The certification of Interior Designers does not prohibit Interior Designer or Interior Decorator services by any person or retail activity.

(7) Nothing in this statute shall preclude local building officials who have jurisdiction over any project as required by the California Building Standards Code from determining the requirements or qualifications of who can submit such documents in order to procure a building permit.

5805. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude ~~eCertified iInterior dDesigners or any other person~~ from submitting non-structural, non-seismic conventional and standard construction interior

design plans *for commercial or residential buildings* to local building officials, ~~except~~ as provided *for* in Sections 5537 and 5538. In exercising discretion with respect to the acceptance of interior design plans, the local building official shall reference the California Building Standards Code *and the Occupational Title Standard set forth in Section 5800(a)*.

Committee staff believes that it may be appropriate to clarify the law relating to the acceptance of certified interior designer plans and designs by local building departments. However, more input is needed from all stakeholders before amendments can be included. While a stakeholder meeting was held on February 3, stakeholders needed more time to review the proposed changes to the “certified interior designer” definition. CCIDC, IDDC, ASID, AIACC, California Building Officials (CALBO), California Architects Board (CAB), and League of California Cities were some of the stakeholders in attendance at this meeting. On a first glance, however, some stakeholders have noted that horizontal exiting and rated corridors directly impact a building and its users. By affecting the structural system and safety of the building, the aforementioned features may be in direct conflict to Business and Professions Code Section 5538.

Any legislative proposal must allow building officials to retain the authority to accept submittals from architects, engineers, interior designers, building designers, and owners, as appropriate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should work with stakeholders to find a consensus on this issue and if appropriate, submit a specific legislative proposal to the Committees.*

ISSUE #2: (STRATEGIC PLAN) What is the status of the Board’s strategic plan?

Background: The process of creating a Strategic Plan sets the foundation for a regulatory entity’s efforts to effectively do its job. CCIDC reports that it has not developed a comprehensive strategic plan since 2001. While there have been subsequent strategic planning meetings since, the document appears to have not been updated. It is standard practice for various boards and bureaus in California to develop and publish a strategic plan every four years.

CCIDC should report to the Committees as to why this plan has not been updated and published for certificate holders and stakeholders. Since this document has not been updated for over 16 years, it would be helpful for the Committees to understand how the Board has set goals for itself.

As a means of jumpstarting the creation of a newly created strategic plan, CCIDC should reach out to certificate holders and stakeholders requesting their participation in an anonymous survey about the Board as a means of identifying strengths and areas in need of improvement. This will also help the Board develop a plan to address the areas of concern.

Staff Recommendation: *The Board should update the Committees on how it has set goals for itself since 2001. The Board should create a newly developed strategic plan and describe the timeline for its completion. This new strategic plan should address new and existing issues raised through the Sunset Review process and concerns raised by other interested stakeholders.*

ISSUE #3: (CCIDC WEBSITE) Has the Board made any efforts to create a more user-friendly website?

Background: CCIDC's website, <https://ccidc.org/>, appears to be outdated and discourages use by CIDs and stakeholders. As mentioned in the Sunset Report, CCIDC reaches out and disperses information to the public and certified populations through its website. However, the website is poorly organized and not kept up to date. For example, the most recent article in the "News and Bulletins" section of the website was posted in 2011. It is important to keep its certified population updated on any trends or changes within the industry. The financial audits tab of the website has also not been updated as well since 2014.

Moreover, the overall layout of some of the most crucial information (e.g. how to become certified) is organized in a confusing manner and requires viewers to parse through large amounts of tabs and information to learn how to become certified.

CCIDC may want to update the Committees on the frequency in which the Board updates its website.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should inform the Committees on any updates it may have to reorganize its website, make it more accessible, and promote transparency for its certified population.*

ISSUE #4: (SUCCESSION PLAN FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) Will CCIDC need additional staff to help ensure an easy transition with a new Executive Director?

Background: At the end of this year, the current Executive Director will retire from CCIDC. The CCIDC report notes that current Executive Director is a certified interior designer by training and vocation for almost 40 years. Moreover, he is also experienced and trained in financial administration, which allows all of the financial recording responsibilities to be administered by the same person, thus alleviating the need for extra staff.

While CCIDC has noted that the Administrative Director will most likely assume the role of Executive Director, it is unclear if the candidate maintains similar credentials as the current Executive Director. The report only notes that the current Administrative Director is highly trained in software and the organization's day to day activities. CCIDC should explain to the Committees on the current status of appointing a new Executive Director and what qualifications the candidate should hold prior to assuming the role. If the current Administrative Director is best suited for the position, CCIDC should explain what actions it will also take to fill the Administrative Director's position.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should inform the Committees on any updates it may have on appointing a new Executive Director. CCIDC should develop a general succession plan and how it will decide on a new Executive Director. The CCIDC should also explain whether or not it will need additional staff to make the transition to a new Executive Director easy and swift.*

BUDGET ISSUES

ISSUE #5: (FEE INCREASE NEEDED?) Are current certification fees sufficient to maintain the Board's long-term fiscal solvency?

Background: Because CCIDC is a non-profit and a privately funded organization, the company can only continue its operations, if a deficit were to occur, through private sector loans. Unless the U.S. economy picks up considerably in 2017, along with the California housing market, CCIDC anticipates more losses of Certified Interior Designers in California that will outpace the number of new candidates.

CCIDC is not planning to raise certification or renewal fees at this point in time, as it may result in more losses of current CIDs unwilling to absorb an increase. Examination fees have held steady since the introduction of the IDEX California examination, however the examination administrator, Castle Worldwide has increased the individual proctor fee in the past 4 years from \$75.00 per candidate to \$82.50 per candidate, a 10% increase. So far, CCIDC has absorbed that cost increase and has not passed it on to candidates. The contractual agreement with the examination administrator will expire in May 2017. The Board anticipates another proctor fee increase within the new agreement and CCIDC may have to pass this through to the candidates. This will be determined by the Board at the appropriate time at a regularly scheduled board meeting in 2017.

The chart below highlights the current reserve levels for the Board, on average being 1.375 months. Needless to say, this reserve level leaves the Board very little to rely on in the case of an economic downturn. CCIDC has not raised its one time application fee of \$150 since 1992 and barely made a \$50 increase to its renewal fees in 2008. Typically, when boards and bureaus, under the DCA, drop below a six month reserve level, the Committees have advised the entities to consider raising fees.

Fund Condition					
(Dollars in whole numbers)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Beginning Balance	23,100	21,700	23,100	32,900	24,900
Revenues	313,000	339,600	303,700	297,400	
Total Revenue	\$336,100	\$361,300	\$326,800	\$330,300	
Budget	325,200	328,300	311,500	314,500	302,700
Expenditures	321,100	308,800	298,600	314,000	
Loans	11,800	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued Interest	1,400	600	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	\$ 21,700	\$23,100	\$32,900	\$ 24,900	
Months in Reserve	1.00	1.25	2.0	1.25	

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should explain to the Committees the current situation which*

exists regarding its fiscal condition and what action is anticipated to deal with any future deficit. The Board should also identify appropriate solutions, including raising fees, controlling spending, or other steps that might be taken in order to ensure a stable reserve level.

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

ISSUE #6: (NEW CERTIFICATION) Does CCIDC believe a new certification category should be created for commercial interior designers?

Background: In October 2016, the Little Hoover Commission released a report titled *Jobs for Californians: Strategies to Ease Occupational Licensing Barriers*. The report highlights different barriers to licensure and possible recommendations to help promote easier access to licensure. In particular, the report provides a positive outlook on the idea of a “commercial interior designer” certification. The report underscores the following:

“Commercial interior designers, for example often do building code-impacted design work – moving walls that entail electrical, lighting, HVAC and other changes. They design the layout of prisons, where the safety of correctional officers and inmates is on the line. Even though the people performing this commercial work typically have extensive educational and work experience, city and county inspectors do not recognize their unlicensed voluntary credentials. Architects or engineers must sign off on their plans, resulting in time and cost delays.”

Many interested parties have also suggested that, if a new certification for commercial interior designers were to be created, an individual should meet the following requirements:

- 1) Passage of the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) Exam
- 2) Passage of a supplemental exam testing knowledge of the California Building Code
- 3) Annual continuing education courses sanctioned by the California Building Officials (CALBO) and agreed upon by the interior design profession.

Given that this new certification has been discussed by both the Little Hoover Commission and discussed in other states, CCIDC should explain to the Committees whether a “commercial interior design” certification promotes the health and safety of the public. If so, the creation of this certification should involve input from all affiliated stakeholders. Some stakeholders may include IDDC, ASID, AIACC, California Building Officials (CALBO), California Architects Board (CAB), and League of California Cities.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should explain to the Committees whether “commercial interior design” certification category should be created. If so, the Board should outline a plan to involve all interested stakeholders when crafting this certification.*

ISSUE #7: (REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) Should certificate holders be required to report to CCIDC when a judgment is entered against them for a crime or personal injury, or when a felony charge is filed against a CID? Should CIDs be required to report to CCIDC upon arrest?

Background: When a judgment is entered against a CID, or when a CID is charged with a felony, it is important for CCIDC to be notified so that it can take action against the certificate holder if the circumstances of the judgment or charge warrant suspension or revocation of the certificate. Currently, the Medical Board of California, Physician Assistant Board, and Podiatric Medicine Board (BPC § 803.5) require court clerks to send this basic information to them. Additionally, there is no requirement for CIDs to report arrests to the Board.

Staff Recommendation: *The Committees should discuss language to require that CIDs provide notice to CCIDC, if there is a judgment for a crime committed in excess of \$30,000, for which the certificate holder is responsible due to negligence, error or omission in practice, or his or her rendering unauthorized professional services. The law should further be amended to require CIDs to report any filings of charges of a felony to CCIDC. Lastly, the Certified Interior Designers Title Act should be amended to ensure that CIDs submit a report to the CCIDC when arrested.*

CONTINUED REGULATION OF THE PROFESSION BY THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #8: (SHOULD CERTIFICATION BY CCIDC BE CONTINUED?) Should the certification of interior designers be continued and be regulated by CCIDC?

Background: The California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC) was created by a coalition of professional interior design organizations in January 1992 with the intent of being the organization responsible for determining whether interior designers met the education, experience and examination requirements. The CCIDC operates outside of the state government, is not a state agency, and does not rely on any funds from the state for its operations.

As a private certifying organization, the CCIDC serves a valuable benefit to the public, in certifying interior designers in California and should be continued and reviewed again by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature in four years.

Staff Recommendation: *Staff recommends that interior designers in California should continue to be certified by the California Council for Interior Design Certification in order to protect the interests of the public and be reviewed once again by the appropriate committees of the Legislature in four years.*