

# **PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS' ACT**

## **(Business and Professions Code §§ 8700 – 8805)**

**INCLUDES AMENDMENTS MADE DURING THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**(Effective January 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted)**

### **CHAPTER 15. LAND SURVEYORS**

#### **Article 1. General Provisions**

##### **8700. Professional Land Surveyors' Act**

This chapter may be cited as the Professional Land Surveyors' Act. Whenever reference is made to the Land Surveyors' Act by any statute, it shall be construed as referring to the Professional Land Surveyors' Act.

##### **8701. Professional land surveyor**

"Professional land surveyor" refers to one who practices or offers to practice land surveying. Whenever reference is made to a land surveyor by any statute, it shall be construed as referring to a professional land surveyor.

##### **8702. Director**

"Director" refers to the Director of Consumer Affairs.

##### **8703. "Responsible charge of work" defined**

The phrase "responsible charge of work" means the independent control and direction, by the use of initiative, skill and independent judgment, of the observations, measurements, and descriptions involved in land surveying work. The phrase does not refer to the concept of financial liability.

##### **8704. Practice of land surveying**

Any person practices land surveying when he professes to be a land surveyor or is in responsible charge of land surveying work.

##### **8705. Subordinate**

A subordinate is any person directly supervised by a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer and who assists a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer in the practice of land surveying without assuming responsible charge of work.

##### **8706. Board defined**

"Board" refers to the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

**8707. Executive officer**

“Executive officer” refers to the executive officer of the board.

**8708. Licensure requirement**

In order to safeguard property and public welfare, no person shall practice land surveying unless appropriately licensed or specifically exempted from licensure under this chapter, and only persons licensed under this chapter shall be entitled to take and use the titles “licensed land surveyor,” “professional land surveyor,” or “land surveyor,” or any combination of these words, phrases, or abbreviations thereof.

**Article 2. Administration****8710. Board authority**

(a) The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists is vested with power to administer the provisions and requirements of this chapter, and may make and enforce rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary to carry out its provisions.

(b) The board may adopt rules and regulations of professional conduct that are not inconsistent with state and federal law. The rules and regulations may include definitions of incompetence and negligence. Every person who holds a license or certificate issued by the board pursuant to this chapter, or a license or certificate issued to a civil engineer pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700), shall be governed by these rules and regulations.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2025~~, 2029, and as of that date is repealed. Notwithstanding any other law, the repeal of this section shall render the board subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

**8710.1. Legislative Intent – protection of the public**

Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

**8711. Records of applications for license**

The executive officer of the board shall keep a complete record of all applications for license and the board’s action thereon.

**8712. Roster of licensees**

The board shall compile and maintain, or may have compiled and maintained on its behalf, a register of all licensed land surveyors that includes the following information for each licensee:

- (a) Name.
- (b) Address of record.
- (c) Type of branch license.

- (d) License number.
- (e) The date the license was issued.
- (f) The date the license will expire.

#### **8713. Clerical assistance**

The department may employ such clerical assistance under civil service regulations as may be necessary properly to carry out and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

#### **8714. Establish relations with other regulatory bodies**

The board shall establish relations with bodies that regulate the practice of professional land surveying, or closely related professions, or that register or license professional land surveyors in other states, and may establish relations with those bodies in other countries, for the purposes of working toward uniformly high professional standards and mutual recognition of registration and licensure.

#### **8715. Technical advisory committees; functions**

The board may establish licensed land surveyor technical advisory committees to advise and assist the board with respect to the following:

- (1) The review and verification of applications for licensure.
- (2) The evaluation and investigation of potential violations of this chapter.
- (3) The amendment, repeal, adoption, or revision of board rules, regulations, policies, or procedures.

##### **8715.1. Membership of technical advisory committee**

Each member of each technical advisory committee shall be appointed by the board and shall serve at the pleasure of the board. Each committee shall be composed of no more than five members.

##### **8715.2. Qualifications of technical advisory committee members**

Each member of each technical advisory committee shall be licensed under this chapter.

##### **8715.3. Per diem; expenses for technical advisory committee members**

All members of each technical advisory committee shall serve without compensation but shall receive per diem and expenses as provided in Section 103.

##### **8715.4. Immunity from liability for technical advisory committee members**

Each member of each technical advisory committee shall be granted the same immunity as is granted to a public employee pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

## **Article 2.3. Land Surveyors Review Committees**

### **8720. Review committees**

The board, when it deems necessary, may establish land surveyors review committees to hear all matters assigned by the board, including, but not limited to, any contested case which is assigned by the board. Each committee shall exist so long as the board deems that it is necessary.

#### **8720.1. Members; qualifications**

Each review committee shall consist of no fewer than three licensed land surveyors appointed by the board. Each member of a committee shall have the same qualifications and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as if he were a member of the board.

#### **8720.2. Members; per diem and expenses**

Each member of a committee shall receive a per diem and expenses as provided in Section 103.

#### **8720.3. Committee hearings**

Except as otherwise provided in this article, all hearings which are conducted by a committee shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500), Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code.

If a contested case is heard by a committee, the hearing officer who presided at the hearing shall be present during the committee's consideration of the case and, if requested, shall assist and advise the committee.

#### **8720.4. Committee decisions**

At the conclusion of any hearing which is conducted by a committee, the committee shall prepare a proposed decision, in such form that it may be adopted by the board as the decision in the case, and shall transmit it to the board. The proposed decision shall be subject to the same procedure as the proposed decision of a hearing officer under subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 11517 of the Government Code.

#### **8720.5. Rules and regulations**

The board may adopt, amend or repeal, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340), Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code, rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this article.

#### **8720.6. Immunity**

Each member of a land surveyors review committee or other board-appointed committee and any board-appointed representative of the board shall be granted the same immunity as is granted to a public employee pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

### **Article 3. Application of the Chapter**

#### **8725. Necessity of license**

Any person practicing, or offering to practice, land surveying in this state shall submit evidence that he or she is qualified to practice and shall be licensed under this chapter.

It is unlawful for any person to practice, offer to practice, or represent himself or herself, as a land surveyor in this state, or to set, reset, replace or remove any survey monument on land in which he or she has no legal interest, unless he or she has been licensed or specifically exempted from licensing under this chapter.

#### **8725.1. Legislative intent – requirement for responsible charge at state and local government entities**

It is the intent of the Legislature that the licensure requirements that are imposed upon private sector professional land surveyors and land surveying partnerships, firms, or corporations shall be imposed upon the state and any city, county, city and county, district, and special district that shall adhere to those requirements. Therefore, for the purposes of Section 8725 and this chapter, at least one person authorized to practice land surveying shall be designated the person in responsible charge of professional land surveying work practiced in any department or agency of the state, city, county, city and county, district, or special district.

#### **8726. Land surveying defined**

(a) A person, including any person employed by the state or by a city, county, or city and county within the state, practices land surveying within the meaning of this chapter who, either in a public or private capacity, does or offers to do any one or more of the following:

(1) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces the alignment or elevation for any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering, as described in Section 6731.

(2) Determines the configuration or contour of the earth's surface, or the position of fixed objects above, on, or below the surface of the earth by applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry.

(3) Locates, relocates, establishes, reestablishes, or retraces any property line or boundary of any parcel of land, right-of-way, easement, or alignment of those lines or boundaries.

(4) Makes any survey for the subdivision or resubdivision of any tract of land. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "subdivision" or "resubdivision" shall be defined to include, but not limited to, the definition in the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code) or the Subdivided Lands Law (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 11000) of Part 2 of Division 4 of this Code).

(5) By the use of the principles of land surveying determines the position for any monument or reference point that marks a property line, boundary, or corner, or sets, resets, or replaces any such monument or reference point.

(6) Geodetic surveying or cadastral surveying. As used in this chapter:

(A) Geodetic surveying means performing surveys, in which account is taken of the figure and size of the earth to determine or predetermine the horizontal or vertical positions of fixed objects thereon or related thereto, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations for use in the practice of land surveying or for stating the position of fixed objects, geodetic control points, monuments, or stations by California Coordinate System coordinates.

(B) Cadastral surveying means performing a survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivisions of the public land survey system of the United States.

(7) Determines the information shown or to be shown on any map or document prepared or furnished in connection with any one or more of the functions described in paragraphs (1) through (6), inclusive.

(8) Indicates, in any capacity or in any manner, by the use of the title "land surveyor" or by any other title or by any other representation that they practice or offer to practice land surveying in any of its branches.

(9) Procures or offers to procure land surveying work for themselves or others.

(10) Manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed or practiced.

(11) Coordinates the work of professional, technical, or special consultants in connection with the activities authorized by this chapter.

(12) Determines the information shown or to be shown within the description of any deed, trust deed, or other title document prepared for the purpose of describing the limit of real property in connection with any one or more of the functions described in paragraphs (1) through (6), inclusive.

(13) Creates, prepares, or modifies electronic or computerized data in the performance of the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (11), and (12).

(14) Renders a statement regarding the accuracy of maps or measured survey data.

(b) Any department or agency of the state or any city, county, or city and county that has an unregistered person in responsible charge of land surveying work on January 1, 1986, shall be exempt from the requirement that the person be licensed as a land surveyor until such time as the person currently in responsible charge is replaced.

(c) The review, approval, or examination by a governmental entity of documents prepared or performed pursuant to this section shall be done by, or under the direct supervision of, a person authorized to practice land surveying.

#### **8726.1. Authority to offer to practice or procure civil engineering**

Any licensed land surveyor may offer to practice, procure, and offer to procure civil engineering work incidental to his or her land surveying practice, even though he or she is not authorized to perform such work, provided all such civil engineering work is performed by or under the direction of a registered civil engineer. Further, any licensed land surveyor may manage or conduct as manager, proprietor, or agent, a land surveying practice which offers to practice, procure, and offers to procure, such incidental civil engineering work.

**8726.2. Authority to perform land planning.**

A licensed land surveyor may also perform land planning in connection with the land surveying activities authorized by this chapter.

**8727. Exemption – surveys made exclusively for geological or landscaping purposes**

Surveys made exclusively for geological purposes by a person authorized to practice geology under Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 7800) or exclusively for landscaping purposes performed by a person authorized to practice landscape architecture pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 5615), that do not involve the determination of any property line do not constitute surveying within the meaning of this chapter.

**8728. Restriction on design of any structure or fixed works**

Surveys authorized under this chapter do not include the design, either in whole or in part, of any structure or fixed works embraced within the practice of civil engineering.

**8729. Land surveying businesses**

(a) This chapter does not prohibit one or more licensed land surveyors or civil engineers licensed in this state before 1982 (hereinafter called civil engineers) from practicing or offering to practice, within the scope of their licensure, land surveying as a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership, firm, or corporation (hereinafter called business), if the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) A land surveyor or civil engineer currently licensed in the state is an owner, partner, or officer in charge of the land surveying practice of the business.

(2) All land surveying services are performed by or under the responsible charge of a land surveyor or civil engineer.

(3) If the business name of a California land surveying business contains the name of a person, then that person shall be licensed by the board as a land surveyor or licensed by the board in any year as a civil engineer. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement by the business that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license discipline of each individual named.

(b) An out-of-state business with a branch office in this state shall meet the requirements of subdivision (a) and (h) and shall have an owner, partner, or officer who is in charge of the land surveying work in this state, who is licensed in this state, and who is physically present at the branch office in this state on a regular basis. However, the name of the business may contain the name of a person not licensed in this state, if that person is appropriately licensed in another state. Any offer, promotion, or advertisement that contains the name of any individual in the business, other than by use of the name of the individual in the business name, shall clearly and specifically designate the license or registration discipline of each individual named.

(c) The business name of a California land surveying business may be a fictitious name. However, if the fictitious includes the names of any person, the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be met.

(d) A person not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state before 1982 may also be a partner or an officer of a land surveying business if the conditions of subdivision (a) are satisfied. This section does not permit a person who is not licensed under this chapter or licensed as a civil engineer in this state before 1982 to be the sole owner or officer of a land surveying business, unless otherwise exempt under this chapter.

(e) This section shall not prevent the use of the name of any business engaged in rendering land surveying services, including the use by any lawful successor or survivor, that lawfully was in existence on June 1, 1941. However, the business is subject to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

(f) A business engaged in rendering land surveying services may use in its name the name of a deceased or retired person if the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The person's name had been used in the name of the business, or a predecessor in interest of the business, before the death or retirement of the person.

(2) The person shall have been an owner, partner, or officer of the business, or an owner, partner, or officer of the predecessor in interest of the business.

(3) The person shall have been licensed as a land surveyor or a civil engineer by the board, if operating a place of business or practice in this state, or by an applicable state board in the event no place of business existed in this state.

(4) The person, if retired, has consented to the use of the name and does not permit the use of the name in the title of another land surveying business in this state during the period of that consent, except that a retired person may use their name as the name of a new or purchased business, if that business is not identical in every respect to that person's name as used in the former business.

(5) The business shall be subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

(g) This section does not affect Sections 6731.2 and 8726.1.

(h)(1) A current organization record form shall be filed with the board for all businesses engaged in rendering professional land surveying services.

(2) The filing of the organization record form described in paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by documentary evidence that demonstrates compliance with the provisions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

(i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2026~~2034, and as of that date is repealed.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024. See later operative version, as amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

### **8730. Exemptions from licensure**

The following persons are not required to be licensed under this chapter:

(a) Officers and employees of the United States of America, practicing solely as those officers or employees, except when surveying the exterior boundaries of federal lands in this state.

(b) Insofar as he or she acts in the following capacity:

(1) Any state, county, city, city and county, or district employee directly responsible to a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer.



(2) Any subordinate to a land surveyor or civil engineer licensed or registered as required by the laws of this state insofar as he or she acts as a subordinate.

(c) Any officer or employee of an electric, gas, or telephone corporation, as defined in Sections 218, 222, and 234, respectively, of the Public Utilities Code, with annual revenues of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) or more, whenever he or she prepares a legal description of an easement for utility distribution lines and service facilities, provided the following conditions are met:

(1) Each description identifies the corporation that prepared the description and states that it was prepared pursuant to this exemption.

(2) Each corporation has in its employ, or on contract, an individual authorized to practice land surveying who shall be responsible for establishing criteria for determining the qualifications of technical specialists preparing those legal descriptions, specifying the format and information to be shown on maps or documents containing those descriptions, and capable of answering questions regarding the preparation of those descriptions.

(d) Any state, county, city, or city and county public safety employee investigating any crime or infraction for the purpose of determining or prosecuting a crime or infraction. This exemption shall not permit a public safety employee to offer or perform land surveying as defined in Section 8726 for any purpose other than determining or prosecuting a crime or infraction.

#### **8731. Civil engineers authorization to practice or offer to practice land surveying**

A licensed civil engineer and a civil engineer exempt from licensure under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) are exempt from licensing under this chapter and may engage in the practice of land surveying with the same rights and privileges and the same duties and responsibilities as a licensed land surveyor, provided that for civil engineers who become licensed after January 1, 1982, they shall obtain a license as a land surveyor under the provisions of this chapter, before practicing land surveying as defined in this chapter.

### **Article 4. Issuance of License**

#### **8740. Application for certification as a land surveyor-in-training or license as a land surveyor; examination fees**

(a) An application for a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training or for a license as a land surveyor shall be made to the board on the form prescribed by it, with all statements therein made under oath, and shall be accompanied by the fee fixed by this chapter.

(b) The board may authorize an organization specified by the board pursuant to Section 8745 to receive directly from applicants payment of the examination fees charged by that organization as payment for examination materials and services.

**8741. Qualifications for certification as a land surveyor-in-training or licensure as a professional land surveyor**

(a) An applicant for certification as a land surveyor-in-training shall comply with all of the following:

(1) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

(2) Successfully pass the first division of the examination.

(3) Satisfactorily complete two years or more of postsecondary education in land surveying, two years or more of experience in land surveying, or a combination of postsecondary education and experience in land surveying.

(b) The board need not verify the applicant's eligibility for certification as a land surveyor-in-training other than to require the applicant to sign a statement of eligibility on the application form.

(c) The board may prescribe by regulation reasonable educational or experience requirements for an applicant to meet the requirements in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

(d) An applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor shall comply with all of the following:

(1) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

(2) Furnish evidence that he or she meets the requirements of Section 8742.

(3) Successfully passed the second division of the examination.

(4) Be certified as a land surveyor-in-training in this state, be certified as a land surveyor-in-training or surveyor intern in another state or territory of the United States, or be exempt therefrom. An applicant licensed by the board as a civil engineer is exempt from the requirement of this paragraph.

(5) Be thoroughly familiar with (A) the procedure and rules governing the survey of public lands as set forth in Manual of Surveying Instructions (2009), published by the federal Bureau of Land Management, and (B) the principles of real property relating to boundaries and conveyancing.

**8741.1. Examination requirements; waivers**

(a) The first division of the examination shall test the applicant's fundamental knowledge of surveying, mathematics, and basic science.

(b) The second division of the examination shall test the applicant's ability to apply his or her knowledge and experience and to assume responsible charge in the professional practice of land surveying.

The second division of the examination shall include an examination that incorporates a national examination for land surveying by a nationally recognized entity approved by the board and a supplemental California specific examination. The California specific examination shall include, as a separate part, an examination to test the applicant's knowledge of the provisions of this chapter and the board's rules and regulations regulating the practice of professional land surveying in this state.

(c) The board may by rule provide a waiver of the first division of the examination for applicants whose education and experience qualifications substantially exceed the requirements of Section 8742.

(d) The board may by rule provide for a waiver of the second division of the examination and the assignment to a special examination for those applicants whose educational qualifications are equal to, and whose experience qualifications substantially exceed, those qualifications established under subdivision (c). The special examination may be either written or oral, or a combination of both.

#### **8742. Education and experience requirements**

(a) The educational qualifications and experience in land surveying, which an applicant for a license as a land surveyor shall possess, shall be not less than one of the following prescribed criteria:

(1) Graduation from a four-year curriculum with an emphasis in land surveying approved by the board or accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Office of Education at a postsecondary educational institution and two years of actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying, including one year of responsible field training and one year of responsible office training satisfactory to the board.

(2) Actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying for at least six years, including one year of responsible field training and one year of responsible office training satisfactory to the board.

(3) Licensure as a civil engineer with two years of actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying satisfactory to the board.

(b) With respect to an applicant for a license as a land surveyor, the board shall count one year of postsecondary education in land surveying as one year of experience in land surveying up to a maximum of four years, provided the applicant has graduated from the course in land surveying and the curriculum in land surveying is approved by the board or is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized for the purpose by the United States Office of Education. Each year of study in an approved or an accredited course in land surveying without graduation shall be counted the same as one-half year of experience.

Each applicant claiming equivalent credit for education may be required to produce a complete transcript of all college level courses completed.

Until January 1, 2000, the board may, at its discretion, confer credit as experience in land surveying, not in excess of two years, for successfully passing the first division of the examination prescribed in Section 8741.1.

#### **8743. References required**

The names and addresses of at least four land surveyors or civil engineers, duly qualified to practice in the place in which such practice has been conducted, each of whom has sufficient knowledge of the applicant to enable him or her to certify to the applicant's professional integrity, ability and fitness to receive a license, shall be submitted with the application for a license as a land surveyor.

**8744. Support the Constitutions; faithfully discharge duties**

The applicant for a license as a land surveyor shall state in his or her application that, should he or she be licensed, he or she will support the Constitution of this state and of the United States, and that he or she will faithfully discharge the duties of a licensed land surveyor.

**8745. Examinations in general**

Examinations for license shall be held at such times and at such places within the state as determined by board rule.

The scope of examinations and the method of procedure shall be prescribed by board rule.

The board may make arrangements with a public or private organization to conduct the examination. The board may contract with a public or private organization for the materials or services related to the examination.

**8746. Re-examination**

An applicant failing an examination may be examined again upon filing a new application and the payment of the examination fee fixed by the board.

**8747. Issuance of certificate as a land surveyor-in-training or license as a land surveyor**

Any applicant who has met the requirements for certification or licensure prescribed by the board under this chapter shall have a suitable license issued to him or her.

(a) An applicant who has met the requirements of subdivision (a) and (b) of Section 8741 shall be issued a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training. A renewal or other fee, other than the application fee, shall not be charged for this certification. This certificate shall become invalid upon the person being issued a license as a land surveyor, as provided in subdivision (b). A land surveyor-in-training certificate shall not authorize the holder thereof to practice or offer to practice land surveying. A person shall not use the title of land surveyor-in-training, or any abbreviation of this title, unless he or she is the holder of a valid land surveyor-in-training certificate.

(b) An applicant who has met the requirements of subdivision (d) of Section 8741 shall be issued a license as a land surveyor. The license shall authorize him or her to practice as a land surveyor.

**8747.5. Retired license**

(a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee established by Section 8805, a retired license to a land surveyor who has been licensed by the board for a minimum of five years within California, and a minimum of 20 years within the United States or territories of the United States, and who holds a license that is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined, or subject to pending discipline under this chapter.

(b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active land surveyor's license is required. A land surveyor holding a retired

license shall be permitted to use the titles “retired professional land surveyor” or “professional land surveyor, retired.”

(c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.

(d) In order for the holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section to restore his or her license to active status, he or she shall pass the examination that is required for initial licensure with the board.

#### **8748. Licensure by comity or reciprocity**

The board, upon application therefor, and the payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, may issue a land surveyor’s license, without written examination, to any person who holds a valid land surveyor’s license issued to him or her by any state or country when the applicant’s qualifications meet the requirements of this chapter and rules established by the board.

#### **8748.5. Refund for unqualified applicants**

If an applicant for license as a land surveyor or certification as a land surveyor-in-training is found by the board to lack the qualifications required for such license or certification, the board may, in accordance with the provisions of Section 158 of this code, refund to ~~him or her one-half of the amount of his or her application~~ them their examination fee.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

#### **8749. Duplicate certificate or license**

A duplicate certificate of license to replace one lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules and regulations of the board. The duplicate certificate fee fixed by this chapter shall be charged.

#### **8750. Stamp or seal**

Upon being licensed, each licensee shall obtain a stamp or seal of the design authorized by the board bearing the licensee’s name, number of certificate, and the legend “Licensed Land Surveyor,” or “Professional Land Surveyor.”

#### **8751. Representing self as licensed**

No person shall represent himself or herself as, or use the title of, or any abbreviation or combination of the words in the title of, professional land surveyor, licensed land surveyor, land surveyor, land survey engineer, survey engineer, geodetic engineer, geomatics engineer, or geometronic engineer unless he or she is the holder of a valid, unsuspended, and unrevoked license.

#### **8752. Evidence of licensure**

An unrevoked, unsuspended and unexpired license, or renewal certificate, issued by the board is presumptive evidence in all courts and places that the person named is legally licensed under this chapter.

**8753. Requirement to provide email address**

(a) Each applicant for licensure or certification who has a valid email address shall report to the board that email address at the time of application.

(b) Each certificate or license holder who has a valid email address shall report that email address to the board at the time of renewal.

(c) Each applicant or certificate or license holder shall notify the board within 30 days of any change to their email address on file with the board.

(d) In the interest of protecting the privacy of applicants and certificate or license holders, the email address provided to the board pursuant to this chapter shall not be considered a public record and shall not be disclosed pursuant to Section 27 or pursuant to a request under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code), unless required pursuant to a court order by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Article 5. Surveying Practice****8759. Written contracts**

(a) A licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer authorized to practice land surveying shall use a written contract when contracting to provide professional services to a client pursuant to this chapter. The written contract shall be executed by the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer and the client or the client's representative prior to the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer commencing work, unless the client knowingly states in writing that work may be commenced before the contract is executed. The written contract shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) A description of the services to be provided to the client by the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer.

(2) A description of any basis of compensation applicable to the contract, and the method of payment agreed upon by the parties.

(3) The name, address, and license or certificate number of the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer, and the name and address of the client.

(4) A description of the procedure that the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer and the client will use to accommodate additional services.

(5) A description of the procedure to be used by both parties to terminate the contract.

(6) Disclosure of any existence of a current professional liability insurance policy covering the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer in responsible charge of the services.

(b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

(1) Professional land surveying services rendered by a licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer for which the client will not pay compensation.

(2) A licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer who has a current or prior contractual relationship with the client to provide professional services pursuant to this

chapter, and that client has paid the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer all of the fees that are due under the contract.

(3) If the client knowingly states in writing after full disclosure of this section that a contract which complies with the requirements of this section is not required.

(4) Professional services rendered by a licensed land surveyor or a licensed civil engineer to any of the following:

(A) A professional engineer licensed under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700).

(B) A land surveyor licensed under this chapter.

(C) An architect licensed under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500).

(D) A contractor licensed under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000).

(E) A geologist or a geophysicist licensed under Chapter 12.5 (commencing with Section 7800).

(F) A manufacturing, mining, public utility, research and development, or other industrial corporation, if the services are provided in connection with or incidental to the products, systems, or services of that corporation or its affiliates.

(G) A public agency.

(c) "Written contract" as used in this section includes a contract that is in electronic form.  
{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}

#### **8760. Administration of oaths**

Every licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer may administer and certify oaths:

(a) When it becomes necessary to take testimony for the identification or establishment of old, lost or obliterated corners.

(b) When a corner or monument is found in a perishable condition, and it appears desirable that evidence concerning it be perpetuated.

(c) When the importance of the survey makes it desirable, to administer an oath to his assistants for the faithful performance of their duty.

A record of oaths shall be preserved as part of the field notes of the survey and a memorandum of them shall be made on the record of survey filed under this article.

#### **8761. Signing and sealing of land surveying documents**

(a) Any licensed land surveyor or civil engineer authorized to practice land surveying may practice land surveying and prepare maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other documentary evidence in connection with that practice.

(b) All maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other land surveying documents shall be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a licensed land surveyor or civil engineer authorized to practice land surveying and shall include his or her name and license number.

(c) Interim maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other land surveying documents shall include a notation as to the intended purpose of the map, plat, report, description, or other document, such as "preliminary" or "for examination only."

(d) All final maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other land surveying documents issued by a licensed land surveyor or civil engineer authorized to practice land surveying shall bear the

signature and seal or stamp of the licensee and the date of signing and sealing or stamping. If the land surveying document has multiple pages or sheets, the signature, seal or stamp, and date of signing and sealing or stamping shall appear, at a minimum, on the title sheet, cover sheet or page, or signature sheet, unless otherwise required by law.

(e) It is unlawful for any person to sign, stamp, seal, or approve any map, plat, report, description, or other land surveying document unless the person is authorized to practice land surveying.

(f) It is unlawful for any person to stamp or seal any map, plat, report, description, or other land surveying document with the seal or stamp after the certificate of the licensee that is named on the seal or stamp has expired or has been suspended or revoked, unless the certificate has been renewed or reissued.

#### **8761.1. Consistency of authority to sign and seal land surveying documents**

The authority of a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer to prepare, sign, issue, stamp, seal, or approve any map, plat, report, description or other document shall be consistent with that person's authority to practice land surveying.

#### **8761.2. Responsibility for subsequent changes**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 8761, a registered civil engineer or licensed land surveyor who signs land surveying maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other surveying documents shall not be responsible for damage caused by subsequent changes to or uses of those maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other surveying documents, where the subsequent changes or uses, including changes or uses made by state or local governmental agencies, are not authorized or approved by the registered civil engineer or licensed land surveyor who originally signed the maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other surveying documents, provided that the engineering or surveying service rendered by the civil engineer or land surveyor who signed the maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other surveying documents was not also a proximate cause of the damage.

#### **8762. Records of survey**

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), after making a field survey in conformity with the practice of land surveying, the licensed surveyor or licensed civil engineer may file with the county surveyor in the county in which the survey was made, a record of the survey.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), after making a field survey in conformity with the practice of land surveying, the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall file with the county surveyor in the county in which the field survey was made a record of the survey relating to land boundaries or property lines, if the field survey discloses any of the following:

(1) Material evidence or physical change, which in whole or in part does not appear on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or properly filed in the office of the county recorder or county surveying department, or map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States.

(2) A material discrepancy with the information contained in any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or filed in the office of the county



recorder or the county surveying department, or any map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States. For purposes of this subdivision, a "material discrepancy" is limited to a material discrepancy in the position of points or lines, or in dimensions.

(3) Evidence that, by reasonable analysis, might result in materially alternate positions of lines or points, shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey previously recorded or filed in the office of the county recorder or the county surveying department, or any map or survey record maintained by the Bureau of Land Management of the United States.

(4) The location, relocation, establishment, reestablishment, or retracement of one or more points or lines not shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey, the positions of which are not ascertainable from an inspection of the subdivision map, official map, or record of survey.

(5) The points or lines set during the performance of a field survey of any parcel described in any deed or other instrument of title recorded in the county recorder's office are not shown on any subdivision map, official map, or record of survey.

(c) The record of survey required to be filed pursuant to this section shall be filed within 90 days after the setting of boundary monuments during the performance of a field survey or within 90 days after completion of a field survey, whichever occurs first.

(d) (1) If the 90-day time limit contained in subdivision (c) cannot be complied with for reasons beyond the control of the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer, the 90-day time period shall be extended until the time at which the reasons for delay are eliminated. If the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer cannot comply with the 90-day time limit, he or she shall, prior to the expiration of the 90-day time limit, provide the county surveyor with a letter stating that he or she is unable to comply. The letter shall provide an estimate of the date for completion of the record of survey, the reasons for the delay, and a general statement as to the location of the survey, including the assessor's parcel number or numbers.

(2) The licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall not initially be required to provide specific details of the survey. However, if other surveys at the same location are performed by others which may affect or be affected by the survey, the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer shall then provide information requested by the county surveyor without unreasonable delay.

(e) Any record of survey filed with the county surveyor shall, after being examined by him or her, be filed with the county recorder.

(f) If the preparer of the record of survey provides a postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard with the filing of the record of survey, the county recorder shall return the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard to the preparer of the record of survey with the filing data within 10 days of final filing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "filing data" includes the date, the book or volume, and the page at which the record of survey is filed with the county recorder.

**8762.5. Record of survey – land division**

No record of survey of land shown on the latest adopted county assessment roll as a unit or as contiguous units, which shows a division of such land into additional parcels, shall be filed with the county surveyor or with the county recorder, unless there is attached thereto a certificate by the county surveyor if the land lies within an unincorporated area, or a certificate by the city engineer if the land lies within a city, of compliance with the provisions of the Subdivision Map Act, Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code, and any applicable local ordinance enacted pursuant thereto.

**8763. Record of survey – sheet requirements**

The record of survey shall be a map, legibly drawn, printed, or reproduced by a process guaranteeing a permanent record in black on tracing cloth, or polyester base film, 18 by 26 inches or 460 by 660 millimeters. If ink is used on polyester base film, the ink surface shall be coated with a suitable substance to assure permanent legibility. A marginal line shall be drawn completely around each sheet leaving an entirely blank margin of one inch or 25 millimeters.

**8764. Record of survey – technical requirements**

(a) The record of survey shall show the applicable provisions of the following consistent with the purpose of the survey:

(1) All monuments found, set, reset, replaced, or removed, describing their kind, size, and location, and giving other data relating thereto.

(2) Bearing or witness monuments, basis of bearings, bearing and length of lines, scale of map, and north arrow.

(3) Name and legal designation of the property in which the survey is located, and the date or time period of the survey.

(4) The relationship to those portions of adjacent tracts, streets, or senior conveyances that have common lines with the survey.

(5) Memorandum of oaths.

(6) Statements required by Section 8764.5.

(7) Any other data, in graphic or narrative form, necessary for the intelligent interpretation of the various items and locations of the points, lines, and areas shown, or convenient for the identification of the survey or surveyor, as may be determined by the civil engineer or land surveyor preparing the record of survey.

(b) The record of survey shall also show, either graphically or by note, the reason or reasons, if any why the mandatory filing provisions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 8762 apply.

(c) The record of survey need not consist of a survey of an entire property.

**8764.5. Record of survey – required statements**

Statements shall appear on the map as follows:

**SURVEYOR'S STATEMENT**

This map correctly represents a survey made by me or under my direction in conformance with the requirements of the Professional Land Surveyors' Act at the request of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Name of Person Authorizing Survey

(Signed and sealed) \_\_\_\_\_

L.S. (or R.C.E.) No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY SURVEYOR'S STATEMENT**

This map has been examined in accordance with Section 8766 of the Professional Land Surveyors' Act this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

(Signed and sealed) \_\_\_\_\_

County Surveyor

L.S. (or R.C.E.) No. \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDER'S STATEMENT**

Filed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_m. in Book \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ at page \_\_\_\_\_, at the request of \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signed)

County Recorder

No other statements may appear on the face of the map except those required or authorized by this article.

**8765. Record of survey – exemptions**

A record of survey is not required of any survey:

(a) When it has been made by a public officer in his or her official capacity and a reproducible copy thereof, showing all data required by Section 8764, except the recorder's statement, has been filed with the county surveyor of the county in which the land is located. Any map so filed shall be indexed and kept available for public inspection.

(b) Made by the United States Bureau of Land Management.

(c) When a map is in preparation for recording or shall have been recorded under the provisions of the Subdivision Map Act.

(d) When the survey is a retracement of lines shown on a subdivision map, official map, or a record of survey, where no material discrepancies with those records are found and sufficient monumentation is found to establish the precise location of property corners thereon, provided that a corner record is filed for any property corners which are set or reset or found to be of a different character than indicated by prior records. For purposes of this subdivision, a "material discrepancy" is limited to a material discrepancy in the position of points or lines, or in dimensions.

(e) When the survey is a survey of a mobilehome park interior lot as defined in Section 18210 of the Health and Safety Code, provided that no subdivision map, official map, or record of survey has been previously filed for the interior lot or no conversion to residential ownership has occurred pursuant to Section 66428.1 of the Government Code.

#### **8766. Record of survey – examination**

(a) Within 20 working days after receiving the record of survey, or within the additional time as may be mutually agreed upon by the land surveyor or civil engineer and the county surveyor, the county surveyor shall examine it with respect to all of the following:

(1) Its accuracy of mathematical data and substantial compliance with the information required by Section 8764.

(2) Its compliance with Sections 8762.5, 8763, 8764.5, 8771.5, and 8772.

(b) The examination pursuant to this section shall not require the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer submitting the record of survey to change the methods or procedures utilized or employed in the performance of the survey, nor shall the examination require a field survey to verify the data shown on the record of survey.

(c) Nothing in this section shall limit the county surveyor from including notes expressing opinions regarding the record of survey, or the methods or procedures utilized or employed in the performance of the survey.

(d) The examination pursuant to this section shall be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer.

#### **8766.5. Record of survey – examination fee**

The county surveyor may charge a reasonable fee for examining a record of survey pursuant to Section 8766 which shall not exceed the cost of the service or one hundred dollars (\$100), whichever is the lesser. However, this one hundred dollars (\$100) maximum fee may be increased by the board of supervisors if such an increase is authorized by a duly adopted ordinance and the ordinance was adopted pursuant to a staff report demonstrating that the cost of providing the examination service actually exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100) per record of survey.

#### **8767. Record of survey – approval, notation of changes, resubmittal requirements**

If the county surveyor finds that the record of survey complies with the examination in Section 8766, the county surveyor shall endorse a statement on it of his or her examination, and

shall present it to the county recorder for filing. Otherwise the county surveyor shall return it to the person who presented it, together with a written statement of the changes necessary to make it conform to the requirements of Section 8766. The licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer submitting the record of survey may then make the agreed changes and note those matters which cannot be agreed upon in accordance with the provisions of Section 8768 and shall resubmit the record of survey within 60 days, or within the time as may be mutually agreed upon by the licensed surveyor or registered engineer and the county surveyor, to the county surveyor for filing pursuant to Section 8768.

#### **8768. Record of survey – explanation of differences**

If the matters appearing on the record of survey cannot be agreed upon by the licensed land surveyor or the registered civil engineer and the county surveyor within 10 working days after the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer resubmits and requests the record of survey be filed without further change, an explanation of the differences shall be noted on the map and it shall be presented by the county surveyor to the county recorder for filing, and the county recorder shall file the record of survey. The licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer filing the record of survey shall attempt to reach agreement with the county surveyor regarding the language for the explanation of the differences. If they cannot agree on the language explaining the differences, then both shall add a notation on the record of survey explaining the differences. The explanation of the differences shall be sufficiently specific to identify the factual basis for the difference.

#### **8768.5. Record of survey – timely filing**

If the county surveyor fails to timely file the record of survey with the county recorder in accordance with Section 8768, the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer submitting the map may bring an action pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure to compel the filing of the record of survey. After the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer resubmits and requests the record of survey be filed without further change, the filing of the record of survey shall be deemed to be a ministerial act.

In any action brought pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure between a licensed land surveyor or a registered civil engineer and the county surveyor of any county, the court may award to the prevailing party costs and other expenses of litigation, including the payment of experts and other witnesses, and reasonable attorney's fees.

#### **8769. Record of survey – filing costs**

The charge for filing any record of survey, and for indexing the same, shall be the same as provided for subdivided land under Section 27372 of the Government Code.

#### **8770. Record of survey – filing and storage**

The record of survey filed with the county recorder of any county shall be securely fastened by him into a suitable book provided for that purpose.

He shall keep proper indexes of such record of survey by the name of grant, tract, subdivision or United States subdivision.

The original map shall be stored for safekeeping in a reproducible condition. It shall be proper procedure for the recorder to maintain for public reference a set of counter maps that are prints of the original maps, and the original maps to be produced for comparison upon demand.

#### **8770.5. Record of survey – correction**

Any record of survey filed under the provisions of this chapter may be amended to show any course or distance that was omitted therefrom, or to correct any error in: course or distance shown thereon, the description of the land which the record of survey comprised, lot numbers, street names, acreages, identification of adjacent record maps, or the character of monuments being set, or to correct any other minor errors approved for correction by the county surveyor in the same manner that subdivision maps may be amended under the provisions of the Subdivision Map Act, Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code.

#### **8770.6. Use of the word “certify” or “certification”**

The use of the word “certify” or “certification” by a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying or the preparation of maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other surveying documents only constitutes an expression of professional opinion regarding those facts or findings which are the subject of the certification, and does not constitute a warranty or guarantee, either expressed or implied.

#### **8771. Setting of monuments in general; monument perpetuation**

(a) Monuments set shall be sufficient in number and durability and efficiently placed so as not to be readily disturbed, to ensure, together with monuments already existing, the perpetuation or facile reestablishment of any point or line of the survey.

(b) When monuments exist that control the location of subdivisions, tracts, boundaries, roads, streets, or highways, or provide horizontal or vertical survey control, the monuments shall be located and referenced by or under the direction of a licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying prior to the time when any streets, highways, other rights-of-way, or easements are improved, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, resurfaced, or relocated, and a corner record or record of survey of the references shall be filed with the county surveyor.

(c) A permanent monument shall be reset in the surface of the new construction or a witness monument or monuments set to perpetuate the location if any monument could be destroyed, damaged, covered, disturbed, or otherwise obliterated, and a corner record or record of survey shall be filed with the county surveyor prior to the recording of a certificate of completion for the project. Sufficient controlling monuments shall be retained or replaced in their original positions to enable property, right-of-way and easement lines, property corners, and subdivision and tract boundaries to be reestablished without devious surveys necessarily originating on monuments differing from those that currently control the area.

(d) The governmental agency performing or permitting construction or maintenance work is responsible for ensuring that either the governmental agency or landowner performing

the construction or maintenance work provides for monument perpetuation required by this section.

(e) It shall be the duty of every licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying to assist the governmental agency in matters of maps, field notes, and other pertinent records. Monuments set to mark the limiting lines of highways, roads, streets or right-of-way or easement lines shall not be deemed adequate for this purpose unless specifically noted on the corner record or record of survey of the improvement works with direct ties in bearing or azimuth and distance between these and other monuments of record.

(f) The decision to file either a corner record or a record of survey as required by subdivision (b) or (c) shall be at the election of the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying submitting the document.

#### **8771.5. Record of survey – California coordinates**

When coordinates in the California Coordinate System are shown for points on a record of survey map the map may not be recorded unless it also shows, or is accompanied by a map showing, the control scheme through which the coordinates were determined from points of known coordinates.

#### **8771.6. Monument rehabilitation**

(a) In every case where any monument is found with a physical condition that is less than permanent and durable, the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer using that monument as control in any survey shall reconstruct or rehabilitate the monument so that the same shall be left by them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument as is reasonably possible and so that the same may be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029, and as of that date is repealed.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

#### **8772. Marking of monuments**

Any monument set by a licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer to mark or reference a point on a property or land line shall be permanently and visibly marked or tagged with the certificate number of the surveyor or civil engineer setting it, each number to be preceded by the letters "L.S." or "R.C.E.," respectively, as the case may be or, if the monument is set by a public agency, it shall be marked with the name of the agency and the political subdivision it serves.

Nothing in this section shall prevent the inclusion of other information on the tag which will assist in the tracing or location of the survey records which relate to the tagged monument.

#### **8773. Corner record – "lost corners"**

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 8773.4, a person authorized to practice land surveying in this state shall complete, sign, stamp with his or her seal, and file with the county surveyor or engineer of the county where the corners are situated, a written record of

corner establishment or restoration to be known as a “corner record” for every corner established by the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States, except “lost corners,” as defined by the Manual of Surveying Instructions (2009), published by the federal Bureau of Land Management and every accessory to such corner which is found, set, reset, or used as control in any survey by such authorized person.

(b) After the establishment of a lost corner, as defined by the Manual of Surveying Instructions (2009), published by the federal Bureau of Land Management a record of survey shall be filed as set forth in Section 8764.

(c) Any person authorized to practice land surveying in this state may file such corner record for any property corners, property controlling corners, reference monuments, or accessories to a property corner.

#### **8773.1. Corner record – form**

The board shall by regulation provide and prescribe the information which shall be necessary to be included in the corner record and the board shall prescribe the form in which such corner record shall be submitted and filed, and the time limits within which the form shall be filed. A corner record shall be a single 8.5 by 11 inch sheet which may consist of a front and back page.

#### **8773.2. Corner record – filing, review and approval, resubmittal requirements**

(a) A “corner record” submitted to the county surveyor or engineer shall be examined by him or her for compliance with subdivision (d) of Section 8765 and Sections 8773, 8773.1, and 8773.4, endorsed with a statement of his or her examination, and filed with the county surveyor or returned to the submitting party within 20 working days after receipt.

(b) In the event the submitted “corner record” fails to comply with the examination criteria of subdivision (a), the county surveyor or engineer shall return it to the person who submitted it together with a written statement of the changes necessary to make it conform to the requirements of subdivision (a). The licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer submitting the corner record may then make the agreed changes in compliance with subdivision (a) and note those matters that cannot be agreed upon in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (c), and shall resubmit the corner record within 60 days, or within the time as may be mutually agreed upon by the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer and the county surveyor, to the county surveyor for filing pursuant to subdivision (c). The county surveyor or engineer shall file the corner record within 10 working days after receipt of the resubmission.

(c) If the matters appearing on the corner record cannot be agreed upon by the licensed land surveyor or the licensed civil engineer and the county surveyor within 10 working days after the licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer resubmits and requests the corner record be filed without further change, an explanation of the differences shall be noted on the corner record and it shall be submitted to and filed by the county surveyor. The licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer filing the corner record shall attempt to reach agreement with the county surveyor regarding the language for the explanation of the differences. If they cannot agree on the language explaining the differences, then both shall add a notation on the corner



record explaining the differences. The explanation of the differences shall be sufficiently specific to identify the factual basis for the differences.

(d) The corner record filed with the county surveyor of any county shall be securely fastened by him or her into a suitable book provided for that purpose.

(e) A charge for examining, indexing, and filing the corner record may be collected by the county surveyor, not to exceed the amount required for the recording of a deed.

(f) If the preparer of the corner record provides a postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard with the filing of the corner record, the county surveyor shall return the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope or postcard to the preparer of the corner record with the filing data within 20 days of final filing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "filing data" includes the date, book or volume, and the page at which the corner record is filed by the county surveyor. This subdivision shall not apply to a county surveyor's office that maintains an electronic data base of filed corner records that is accessible to the public by reference to the preparer's license number.

### **8773.3. Corner record – monument rehabilitation**

In every case where a corner record is filed pursuant to Section 8773, the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer shall reconstruct or rehabilitate the monument of such corner, and accessories to such corner, so that the same shall be left by ~~him~~ them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument as is reasonably possible and so that the same may be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

### **8773.4. Corner record – signature requirements, exemptions**

(a) A corner record shall be signed by a licensed land surveyor or licensed civil engineer and stamped with his or her seal, or in the case of an agency of the United States government or the State of California the certificate may be signed by the chief of the survey party making the survey, setting forth his or her official title, prior to filing.

(b) A corner record need not be filed when:

(1) A corner record is on file and the corner is found as described in the existing corner record.

(2) All conditions of Section 8773 are complied with by proper notations on a record of survey map filed in compliance with the Professional Land Surveyors' Act or a parcel or subdivision map, in compliance with the Subdivision Map Act.

(3) When the survey is a survey of a mobilehome park interior lot as defined in Section 18210 of the Health and Safety Code, provided that no subdivision map, official map, or record of survey has been previously filed for the interior lot or no conversion to residential ownership has occurred pursuant to Section 66428.1 of the Government Code.

(c) This section shall not apply to maps filed prior to January 1, 1974.

### **8774. Right of entry**

(a) The right of entry upon or to real property to investigate and utilize boundary evidence, and to perform surveys, is a right of persons legally authorized to practice land

surveying, and it is the responsibility of the owner or tenant who owns or controls property to provide reasonable access without undue delay. The right of entry is not contingent upon the provision of prior notice to the owner or tenant. However, the owner or tenant shall be notified of the proposed time of entry where practicable.

(b) The requirements of subdivision (a) do not apply to monuments within access-controlled portions of freeways.

(c) When required for a property survey, monuments within a freeway right-of-way shall be referenced to usable points outside the access control line by the agency having jurisdiction over the freeway when requested in writing by the registered civil engineer or licensed land surveyor who is to perform the property survey. The work shall be done within a reasonable time period by the agency in direct cooperation with the engineer or surveyor and at no charge to him or her.

#### **8774.5. County Surveyor Index**

(a) Upon the filing of a record of survey, amended record of survey, or certificate of correction for recordation pursuant to this chapter, the surveyor or engineer who prepared the document shall transmit a copy of the document, including all recording information, to the county surveyor, who shall maintain an index, by geographic location, of the documents.

(b) The county surveyor may charge a fee equal to the fee charged for recording the documents specified in subdivision (a), for purposes of financing the costs of maintaining the index of those documents.

(c) The requirements of this section shall not apply to any county which requires the documents specified in subdivision (a) to be transmitted to the county surveyor and requires that official to maintain an index of those documents.

### **Article 5.5 Photogrammetry**

#### **8775. Use of titles – “photogrammetrist” and “photogrammetric surveyor”**

No person shall use the title or any abbreviation of the title photogrammetrist or photogrammetric surveyor unless he or she holds registration as a civil engineer or licensed land surveyor, or unless he or she is licensed as a photogrammetric surveyor.

#### **8775.1. Photogrammetric services**

Persons meeting the requirements of this article may engage in and perform all photogrammetric services germane to this chapter, either as individuals, employees, or as independent contractors; provided, however, that the field surveys to be done are performed by registered civil engineers or licensed land surveyors, and in the preparation of any topographic map which contains the delineation of property corners or a property boundary or boundaries the work is certified or attested to by a registered civil engineer or land surveyor.

**8775.2. Signature and certificate number**

Maps, documents, or reports prepared by, or under the direction of, a licensed photogrammetric surveyor shall carry his signature and certificate number which will indicate his responsibility for the work.

**8775.3. Renewal of licenses; fees**

Photogrammetric surveyor licenses shall be renewable upon payment of the fee fixed by the board for which a renewal certificate shall be issued. Photogrammetric surveyor license fees shall be the same as those prescribed for land surveyor's licensing; and the provisions of this chapter relating to revenue, and with respect to disciplinary proceedings, shall similarly apply.

**Article 5.7. Reporting Requirements****8776. Licensees required to report criminal convictions, civil action judgments, settlements, arbitration awards, and administrative actions**

(a) A licensee shall report to the board in writing the occurrence of any of the following events that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, within 90 days of the date the licensee has knowledge of the event:

(1) The conviction of the licensee of any felony.

(2) The conviction of the licensee of any other crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensed land surveyor.

(3) A civil action settlement or administrative action resulting in a settlement against the licensee in any action alleging fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, breach or violation of contract, negligence, incompetence, or recklessness by the licensee in the practice of land surveying if the amount or value of the settlement is greater than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(4) A civil action judgment or binding arbitration award or administrative action resulting in a judgment or binding arbitration award against the licensee in any action alleging fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, breach or violation of contract, negligence, incompetence, or recklessness by the licensee in the practice of land surveying if the amount or value of the judgment or binding arbitration award is twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or greater.

(b) The report required by subdivision (a) shall be signed by the licensee and set forth the facts that constitute the reportable event. If the reportable event involves the action of an administrative agency or court, the report shall set forth the title of the matter, court or agency name, docket number, and the dates the reportable event occurred.

(c) A licensee shall promptly respond to oral or written inquiries from the board concerning the reportable events, including inquiries made by the board in conjunction with license renewal.

(d) Nothing in this section shall impose a duty upon any licensee to report to the board the occurrence of any of the events set forth in subdivision (a) either by or against any other licensee.

(e) Failure of a licensee to report to the board in the time and manner required by this section shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

(f) For purposes of this section, a conviction includes the initial plea, verdict, or finding of guilt; a plea of no contest; or pronouncement of sentence by a trial court even though the conviction may not be final or sentence actually imposed until all appeals are exhausted.

#### **8776.1. Courts required to report of convictions of licensees**

Within 30 days of entry of a conviction described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 8776, a settlement described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 8776, or a judgment described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 8776, by a court of this state that has been notified that the defendant is a licensee of the board, the court that rendered the conviction, settlement, or judgment shall report that fact to the board and provide the board with a copy of the conviction or judgment and any orders or opinions of the court accompanying or ordering the conviction, settlement, or judgment.

#### **8776.2. Professional liability insurers required to report of civil action judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards against licensees**

(a) Within 30 days of payment of all or any portion of any civil action judgment, settlement, or binding arbitration award described in Section 8776 against a licensee of the board, any insurer providing professional liability insurance to that licensee shall report to the board the name of the licensee; the amount or value of the judgment, settlement, or binding arbitration award; the amount paid by the insurer; and the identity of the payee.

(b) Within 30 days of payment of all or any portion of any civil action judgment, settlement, or binding arbitration award described in Section 8776 against a licensee of the board, any state or local government agency that self-insures that licensee shall report to the board the name of the licensee; the amount or value of the judgment, settlement, or binding arbitration award; the amount paid; and the identity of the payee.

#### **8776.3. Applicability of Sections 8776, 8776.1, and 8776.2**

The requirements of Sections 8776, 8776.1, and 8776.2 shall apply if a party to the civil action, settlement, or arbitration award is or was a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, or state or local government agency in which the licensee is or was an owner, partner, member, officer, or employee and is or was the licensee in responsible charge of that portion of the project that was the subject of the civil judgment, settlement, or arbitration award.

#### **8776.4. Effect of article on confidential agreements**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a licensee shall not be considered to have violated a confidential settlement agreement or other confidential agreement by providing a report to the board as required by this article.

**8776.5. Applicability of article to civil engineers**

The provisions of this article apply to a civil engineer licensed under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) prior to January 1, 1982, if the civil action judgment, settlement, or arbitration award relates to the practice of professional land surveying.

**8776.6. Authority to adopt regulations**

The board may adopt regulations to further define the reporting requirements of Sections 8776, 8776.1, and 8776.2.

**8776.7. Operation of article**

This article shall become operative on January 1, 2008, only if an appropriation is made from the Professional Engineer's and Land Surveyor's Fund for the 2007-08 fiscal year in the annual Budget Act to fund the activities of this article, and sufficient hiring authority is granted to the board pursuant to a budget change proposal to provide sufficient staffing to implement this article.

**Article 6. Disciplinary Proceedings****8780. Complaints; investigations; board action against the license of a land surveyor or civil engineer**

(a) The board may, upon its own initiative or upon the receipt of a complaint, investigate the actions of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or any civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying and make findings thereon.

(b) By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the license or certificate of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying on any of the following grounds:

- (1) Any fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in their practice of land surveying.
- (2) Any negligence in their practice of land surveying.
- (3) Any incompetence in their practice of land surveying.
- (4) Any fraud or deceit in obtaining their license.
- (5) Any violation of any provision of this chapter or of any other law relating to or involving the practice of land surveying.
- (6) Any conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a land surveyor. The record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof.
- (7) Aiding or abetting any person in the violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.
- (8) A breach or violation of a contract to provide land surveying services.
- (9) A violation in the course of the practice of land surveying of a rule or regulation of unprofessional conduct adopted by the board.

**8780.1. Complaints; investigations; board action against the certificate of a land surveyor-in-training**

The board may, upon its own initiative or upon the receipt of a complaint, investigate the actions of any land surveyor-in-training and make findings thereon.

By a majority vote, the board may revoke the certificate of any land surveyor-in-training:

- (a) Who has been convicted of a crime as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 480.
- (b) Who has committed any act that would be grounds for denial of a license pursuant to Section 480 or 496.
- (c) Who has committed any act of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining his or her land surveyor-in-training certificate or license as a professional land surveyor.
- (d) Who aids or abets any person in the violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.
- (e) Who violates Section 119 with respect to a land surveyor-in-training certificate.
- (f) Who commits any act described in Section 8792.
- (g) Who violates any provision of this chapter.

**8780.2. Failure or refusal by a licensee to respond in an investigation**

The failure of, or refusal by, a licensee or a certificate holder to respond to a written request from a representative of the board in the investigation of a complaint against that licensee or certificate holder constitutes a cause for disciplinary action under Section 8780 or 8780.1.

**8781. Conduct of disciplinary proceedings**

The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted therein.

**8783. License revocation upon conviction**

A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a land surveyor is deemed to be conviction within the meaning of this article. The board may order the license or certificate suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or certificate, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.

**8784. Reinstatement of revoked license**

The board may reissue a license to any person, whose license has been revoked, if a majority of the members of the board vote in favor of such reinstatement, for reasons the board may deem sufficient.

**8785. Petitions for reinstatement of revoked license or modification of penalty**

(a) A petitioner may petition the board for reinstatement or modification of penalty, including reduction, modification, or termination of probation, after the following minimum periods have elapsed from the effective date of the decision ordering the disciplinary action, or if the order of the board or any portion of it is stayed by a court of law, from the date the disciplinary action is actually implemented in its entirety:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, at least three years for reinstatement of a license or certificate that was revoked or surrendered. However, the board may, in its sole discretion, specify in its order of revocation or surrender a lesser period of time that shall be at minimum one year.

(2) At least two years for early termination of a probation period of three years or more.

(3) At least one year for early termination of a probation period of less than three years.

(4) At least one year for reduction or modification of a condition of probation.

(b) The board shall notify the Attorney General of the filing of the petition. The petitioner and the Attorney General shall be given timely notice by letter of the time and place of the hearing on the petition, and the petitioner and the Attorney General shall be given the opportunity to present both oral and documentary evidence and argument to the board. The petitioner shall at all times have the burden of proof to establish by clear and convincing evidence that he or she is entitled to the relief sought in the petition.

(c) The board itself or an administrative law judge, if one is designated by the board, shall hear the petition and shall prepare a written decision setting forth the reasons supporting the decision.

(d) The board may grant or deny the petition or may impose any terms and conditions that it reasonably deems appropriate as a condition of reinstatement or reduction or modification of the penalty.

(e) No petition shall be considered while the petitioner is under sentence for any criminal offense, including any period during which the petitioner is on court-imposed probation or parole. No petition shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against the petitioner.

(f) The board may, in its discretion, deny without hearing or argument any petition that is filed pursuant to this section within a period of two years from the effective date of a prior decision following a hearing under this section.

(g) Judicial review of the board's decision following a hearing under this section may be sought by way of a petition for writ of administrative mandamus pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The party seeking to overturn the board's decision shall have the burden of proof in any mandamus proceeding. In the mandamus proceeding, if it is alleged that there has been an abuse of discretion because the board's findings are not supported by the evidence, abuse of discretion is established if the court determines that the findings are not supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

(h) For the purposes of this section, "petitioner" means a professional land surveyor or licensed civil engineer or a land surveyor-in-training whose license or certificate has been revoked, suspended, or surrendered or placed on probation.

## **Article 7. Offenses Against the Chapter**

### **8790. Enforcement and prosecution**

The board shall enforce all of the provisions of this chapter and cause the prosecution of all violations coming to its notice.

#### **8790.5. Licensees allowed to report potential violations**

(a) If a licensee who is retained as an expert witness enters into a nondisclosure agreement, that agreement shall not be construed to prevent the licensee from reporting a potential violation of the Professional Land Surveyors' Act to the board.

(b) This section shall not be construed to be, or act as, a waiver of any applicable attorney-client or attorney work product privileges.

### **8791. Duty to prosecute**

It is the duty of the respective officers charged with the enforcement of laws to prosecute all persons charged with the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.

### **8792. Acts constituting a misdemeanor**

A person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor:

(a) Unless the person is exempt from licensure under this chapter, practices, or offers to practice, land surveying in this state without legal authorization.

(b) Presents as their own the certificate of a land surveyor-in-training or the license of a professional land surveyor unless they are the person named on the certificate or the license.

(c) Attempts to file as their own any record of survey under the license of a professional land surveyor.

(d) Gives false evidence of any kind to the board, or to any board member, in obtaining a certificate or a license.

(e) Impersonates or uses the seal, signature, or license number of a professional land surveyor or who uses a false license number.

(f) Impersonates or uses the certificate number of a land surveyor-in-training or who uses a false certificate.

~~(f)~~ (g) Uses an expired, suspended, surrendered, or revoked certificate or license.

~~(g)~~ (h) Represents themselves as, or uses the title of, professional land surveyor, or any other title whereby that person could be considered as practicing or offering to practice land surveying, unless the person is correspondingly qualified by licensure as a land surveyor under this chapter.

~~(h)~~ (i) Uses the title, or any combination of that title, of "professional land surveyor," "licensed land surveyor," "land surveyor," or the titles specified in Sections 8751 and 8775, or "land surveyor-in-training," or who makes use of any abbreviation of that title that might lead to



the belief that the person is a licensed land surveyor or holds a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training, without being licensed or certified as required by this chapter.

~~(j)~~ (i) Unless appropriately licensed, manages, or conducts as manager, proprietor, or agent, any place of business from which land surveying work is solicited, performed, or practiced, except as authorized pursuant to Section 6731.2.

~~(k)~~ (k) Violates any provision of this chapter.

*{Amended by Ch. 588, Stats. 2024}*

## **Article 8. Revenue**

### **8800. Accounting and deposit of funds**

(a) The department shall receive and account for all money derived under the operation of this chapter and, at the end of each month, shall report such money to the Controller and shall pay it to the Treasurer, who shall keep the money in a separate fund known as the Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's Fund.

(b) For accounting and recordkeeping purposes, the Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's Fund shall be deemed to be a single special fund, and shall be available for expenditure only for the purposes as are now or may hereafter be provided by law.

(c) The fees and civil penalties received under this chapter shall be deposited in the Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's Fund. All moneys in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes of this chapter.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2016.

### **8801. Expiration of licenses**

Licenses issued under this chapter expire every two years, if not renewed. Biennial renewals shall be staggered on a quarterly basis. To renew an unexpired license the license holder shall on or before the date of expiration indicated on the renewal receipt, apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board, and pay the renewal fee prescribed by this chapter.

#### **8801.1. Assessment to reinforce knowledge of state laws and board rules and regulations**

(a) At the time of renewal specified in Section 8801 or 8802, the board shall administer an assessment of the licenseholder to reinforce the licenseholder's knowledge of state laws and the board's rules and regulations. Failure to complete this assessment within 60 days after the date of expiration of the license may result in disciplinary action under Section 8780, but shall not affect the renewal of the license.

(b) The crime in subdivision (j) of Section 8792 shall not apply to this section.

(c) The board shall not charge the licenseholder a fee for the administration or development of the assessment.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "assessment" means an online program that contains educational reading material and questions. The material shall be based on state law and the board's rules and regulations relating to the practice of professional land surveyors. The scope of the assessment shall be limited to the board's top five types of violations related to the

administrative and procedural aspects of the practice of professional land surveyors and any changes or additions to existing law related to such administrative and procedural aspects.

### **8802. Renewal of license within five years of expiration**

Except as otherwise provided in this article, licenses issued under this chapter may be renewed at any time within five years after expiration on filing of application for renewal on a form prescribed by the board and payment of all accrued and unpaid renewal fees. If the license is renewed more than 30 days after its expiration, the licensee, as a condition precedent to renewal, shall also pay the delinquency fee prescribed by this chapter. Renewal under this section shall be effective on the date on which the application is filed, on the date on which the renewal fee is paid, or on the date on which the delinquency fee, if any, is paid, whichever last occurs. If so renewed, the license shall continue in effect through the date provided in Section 8801 which next occurs after the effective date of the renewal, when it shall expire if it is not again renewed.

#### **8802.1. Expiration of suspended license; renewal**

A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article, but such renewal does not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity, or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which the license was suspended.

#### **8802.2. Expiration of revoked license**

A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it may not be renewed. It is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, shall pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated, plus the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.

### **8803. Failure to renew license within five years**

(a) A license that is not renewed within five years after its expiration may not be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated. After five years after expiration, the holder of a license may apply for and obtain a new license subject to the following:

(1) He or she has not committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

(2) He or she takes and passes the examination, if any, that would be required if applying for the license for the first time.

(b) The board may, by regulation, provide for the waiver or refund of all or any part of the application fee in those cases in which a license is issued without an examination pursuant to this section.

#### **8803.1. Effect of renewal of expired or delinquent license**

Once an expired or delinquent license is renewed pursuant to Section 8802, all of the following apply:

(a) The board shall continue to have full jurisdiction and authority over the licensee as if the license had not expired or become delinquent.

(b) The work performed by the licensee during a period of expiration or delinquency shall be deemed lawful and validly performed as to persons or entities other than the licensee.

(c) The renewal of a license shall not affect liability issues regarding work performed during a period of expiration or delinquency, nor does the fact of performance during a period of expiration or delinquency affect liability issues.

#### **8804. Civil engineers also licensed as land surveyors – separate renewal fee for land surveyor license**

The renewal or reinstatement of any certificate of registration of a civil engineer under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3, who is also a licensed land surveyor, shall not include the renewal or restoration of his land surveyor's license, without the payment of the surveyor's renewal fee or penalty.

#### **8804.5. Refunds**

The board may make refunds of all fees in accordance with Section 158 of this code.

#### **8805. Fee schedule**

The amount of the fees prescribed by this chapter shall be fixed by the board in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) The fee for filing each application for licensure as a land surveyor at not more than four hundred dollars (\$400) and for each application for certification as a land surveyor-in-training (LSIT) at not more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

(b) The fees to take an examination administered by a public or private organization pursuant to Section 8745 shall be no greater than the actual cost of the development and administration of the examination and may be paid directly to the organization by the applicant.

(c) The renewal fee for a land surveyor at not more than four hundred dollars (\$400).

(d) The fee for a retired license at not more than 50 percent of the professional land surveyor application fee in effect on the date of application.

(e) The delinquency fee at not more than 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the date of reinstatement.

(f) The board shall establish by regulation an appeal fee for examination. The regulation shall include provisions for an applicant to be reimbursed the appeal fee if the appeal results in passage of examination. The fee shall be no more than the costs incurred by the board.

(g) All other document fees are to be set by the board by rule.