

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:47:24 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS BOARD PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS TBPG

First Name: Stephanie

Last Name: Coffman

Title: Senior Fluvial Geomorphologist, P.G.

Organization you are affiliated with: Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists

Email:

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission staff's recommendation to

As a geologist, a scientist who studies the Earth and the processes that shaped it, every project I work on touches the Earth and the Earth is a dynamic place! As a qualified, practicing Professional Geoscientist (P.G.) in Texas, I evaluate erosional threats to infrastructure projects.

I am blessed that I get the opportunity to work on projects that make everyday life possible. I evaluate erosion and slope stability issues for infrastructure: pipelines, roadways, builds, etc. Pipelines that carry our clean drinking water to our homes; pipelines that carry wastewater to a treatment plant to be processed; roads that allow us to travel safely from point A to point B, park trails and pedestrian bridges in the parks we play in and the buildings we live in. Erosion hazards and slope instabilities can cause damage or loss of property, not to mention potential loss of life. I work collaboratively with several disciplines (Professional Engineers, Professional Hydrologists, etc.) to evaluate complex issues and develop the necessary solutions to mitigate them. Understanding the geologic setting and processes is part of solution development. This knowledge comes from years of education, experience, references, dedication and determination.

For example, understanding the geologic hazards at play are critical to the integrity of the pipelines, so that they do not break. You live in the Great State of Texas, so you understand the recreational benefits of our beautiful lakes. Imagine the health and safety risk to our public if a large diameter wastewater pipeline was to break upstream of one of these beautiful lakes, because it did not have the proper geologic investigation. Not to mention, the source of your drinking water comes from our rivers and lakes and is treated for consumption. As P.G.s we are requested to perform geologic investigations by our colleagues, Professional Engineers. We work with P.E.s to identify geologic hazards so they can engineer a design that works for that specific project – remember the Earth is complex, there is no one size fits all. P.E.s ask us, P.G.s, to perform this work, because they are not experts in the field of geology.

Ethically, a P.E. cannot perform work outside their area of expertise.

As a qualified, licensed P.G., I take responsible charge of the geo-scientific portion of a report that is required by municipal or county ordinance, state or federal law, state agency rule, or federal regulation for the projects I work on. Texas needs accountability, we need P.G.s doing the work that is critical to the health, safety and welfare of the public!

Regards,
Stephanie Coffman, P.G.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: DO NOT abolish the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) and licensed Professional Geologists (P.G.s).

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree