

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:24:22 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:21 PM  
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: Ronald

Last Name: Fieseler

Title: General Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

Email:

City: Blanco

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to the Staff Report recommendation to discontinue the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG).

Prior to the creation of the TBPG, anyone could print a business card and call themselves a geologist, a hydro-geologist, a soil scientist, or a geo-physicist...and could do so without having ever attended a single class on geology. This charade (which I have personally witnessed prior to the creation of the TBPG) should be professionally unacceptable to any responsible decision maker.

The mere presence of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists and its rules and licensing processes have been highly successful in preventing abuses by non-qualified persons acting in the capacity of a geoscientist. I like to compare this deterrent effect to that of a Texas Highway Patrol officer in his squad car sitting at a traffic light. While he sits there, every car that uses that intersection will come to a full stop, use their turn signals, stop on both red and yellow lights, and wait for a solid green light before moving. He will very likely never write a single ticket, but he is doing a great job and being extremely effective! We would never imagine getting rid of the Highway Patrol for low-performance or inadequate enforcement. The physical presence of the officer ensures that the laws and rules will be followed and the public protected. Now imagine what will happen when he leaves the intersection...we all know what will happen..."rolling stops", rushing the yellow lights, and even running the red lights. You can count on it.

The overall key finding statement of the Sunset Commission staff was that the regulation of Professional Geoscientists "did not provide meaningful public protection." I disagree, and offer the following information to substantiate my opposition.

The Subdivision Regulations of the Blanco County Commissioners Court requires that a water availability study be

conducted for almost all new subdivisions (excluding those divided into 25 acres or greater). The studies are required to be performed by a either licensed professional Engineer or Geoscientist.

The intent of the studies is to provide professional and competent input in order to protect the groundwater resources in Blanco County, ensure that water of sufficient quantity and quality is available to meet the needs of the new subdivision property owners, and document the potential impacts on adjacent property owners and protect their groundwater property rights. I have personally reviewed all the reports on water availability studies over the past several years and have found them to be critical to the decision making process of the Blanco County Commissioners Court and the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District. Registered Professional Geoscientists performed the vast majority of the studies and completed them in accordance with professional scientific testing practices.

I work for a small Groundwater Conservation District. We provide very few "hard" deliverables...most of our "products" are regulatory in nature or, are service oriented. In my daily conversations with well owners, property owners, local governmental officials, it is clear that they view our District as a valuable asset to Blanco County. I view the TBPG much the same way.

Their strength and value is in their regulatory authority and deterrent aspects. I believe it would be a major setback to public service if the TBPG were dissolved.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I urge that the Sunset Commission consider at least a 10 year extension for the TBPG in order to allow for further data gathering and analysis on the TBPG processes and impacts on the regulated community, the general public, and any impacts on other governmental entities, such as County governments, Groundwater Districts, etc.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree