



Texas Ground Water Association

3755 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 105
Austin, TX 78704-6649
Dean Robbins, Executive Secretary

(512) 472-7437
www.tgwa.org
e-mail: drobbins@tgwa.org

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August 15, 2018

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711
email: sunset@sunset.texas.gov

Re: Sunset Staff Report on Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission:

On behalf of the Ground Water Science Board of the Texas Ground Water Association (TGWA), I want to thank the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission for the opportunity to comment on the Staff Report regarding Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists. TGWA, created in 1947, is a statewide association of more than 1,400 well drillers, pump installers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, professional geoscientists, and other groundwater professionals. The organization provides continuing education classes for licensed water well drillers and pump installers across the state, hosts an annual convention and trade show, and provides other educational and networking opportunities for its members. Among other purposes, TGWA aims to support the interests and welfare of the water well industry, promote scientific education and research, improve methods of well construction, and help develop the science of groundwater hydrology.

The TGWA Ground Water Science Board is uniquely situated to weigh in on this issue, as it consists of professional geoscientists, professional engineers, and groundwater conservation district general managers. We support leaving the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists in place in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Texas. Among other tasks, professional geoscientists interpret complex subsurface geology, read geophysical logs, interpret fault and subsurface structures, conduct geophysical studies of subsidence, interpret complex groundwater chemistry and potential contamination, and build predictive and 3D geological groundwater models. Utilizing licensed geoscientists to perform these tasks is important to ensure adequate protection of groundwater quality and availability. At a time when people are turning more and more to groundwater to supply the state's water needs, it's more important than ever that we rely on the sound science provided by this board's oversight.

Due to the short time frame between the release of the Staff Report and consideration by the Committee, we also encourage the Committee to, at a minimum, allow more opportunity for participation and comments on this important issue before a final decision is made.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

William (Billy) Gamblin, P.E.
President, TGWA GWS Board





Braun Intertec Corporation
2801 Oakmont Dr., Suite 600
Round Rock, TX 78665

Phone: 512.484.2033
Web: braunintertec.com

August 15, 2018

Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 North Congress Avenue
Robert E. Johnson Building
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 463-1300; email: <mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov>

Re: Recommendation to Abolish Texas Board of Professional Geoscientist Program

Dear Advisory Commission Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important subject. As a career Professional Engineer (License #82640) in Texas I have worked alongside Professional Geoscientists in a number of complex and varied projects ranging from public health related environmental projects to complex public water supply well fields. In our collaboration efforts, it has been my experience that geoscientists offer a different perspective and scientific expertise that has been critical to the success of the projects. In a lot of cases, a P.G. stamp was more appropriate or would complement my P.E. stamp in ensuring that public health and safety was protected.

Some of the skill sets unique to the Geoscientist profession include the interpretation of complex subsurface geology, formation top and base picks, reading geophysical logs, interpret of fault and subsurface structures, geophysical studies of subsidence, interpretation of complex groundwater chemistry, building predictive and 3D geological groundwater models or the determination subsurface geological contamination sources. All of which can be critical in successfully protecting the citizens of Texas.

I encourage the Advisory Commission to consider these and other important facts regarding the importance of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientist Program in protecting the public.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information.

Sincerely,

BRAUN INTERTEC CORPORATION

William Gamblin, P.E.
Associate Principal - Environmental/Water Resources Manager

AA/EOE

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