From: Sunset Advisory Commission
To: Brittany Calame
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:57:07 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:28 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: Kelly

Last Name: Krenz

Title: Senior Project Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: AECOM

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed: Opposed to abolishing the Texas Professional Geoscientist Board. As an employee of AECOM for more than 24 years, I have had the great benefit of engaging professional geoscientists to perform geoscientific work including studies and analysis, development of professional reports and data collection/interpretation for our public clients that include federal, state and local agencies, regional water and river authorities, flood control districts and levee improvement districts, navigation and transportation, and aviation departments, and clients who requested that we evaluate proposed or purchased properties for residential/commercial and industrial land development for the presence of hazardous materials, threatened and endangered karst species, constraints related to past oil and gas activities (sludge pits, abandoned orphan wells, and waste landfills). Professional geoscientists and geoscience firms issued reports under their seal to evaluate using geologic and geophysical investigations and location, extent, depth, and probable content of unpermitted or closed landfills, the performance of Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) to develop cross-sections, lithologic and water direction/flow interpretations, contaminant migration pathways to help prevent the off-site exposure or travel of pollution. Professional geoscientists (P.G.) have also been hired by my firm to develop estimates of groundwater quality and quantity for residential drinking water supplies and golf-course irrigation systems.
Professional geoscientists have helped determine soil characteristics for landscape design, development of the conceptual design of erosion control features, and placement of dredged material disposal sites. Professional geoscientists have designed plans for removal of buried waste to protect the public and the environment during flood control projects in San Antonio.
Professional geoscientists have used near-surface geophysical methods to investigate the presence of wetlands (LiDAR) for municipal water supply projects. The location and presence of steel underground storage tanks and buried pipelines prior to construction have also been determined by licensed professional geoscientists engaged by our company. The protection of the citizens of Texas under the Texas Geoscience Practice Act involves drinking water, surface water supply planning, mineral exploration, and understanding soil conditions relevant to the presence and protection of archeological and cultural significant resources. Understanding geologic conditions that may cause erosion, land subsidence, sink holes or radon gas to be present at concentrations or in conditions that may

harm the public have also been performed by licensed professional geoscientists hired for our clients. Under state law, professional geoscientists must perform Geologic Assessments to determine the presence of karst features that may keep threatened and endangered species from harm. Pollution is present under the ground surface and in groundwater from leaking underground storage tanks installed at thousands of gasoline service stations and the releases from these systems must be investigated by those licensed by the TCEQ unless already licensed under the Professional Geoscience Practice Act. The TCEQ depends on the P.G.
licensure program to ensure that the public is protected from the unlawful and unethical portrayal of the location, extent, and concentration of chemicals that cause pollution; this is achieved by the TCEQ requiring that the public practice of geoscience be performed by a Texas-licensed P.G. as evidenced by the PG seal being required (or the equivalent) on mining or industrial/commercial permit requests, compliance reports, monitoring reports, and affected property assessment reports that document the presence of pollution that can negatively affect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Texas. The TCEQ is dependent on the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists to ensure that geoscience work products submitted to them for consideration in permits and project authorizations, investigation and closure of pollution sites are compliant with the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. Land subsidence in Houston is a real public threat that the Houston-Galveston Subsidence District helps control based on geoscientific studies and analyses and the general Houston area mandate the change to using surface water for drinking water supply. Public benefits our company has provided to our clients include estimate of groundwater dependability for residential developments based on aquifer studies, potentiometric surface maps, isopach maps showing the thickness of aquifers and studies that include measurements of water yield studies, transmissivity and storage estimates. AECOM has depended on geoscientists to help prepare groundwater management plans for our groundwater conservation district clients. The RRC of Texas is in a similar position as the TCEQ in requiring public documents with geoscientific work products to have P.G. seals embossed on that work that involves lithologic, mineral, or related interpretations, estimates of production and location of contaminants at orphaned and abandoned oil and gas sites, characteristics of abandoned sludge lagoons, and related contaminated or polluted properties that cause releases that could affect neighboring properties, the public or the economy of the area. For these reasons, I am opposed to abolishing the Texas Geoscience Practice Act as a consumer (purchaser) of geoscientific studies by professionals held to rigorous standards of ethics and licensure, oversight requirements to help protect public health and safety through professional licensing.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Recommend that the fee assessed for violations of the Texas Geoscientist Practice Act ("Act") be increased to conform to those imposed for violations of the Texas Engineering Practice Act. Recommend that oil and gas professionals who offer to the public prospects or work to value oil and gas prospects by licensed under the Act. Recommend that the Act be expanded to include any type of geoscientific study needed for archeological investigations or reports performed or submitted to or prepared for public agencies such as the Texas Historical
Commission. Recommend that oil and gas professionals engaged in
hydro-fracking operations and sand mining be licensed under the Act.
Recommend that those engaged in the valuation of oil and gas production of onshore and offshore fields with these valuations submitted to the public or to public agencies include at least one licensed P.G. as signatory and that a P.G. seal be affixed to any geoscientific work product used to develop these estimates. Recommend that all oil and gas professionals licensed under the Act be required to conform to regulatory requirements for professional and ethical conduct and oversight.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree