

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 1:56:51 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 1:20 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: Mark

Last Name: Patterson

Title: Board President

Organization you are affiliated with: Red River Groundwater Conservation District

Email:

City: Denison

State: Texas

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

On behalf of the Red River Groundwater Conservation District (District), I want to express my appreciation for this opportunity to provide comments and my opposition to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report (the Staff Report) on the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists' (the Board's) recommendation that the Board be abolished, as well as the recommendation that the requirement for geoscientists to be licensed also be abolished. The Red River Groundwater Conservation District routinely engages the services of Professional Geoscientists to perform technical work in multiple areas that is clearly necessary for the protection of public health and welfare. More specifically, Professional Geoscientists have a critical role in our District's statutory mission, as stated in Section 36.0015 of Texas Water Code, to "provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, and to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, consistent with the objectives of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution."

The Staff Report recommends that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists be abolished, because it serves no "protection of the public" service. However, in our District, our Professional Geoscientists lead scientific efforts for a wide range of issues that would be included in the goal of "protection of the public health and welfare." For example, we engage Professional Geoscientists for tasks such as spacing analyses of new or modified water wells, developing and running of complex aquifer models, and will soon use them for production permit evaluation. All of these tasks are related to the statutory requirement that the District conduct long-term groundwater resource and supply planning, of which Professional Geoscientists and their expertise play a big role. In addition, we sometimes hire Professional Geoscientists to complete work that requires specialized training and experience that Professional Engineers may not have.

We feel that having the ability to choose the correct licensed professional for specific tasks is critical to fulfill our public duty.

In conclusion, we believe that maintaining the licensure of Professional Geoscientists is an important component in maintaining a high level of professional accountability in water resource and supply planning. We thank you for your consideration of these comments, and please do not hesitate to contact me or the District if we can provide you with any additional information.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree