



Sunset Advisory Commission
Attn: Morgan Constantino
PO Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

August 16, 2018

RE: Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

To the Sunset Advisory Commission:

In response to Sunset staff's recommendation that the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) be abolished, we submit this letter of preliminary input for your consideration. Thank you in advance for the opportunity.

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) was established in 1988 to provide a means for Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), the regulatory arm of groundwater management in Texas, to stay current in groundwater science, policy and management. TAGD currently represents 85 GCDs, and 43 associate members comprised of groundwater lawyers, geoscientists and consultants.

While TAGD does not seek to comment on the efficacy of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, it would submit for your consideration the importance of credible geoscience in groundwater management and its impact on public protection.

Decisions made by GCDs rely significantly on reports produced by geoscientists. Every day permitting decisions are premised in a mandate to balance the protection of landowners' rights with the management of the resource. Regional permitting decisions, that ultimately affect water availability in the State Water Plan, are fundamentally premised in long term planning decisions to protect the public and ensure that there is sufficient water for quickly growing future needs.

As such, demands on geology and geoscience in groundwater regulation are much greater today than they were in the past, and have much greater impacts on public protection. Credible geoscience is essential to groundwater management in order to ensure the protection of both landowners and the resource.

TAGD encourages you to consider further stakeholder input before taking action.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah R. Schlessinger".

Sarah Rountree Schlessinger
Executive Director
sarah@texasgroundwater.org