

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Calame](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 4:04:10 PM

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

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 4:01 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: Brian

Last Name: Weaver

Title: Executive Vice President and Partner

Organization you are affiliated with: SKA Consulting, L.P.

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or

Opposed: I do not agree with the Sunset committee - the TBPG does in fact help protect the public. This protection is just provided by and comes in different forms. Since most of the Geologists in the State of Texas are exempt (ie, oil/gas), protection to the public via TBPG is provided by Environmental Geologists. The projects Environmental Geologists perform include: soil, groundwater, surface water, air, and soil-vapor investigations to assess properties for adverse impacts due to current and historical property uses and geophysical investigations to assess for faults or other unknown (buried) natural or man-made features. While many, if not all, of these investigations and remedial actions are initially conducted for private clients such as big-box retailers, private developers, banks/lending institutions, large (master-planned) residential home builders, and/or commercial/industrial developers, the ultimate party relying on the competency of these projects is the general public: the person that works or shops inside the big-box retail store that was once a large industrial metal fabrication facility for the past 50 years now with extensive soil and groundwater impacts and adverse vapors emitting to the ground surface; the person that works or shops inside the commercial strip-center building that had a former dry cleaner now with an adverse groundwater plume and soil-vapor problems that could affect persons on-site and off-site; the person that purchases and now lives in their new single-family residential home built on a former oilfield with numerous old oil/gas wells, tank batteries, and reserve pits dating from the 1940s only to find out that when they went to plant a tree or build a belowground swimming pool in their backyard they find black "gunk" and soil that smells like "old gasoline". The job of an Environmental Geologist is to limit, reduce, or eliminate liability and risk for our Clients - yes, private entities. But, they ultimately build their projects to serve the greater public - homes, apartments, schools, high-rise buildings, big-box retailers, etc. The soil they work, live, or play on.....the air infiltrating their businesses and homes.....the water they drink.....all must be examined, evaluated, and shown to be protective for residential or commercial/industrial land use purposes. While many of these environmental projects, the actual or perceived adverse conditions, concerns, or problems may not be as acute as a dramatic bridge collapse or a dam failure, they tend to be more chronic in nature - slow problems that can build unnoticed or uneventful until uncovered by a competent person or firm. At such time, a remedial action can then be suggested, conducted, and completed to reduce or eliminate the risk.

This work should be done - must be done - by a competent person and a competent company - a PG licensed person and firm. In years past, too many incompetent persons and firms were rampant in our industry - there was no "gatekeeper". Anyone could be an "expert". For the average person, private client or public end-user, the question was always: who was competent? No one really knew. Now, with the TBPG, a level of competency is finally in-place and should remain. I strongly urge those to keep the TBPG.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: TBPG remains, as-is.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree