

# Texans Aren't Guinea Pigs: Lege Must Ensure Responsible Use of Produced Water



## Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Produced Water Needed Before Widespread Use

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### The Problem

- Texas will have a potential shortage of 6.9 million acre-feet of water by 2070 if a record drought were to happen. This is based on expected population growth alone and is more than double the current potential shortage of 3.1 million acre-feet.
- Hydraulic fracturing for natural gas produced about 350,000 acre-feet of potentially treatable produced water in 2019.
- Produced water contains chemicals that are *not well understood* by EPA or TCEQ. Current drinking water standards and Surface Water Quality Standards were not developed with produced water in mind, so they do not sufficiently protect human health nor the environment from produced water.

### The Solution

- The Texas Produced Water Consortium has recommended that pilot projects commence. We must ensure that these occur in two distinct phases:
  - Phase 1 should study and categorize constituent chemicals. These projects should inform what additional standards are needed, and the efficiency of treatment technologies.
  - Phase 2 must occur after phase 1 and should apply these studies to specific uses, such as industrial cooling, construction, and application to non-edible crops.

### Funding Needs

- Support qualified full-time employees at TCEQ and/or RRC to conduct thorough and quality scientific review and rulemaking.

### Related Bills

- **HB 618 (Darby), SB 502 (Hughes):** Limits tort liability of oil and gas producers if recycled materials from drilling, including produced water, are transferred to other entities and used outside of the oil and gas field. Sierra Club opposes both bills.