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Sierra Club's Supports the 2028-2029 Legislative Appropriation Request Submitted by Texas Tech University for the Texas Produced Water Consortium

As a member of the Texas Produced Water Consortium (TxPWC), Sierra Club has closely followed research into the treatment and beneficial reuse of produced water. We continue to see promise in this work and believe treated produced water could eventually become a usable source of water for certain purposes outside the oilfield.

However, we're concerned that policies and regulations surrounding the treatment and reuse of produced water are being developed without an adequate understanding of its long-term impacts on people and the environment. Even as this research continues, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is considering several permits to discharge treated produced water into waterways and use it for irrigation and rangeland restoration.

We strongly believe more scientific evidence is needed to better understand how produced water should be treated for different uses, how it should be monitored, and what the potential long-term impacts could be on public health and the environment. We need to continue funding this research and make sure we don't rush ahead of the science when developing policies and rules. ***For these reasons, we support the request by Texas Tech University for $13 million for the 2028-29 biennium to continue the work of the Texas Produced Water Consortium.***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.