

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Energy Resources
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COMMENTS FOR Alternative Energies

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I want the energy committee to be aware that hydrogen, the dream fuel that could power everything, could die of thirst without proper planning. Water is one of the three inputs for manufacturing “green” hydrogen, along with alternative energy and the electrolyzer that destroys the water molecule by splitting the water into hydrogen and oxygen, which removes them from the hydrological process. To produce enough alternative energy to power hydrogen refineries, companies are targeting rural areas of Texas where agriculture and households are already competing for our most precious resource, groundwater. According to the Texas Water plan, the water supply for Texas is projected to be 10-to-12-million-acre feet short of its goal. You have probably been told that the water used to produce hydrogen is comparable to what a pivot uses for irrigation. The truth is the biggest variable in hydrogen production is how much water it uses. The industry is quick to say it takes 9 kilograms of water to create a kilogram of hydrogen, roughly 485-acre feet a year, similar to a pivot. However, a pivot is not used every year, day in and day out, nor does it destroy the water and remove it from the hydrological process like hydrogen does. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) report, it takes approximately 17.2 liters of river or groundwater and approximately 28.6 liters of seawater to produce those 9 liters. With an additional 19 liters of make-up water for the cooling process. Based on these figures, hydrogen production will use approximately 36.2 liters of groundwater per kilogram of hydrogen. However, an article by Reuters from October 2022 confirms water usage for hydrogen could go as high as 60-90 liters per kilogram of hydrogen depending on the cooling process used. More than double what they say they will need. In a recent white paper adopted by TAGD entitled "Hydrogen Production and Groundwater" the paper discusses how hydrogen production destroys the water molecule and how permitting hydrogen to use groundwater will have irreversible impacts on the state's groundwater supply. The paper goes on to recommend potential legislative solutions which include prohibiting the use of fresh groundwater for hydrogen production. Requiring hydrogen production to use alternative sources such as brackish groundwater (not hydrologically connected to fresh groundwater), seawater, reuse water or produced water. Expressly excluding hydrogen production as an authorized beneficial use in chapter 36 of the Water Code. And expressly including any process that destroys a water molecule for the purpose of hydrogen production in the definition of waste in chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. I encourage each member of the energy committee to consider these recommendations and implement them into the Texas Water Code. Failure to properly plan for the expansion of green hydrogen, could cause our Texas economy to die of thirst.
