

# MEETING NOTES

## PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

[www.pasadenacac.org](http://www.pasadenacac.org)

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

### RYSS STEM Academy – Log Cabin

The 310<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in the Log Cabin at the RYSS STEM Academy (formerly Revive! Church). The meeting notes from Sept. 24, 2024, were approved without change. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted without change, and the PCAC meeting groundrules.

#### ATTENDEES *italicized*

##### PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena  
OEM  
Jed Aplaca, City of Pasadena Parks  
and Rec.  
Vanessa Ayala-Medina  
*Diane Barnes, CTHS*  
Hal Burke, City of Pasadena  
Neighborhood Network  
Raul Camarillo, Harris Co. Pct. 2  
Emilio Carmona  
Azell Carter, City of Pasadena OEM  
Yesenia Cervantes, RYSS STEM  
Academy  
Monica De La Portilla  
*Tammy Delossantos, City of  
Pasadena Parks and Rec.*  
Tish Eubanks, City of Pasadena  
*Ramiro Fonseca, RYSS STEM  
Academy/Tejano Center*  
*Albert Gonzales*  
*Mandy Gosch*  
Rick Guerrero, Pasadena Economic  
Development Corp.  
Ninfa Herrera  
*M.P. Jackson*  
*Shawn McNair*  
Ellis Orozco  
*Margie Peña, Baker Ripley*

Dominick Rezza  
*Christian Rocha, Chamber of  
Commerce*  
*La Tonya Ross*  
Erin Webb, Pasadena Chamber of  
Commerce  
Cristina Womack, Pasadena  
Chamber of Commerce

##### Support

*Diane Sheridan, Facilitator*  
Emily Morris, Incoming Facilitator

##### Observers or Resources

Ruth Askine, former member  
*Mario Berger, Songwon*  
John Collins  
Bubba Coxie, Harris County  
OHSEM  
*Brandy Deason, Air Alliance  
Houston*  
*Anita Jones*  
*Jerry Jones*  
Holly Kurth, EHCMA  
*William Lathan, Harris County*  
*Pollution Control*  
*Shannon McNair*  
Kenya Melendez, office of Rep.  
Mary Ann Perez

*Mike Murphey, Crown Hill  
Cemetery*  
*Pam Murphey*  
*Nina Palacios, Pinnacle Reliability*  
Diamond Pham, Air Alliance  
Houston  
*Amy Shuff, Asbury United  
Methodist Church*  
*Alex Spike, Air Alliance Houston*  
*Sharlissa Truett-Willis, TCEQ*  
*David Wade, HCOHSEM*  
*Tracie Williams, Songwon*  
Natasha Zarnstorff, Galveston Bay  
Foundation

##### CAC Plant Members

*Afton Chemical: Hari Sundaram,*  
*Ethan Heins, Maryam Shekari*  
*Air Products: Maggie Doan*  
*BASF: Abe Ahmed rep by Brian*  
*Melancon, Darrin Cobb*  
*Chevron Pasadena Refinery:*  
*Tifanie Steele rep by Steph*  
*Seewald, Joe Ebert, Jennifer Silva,*  
*Angela Fall*  
*Chevron Phillips: Andy Woods*  
*Enterprise Products: Karla Arriaga*  
*rep by Heather Makarczyk*

*Ethyl: Hari Sundaram, Ethan*  
*Heins, Maryam Shekari*  
*Evonik: Nathan Boye, Donovan*  
*Phelan*  
*Gulf Coast Authority: Denise*  
*Ehrlich rep by Rachel Cunningham,*  
*John Mletzko*  
*INEOS Phenol: Mike Meyer rep by*  
*David Pastalaniec*  
*Intercontinental Terminals Co.::*  
*Robert Surguy rep by Jesus Davila,*  
*Carlos Gracia*  
*KM Export Terminal: Christian*  
*Thomas, Chris Dale*  
*Kinder Morgan Pasadena*  
*Terminal: Robert Hammons*  
*Ketjen (was Albemarle): Lisa Frugé*  
*rep by Doug Thompson, Kevin*  
*Paul, Alyssa Linares*  
*LyondellBasell Refinery: Mark*  
*Staes, Susan Scott, Chris Towe*  
*Next Wave Energy: Shane Presley*  
*rep by David Muscat*  
*OxyChem: Eric Delgado, Liliana*  
*Sarpong, Brandon Pearson*  
*Sekisui: Jeff Thompson rep by*  
*Jenna Timtiman*

## Annual Report of Air Emissions from PCAC Plants

*Short Presentation posted on Members page of [www.pasadenacac.org](http://www.pasadenacac.org)*

Jenna Timtiman, Environmental Engineer with Sekisui, presented the Annual Report of Air Emissions from PCAC Plants. (PCAC plants rotate serving as the presenter.) The annual report derives its data from two annual inventories: The Air Emissions Inventory (EI), which plants submit to the TCEQ, and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), which plants submit to the EPA. Highlights of the 2023 data on emissions follow on Page 2. Overall, there was a 2% increase in total TCEQ Air Emissions Inventory (EI) and a 3% decrease in total EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Releases to Air from 2022 to 2023. The data show the least pounds of TRI Releases to Air from PCAC plants ever. A variety of reasons reflect the mixture of increases and decreases from 2022 to 2023. The report compared Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds VOC emissions at

PCAC plants to those reported in the Air Emissions Inventory in Harris County and in Texas overall. For this comparison, data from 2022 are the most current. In 2022, 0.6% of the state's NOx emissions came from PCAC plants, and 8% of the county's NOx emissions did so. In 2022, 3% of the state's VOC emissions came from PCAC plants, and 16% of the county's VOC emissions inventory did so.

## PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 DATA in October 2024 EMISSIONS REPORT**

<b>Full Emissions Inventory by Cause</b>	<b>Pounds in 2023</b>	<b>Compared to 2022</b>
Routine Permitted Emissions	11,443,598	<b>+3%</b>
Maintenance Emissions	108,615	<b>-23%</b>
Upset Emissions	86,152	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Emissions Inventory of Selected Criteria Air Pollutants</b>	<b>Pounds in 2023</b>	<b>Compared to 2022</b>
NOx – nitrogen oxides	2,546,441	<b>-1%</b>
All VOCs – volatile organic compounds	4,812,565	<b>-0.04%</b>
— Portion of pounds that are highly reactive (HRVOCs)	293,455	<b>+22%</b>
SOx – sulfur oxides	993,188	<b>+8%</b>
CO – carbon monoxide	2,560,148	<b>+7%</b>
TSP – total suspended particulates	648,891	<b>-3%</b>
PM 2.5 - TSPs less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter	590,178	<b>+1%</b>
<b>Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)</b>	<b>Pounds in 2023</b>	<b>Compared to 2022</b>
Total releases to the air	662,115	<b>-3%</b>
Portion from fugitive air sources	235,979	<b>-5%</b>
Portion from point air sources	426,136	<b>-1%</b>
TRI total air releases from 1995 – 2023	4,732,013 in 1995	662,115 lbs. in 2023 <b>-86%</b>
	<b>In 2024</b>	<b>The year before...</b>
<b><u>Number of Pasadena CAC Plants *</u></b>	18	18
Plants reporting TRI	13	13
Plants reporting air emissions inventory	15	15
Plants reporting Highly Reactive VOCs	9	9
<i>*PCAC has 18 plant members in October 2024. Based on reports submitted by 17 of the 18 PCAC plants. None due from Next Wave Energy Partners because they were not yet operating in 2023.</i>		

Green = decreased from 2022 to 2023    -    Red = increased from 2022 to 2023

# HOST PLANT INTRO: Sekisui

Slide posted at [www.pasadenacac.org](http://www.pasadenacac.org).

Jenna Timtiman of Sekisui reported that the Sekisui Specialty Chemicals Pasadena plant makes Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA). Air Products built the PVA unit in 1991 on its Pasadena site and sold the PVA business in 2000 to Celanese. Sekisui purchased it in 2009. The primary use of PVA is in the manufacture of resin used to make laminated safety glass for architecture and the automotive industry. *The Sekisui Pasadena plant supplies most of the resin for windshields in the North American market.*

## UPDATES

### Plant Updates

The Plant Update Summary was mailed to attendees shortly before the meeting with 17 of 18 plants reporting. The Enterprise report had not been received but, at the meeting, it was reported that Enterprise had no environmental incidents during the reporting period. (NOTE: A revision that included the reports of all 18 plants was mailed to all members the day after the meeting.) Direct questions to Diane Sheridan, [dbsfacilitator@gmail.com](mailto:dbsfacilitator@gmail.com), 281-326-5253, or Emily Morris, [pcac.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pcac.secretary@gmail.com), 832-443-3617.

#### In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 18 of 18 plants
- **1 of 18** had an environmental event
- **2 of 18** had OSHA recordable injuries, with **2** injuries reported
- **15** had neither environmental nor safety incidents

#### 17 plants had no environmental incidents:

- |                              |                                |                                   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals           | 7. Ethyl                       | 13. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal |
| 2. Air Products              | 8. Evonik                      | 14. Kinder Morgan Pasadena        |
| 3. BASF                      | 9. Gulf Coast Authority        | 15. LyondellBasell                |
| 4. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 10. INEOS                      | 16. OxyChem                       |
| 5. Chevron Phillips          | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | 17. Sekisui                       |
| 6. Enterprise Products       | 12. Ketjen                     |                                   |

#### 16 plants had no safety incidents:

- |                        |                                |                               |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals     | 7. Evonik                      | Terminal                      |
| 2. Air Products        | 8. Gulf Coast Authority        | 13. Kinder Morgan Pasadena    |
| 3. BASF                | 9. INEOS Phenol                | Terminal                      |
| 4. Chevron Phillips    | 10. Intercontinental Terminals | 14. LyondellBasell Refinery   |
| 5. Enterprise Products | 11. Ketjen (was Albemarle)     | 15. Next Wave Energy Partners |
| 6. Ethyl               | 12. Kinder Morgan Export       | 16. Sekisui                   |

### PCAC Business: New Members

Last meeting, PCAC invited 5 frequent attendees to become PCAC members. PCAC is pleased that all accepted and were added as new members at this meeting.

- Vanessa Ayala-Medina
- Mandy Gosch
- Ninfa Herrera
- Shawn McNair
- La Tonya Ross

### Community Updates

**Songwon Industries** – Tracie Williams, U.S. President and CEO, announced that Songwon, a Korean company with facilities around the world and one in La Porte, will be building a facility in Pasadena as part of its polymer stabilizer business. Accompanying her was Mario Berger, plant manager of the La Porte facility. The new plant will be located at 2818 Pasadena Freeway, on the south side of SH 225 across from INEOS Phenol. After meeting with Williams recently, the facilitators assessed that Songwon is not a major chemical manufacturer, does not store large quantities of chemicals on site, and does not require environmental permits and thus is not the kind of plant in PCAC. Facilitators invited Williams to attend PCAC so she could make PCAC aware of their plans. Williams said Songwon believes in community outreach, is typically involved in schools, and will host an open house for the community when the facility opens. She welcomes questions at any time. Members with questions may obtain Williams' contact information from the facilitator.

**Oct. 31 Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) Drill:** CIMA will conduct a drill on October 31 in all four of its zones to assess its capacity to respond to multiple events occurring at the same time. The Zone 2 drill will be hosted by ITC Pasadena. The public is likely to see large numbers of emergency vehicles; they will not be using lights or sirens. Equipment will assemble at 6:30 a.m., prior to the 7:15 start of the drill. The drill will end around lunch time. The host plant will post a message on the CAER app/CAER Online. Attendees are encouraged to share this information with others.

**Pemex Event Communications:** To share community concerns about communication issues related to the Oct. 10, 2024, Pemex release, Sheridan spoke to Azell Carter, City of Pasadena Emergency Management Coordinator. The city called for a shelter-in-place north of Spencer. Some of the phone/text/email messages did not go out as intended, including to those south of Spencer, but the social media messaging worked well. The city found the cause of the problem and has fixed it. Carter said Pasadena is expanding its siren system citywide. When the new system is ready, he will provide information to PCAC as part of a public awareness campaign. Sheridan said members also asked the facilitators to share facts about the event itself if something becomes available, which they will do. (NOTE: The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) is investigating the accident and always posts their reports at [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).)

**La Tiendita Pasadena Food Distribution:** La Tiendita is a Tejano Center food pantry in the Log Cabin where PCAC meets. Ramiro Fonseca, Director of Outreach and Engagement with the Tejano Center, said they are seeking individuals and plant and community groups willing to assist with future food distributions. For details and to volunteer, contact Fonseca at [ramiro.fonseca@tejanocenter.org](mailto:ramiro.fonseca@tejanocenter.org) or 713-640-3796.

**GCA Clarifier:** John Mletzko with Gulf Coast Authority announced that the fall edition of GCA's semiannual employee magazine features a story about the value of community advisory panels as well as Diane Sheridan's history as a facilitator of many of those in east Harris County. GCA Washburn Tunnel Facility is one of the original plant members of Pasadena CAC and is active in the Galena Park-Jacinto City Community-Industry Partnership. Their Bayport Facility is active in the Bay Area Community Advisory Panel. Mletzko commended Sheridan for her leadership. Sheridan said it was a conversation with GCA's Joe Teller in 1979 that first made her think about the value of community-industry dialogue. Click the link to read this and other issues of the *Clarifier* <https://www.gcatx.org/communications/publications/clarifier/>

**Nov. 9 Baker Ripley H.E.R.O.I.C. Award:** Margie Peña, PCAC member and Director of the Baker Ripley Pasadena Campus, announced that retiring PCAC facilitator Diane Sheridan will be one of the three or four honorees to receive the Baker Ripley H.E.R.O.I.C. Award for her 34 years of service to Pasadena as facilitator of PCAC. Two of the other honorees are also active participants in PCAC: The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Chevron Refinery. Peña provided flyers with details about the November 9, 2024, Baker Ripley Pasadena event for those interested in attending, bidding in the virtual auction, or otherwise supporting the fundraiser for this community development organization that has served Pasadena for many decades.

**Nov. 7 Taste of the Town:** Christian Rocha welcomed the group to attend the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's annual Taste of the Town, which brings the community together to experience samplings from local restaurants, along with a business- and shopping-vendor expo featuring some of Pasadena's local businesses, a live auction, and more. The Nov. 7, 2024, event will be 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center. Click the link to visit the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Taste of the Town webpage <https://www.pasadenachamber.org/taste-of-the-town>

## PLANS FOR FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

***Dinner available at 5:30 pm.*** Meetings are from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

- **Dec. 3 – Diane Sheridan's last meeting as PCAC facilitator:** In Emily Morris' absence, Ramiro Fonseca, with the Tejano Center, announced plans for the Dec. 3 meeting to honor Diane's 34 years of service with PCAC. The meeting structure will remain the same: dinner at 5:30 p.m., call to order at 6 p.m., and adjourn no later than 7:30 p.m. However, the RSVP deadline will be much earlier than usual because the Dec. 3 meeting takes place on the Tuesday immediately AFTER Thanksgiving. **The RSVP for the Dec. 3 meeting is Nov. 18** so we can get an accurate headcount before the holiday. More details will be sent soon. If there are any questions, please contact Incoming Facilitator Emily Morris at [pcac.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pcac.secretary@gmail.com) or 832-443-3617.
- **March 25, 2025 – Meeting conflict:** Sheridan announced that the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce will host a candidates' forum on March 25. There is no incumbent in the mayoral race. The last time this occurred, 600 people attended. The only date that works for the forum is March 25, which is the PCAC meeting night. Knowing that many members will want to attend the forum, Sheridan asked the attendees to use sticky dots to choose from three alternate dates that week, Mon., March 24 (26 dots); Wed., March 26 (22 dots); or Thur., March 27 (29 dots). (NOTE: We will move the March PCAC meeting date to Thursday, March 27 to avoid the conflict with the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce candidates' forum.)

## PCAC DATES FOR 2024

Unless otherwise noted, all are 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. 5:30 dinner – 6:00 call to order – 7:30 adjourn

Tues., Jan. 23	Tues., May 28	Tues., Oct. 22
Tues., Feb. 27	No June or July meetings	<b>Tues., Dec. 3, Diane's last meeting as PCAC facilitator</b>
Tues., Mar. 26	Tues., Aug. 27	No late December meeting
Tues., Apr. 23	Tues., Sept. 24	

## PCAC DATES FOR 2025

Unless otherwise noted, all are 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. 5:30 dinner – 6:00 call to order – 7:30 adjourn

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Tues., Jan. 28

Tues., Feb. 25

Thurs., Mar. 27\*

Tues., Apr. 22

Tues., May 27

No June or July meetings

Tues., Aug. 26

Tues., Sept. 23

Tues., Oct. 28

No November meeting

Tues., Dec. 2

No late December meeting

\* Tues., March 25 is Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Candidates' Forum

### Annual Report on Emissions from PCAC Plants Input

**1. Give some examples of different air emissions control technologies and where they are used in your plant.**

- Atmospheric monitoring (Air Alliance)
- Using different chemicals
- Recycling-and-reuse waste streams
- Vapor recovery unit (VRU)
- Fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), cat cracker
- Flares
- Flare to control air emissions
- Flaring – heat recovery boiler
- Flare for VOC
- Biggest control device is flare. This reduces total emissions.
- Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) Program tests for leaks.
- Boilers low NOx makes less pollution, burn natural gas
- Scrubbers (uses H<sub>2</sub>O to absorb pollutants)
- Scrubber
- Scrubbers on Vac trucks
- Water scrubbers
- Carbon canisters
- Carbon capture
- Thermal oxidizer – sulfur recovery plant
- Oxidizers
- CO to fuel line
- Wet gas scrubber – ammonia process
- Primary/secondary seals on storage tanks
- ICE units – degassing machines

**2. Anything you were happy to hear?**

- Good to hear Chevron making changes.
- Happy to see Chevron contributed to decreases.
- Glad to see HRVOC trend down overall.
- Overall HRVOCs have gone down over time.
- Overall decrease in air pollutants.

- Overall emissions going down.
- Overall emissions are remaining low.
- Emissions generally dropping.
- Good things have improved – good trend.
- Good to hear over time the changes are decreasing.
- Change is not enough to worry about, so good.
- 5 yr average has ↓ overall.
- Decreases over time significant '95-'23
- Yay decreasing.
- Plants more responsible.
- Sekisui 28% less NOx, 37% less SOx, 39% less CO.
- ITC 52% less NOx, 31% less SOx, 58% less CO
- Enterprise 28% less NOx
- Air Products 44% less VOCs
- Over 20-30 years, big reduction
- Teaching public more
- We like that we cover this a little bit each meeting, so nothing way too concerning.
- Pasadena CAC looks good.

### **3. Any concerns about what you heard?**

- What are the changes when emission formulas are changed?
- Emissions caused by automobiles.
- Smaller plants not as visible until something goes wrong.
- One average was measuring a ratio/emissions, the other was total emissions lbs/production TRI air totals.
- Increase on HRVOCs.
- Fugitive release increase by BASF.
- None

### **4. Any additional questions?**

- How do we know if there's an increase overall when we look at everything that contributes but isn't represented by these gaps?
- Do we have enough plants represented in the data?
- No additional questions.
- None

### **5. What can we do to improve the report itself, both materials and presentation?**

- TRI information not quite as clear as EI
- HRVOC is there a better way to measure?
- Compare ozone exceedances in the area.
- We would like an accurate rep of all the plants – also based on size.
- Explain difference b/w the 2 reports and what they track.
- Good presentation.
- Need to add some graphics.
- Too many numbers.

- Participants appreciated the concise nature of the presentation while also providing the materials in advance.
- Have both screens work.
- No comments.