



MEETING NOTES

PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.pasadenacac.org

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

RYSS Stem Academy – Log Cabin

The 321st meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the Log Cabin in RYSS Stem Academy, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. The notes from the February 24, 2026, meeting were approved without change. Facilitator Emily Morris reviewed the agenda, which was accepted without change, and the PCAC meeting ground rules.

ATTENDEES *italicized*

PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena OEM
Jed Aplaca, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Vanessa Ayala-Medina
Diane Barnes, Pasadena ISD CTHS
Hal Burke, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Raul Camarillo, Jr.
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
Rick Guerrero, Pasadena Economic Development Corp.
Robert Hammons
Ninfa Herrera
M.P. Jackson
Shawn McNair
Ellis Orozco
Margie Peña, Baker Ripley
Dominick Rezza
Christian Rocha, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
LaTonya Ross

Esmeralda Vargas, RYSS STEM Academy/Tejano Center
Erin Webb, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Blake Whitaker, Harris Co. Pct 2
Cristina Womack, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

Support

Emily Morris, Facilitator
Johnathan Richards, Meeting Assistant

Observers and Resources

Egypt Awanbor, LyondellBasell
Judy Bodine, caterer
Keith Bodine
John Collins
Bubba Coxie, HCOHSEM
Anthony D'Souza, Air Alliance
Jo Estrada, Pasadena Economic Development
Danny Forest, American Chemistry Council
Crystal Jackson, Hampton Inn and Suites
Phillip Jackson
Anita Jones
Jerry Jones
William Lathan, Harris Co. Pollution Control
Patrick Matherne
Shannon McNair

Delia Medina
Roy Medina
George Perrett
Diamond Pham, Air Alliance
Cydne Schwarzlose, BGE Inc.
Amy Shuff
Judy Stevenson
Glen Stevenson
David Wade, HCOHSEM
Tiana Washington
Natasha Zarnstorff

CAC Plant Members

Afton Chemical: *Hari Sundaram*, Ethan Heins, Maryam Shekari, Buck Tadlock, Eric Massengill, Doug Ruring,
Air Products: *Gaby Lacayo rep by Alex Arboleda*
Albemarle (was Ketjen): *Raina Warden rep by Paul Hernandez*, Doug Thompson, Kevin Paul
BASF: *Abe Ahmed rep by Brian Melancon*, Andrew Glover, Lia Hayes
Chevron Pasadena Refinery: *Alun Phillips rep by Veronica Flores-Paniagua*, Rebecca Froedge, Steph Seewald, Vivek Patel, Robbie Robinson
Chevron Phillips: *Cathy Gill rep by Ryan Wood*, Mike Deakle, William Rutherford

Enterprise: *Audrey Munson*, Heather Makarczyk, Mike McNallen
Ethyl: *Hari Sundaram*, Ethan Heins, Maryam Shekari, Buck Tadlock, Eric Massengill, Doug Ruring,
Evonik: *Nathan Boye rep by Michael Segre*
Gulf Coast Authority: *Denise Ehrlich*, John Mletzko, Rachel Cunningham
INEOS Phenol: *Mike Meyer rep by Pedro Hernandez*, Michael Reiter, David Pastalaniec
Intercontinental Terminals Co.: Robert Surguy, Jade Taylor, Jesus Davila, Carlos Gracia
Kinder Morgan Export Terminal: *Chris Dale rep by Scott Eady*, Sam Provenzale, Talon Page
Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal: Bryan Thrailkill, John Riley, Gerry Nielson, Donnie Martinez
LyondellBasell Refinery: *Mark Staes*, Susan Scott, Roel Muñoz
Next Wave Energy: Shane Presley, Dan Fahey, David Sonnier
OxyChem: *Eric Delgado*, Liliana Sarpong, Jonathan Bauer
Sekisui: *Jeff Thompson*, Mike Carr, Jenna Timtman

Natural Disaster Planning in PCAC Plants

Presentation will be posted in the Member's Section at www.pasadenacac.org

Facilitator **Emily Morris** introduced the evening's main topic and explained that the discussion would take place in a panel format. Panelists representing Harris County, the City of Pasadena, and industry were asked to describe how their organizations prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, and to share lessons learned from recent freezes, flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

Harris County Coordination

David Wade, Operations Section Supervisor with Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

Management (HCOHSEM), described the county's role as a coordinating hub between weather intelligence, government agencies, and industry partners. He emphasized the importance of "leaning forward" by anticipating impacts early and ensuring that all partners are planning from the same information.

Key Points

- Harris County continuously monitors weather using **multiple sources**, including inhouse meteorologists and private forecasting services.
- When significant weather is anticipated, the county:
 - Distributes **National Weather Service briefing materials** to industry and government partners to ensure shared situational awareness.
 - Conducts **pre-event conference calls** with industry, utilities, transportation agencies, local and state emergency management, vessel traffic services, the U.S. Coast Guard, and CAP facilitators.
- Planning focuses on **anticipated impacts**, including:
 - Flooding and mobility constraints
 - Power grid reliability
 - Port and ship channel operations
 - Workforce access and curfews
- During response and recovery:
 - The county prioritizes **access and egress for critical infrastructure** and first responders.
 - **Industry Operations Centers (IOC)** may be activated to resolve urgent operational issues (e.g., utilities, generators, logistics).
 - Emphasized the **reciprocal relationship** between industry and government, particularly during extended outages or resource shortages.
- Post-storm efforts can last **months or years**, especially after severe events.

City of Pasadena Perspective

Azell Carter, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Pasadena, discussed the city's role in communicating disaster information clearly and consistently to residents and industry partners. Carter noted that lessons from Hurricane Harvey, recent freeze events, and a tornado have driven Pasadena's focus on redundant communication. Carter also described post-disaster responsibilities, including distributing water, food, ice, and charging stations, coordinating with nonprofits for sheltering, and supporting long-term recovery for residents.

Key Points

- The city works closely with industry partners **days in advance** of forecasted events to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.
- Key coordination challenges include:
 - **Curfews vs. industry shift changes** (e.g., early-morning workforce access)
 - Freeway closures and transportation limitations during ice, flooding, or severe weather
- Communication methods include:
 - Emails, text alerts, and direct outreach
 - An **opt-in emergency alert system** focused exclusively on disaster and emergency information
 - To receive City of Pasadena emergency alerts by text (and to set preferences for phone and email notifications), residents can Text PTXREADY to 77295
 - Alternatively, visit <https://www.pasadenatx.gov/902/ReadyPasadena-Alert-System>
- Pasadena has:
 - Invested **\$1.3 million** to upgrade and expand its **outdoor warning siren system**, particularly after a recent tornado.

- Integrated sirens with the **National Weather Service** for automated alerts.

Industry Planning and Execution

Scott Eady, Environment, Health, and Safety Director for Kinder Morgan, explained how Kinder Morgan's role as critical logistics infrastructure drives early and structured disaster preparedness. He said planning typically begins about 72 hours before an anticipated event and includes customer coordination, early identification of essential personnel, and facility stabilization.

Eady discussed operational measures such as securing equipment, ensuring tanks are properly weighted to prevent floating during floods, and using centralized and remote control rooms. He noted that ride-out crews are supported with housing, meals, and hotel accommodations when needed.

He emphasized that employee support has become increasingly important, noting that employees cannot focus on safe operations if they are worried about their families or homes. Kinder Morgan has expanded programs to support employees and their families, including providing generators, resources, and time for recovery.

Mark Staes, Operations Manager at the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, described refinery-specific disaster preparedness and said that while many practices align with terminal operations, the complexity of refinery systems requires a phased, safety-driven approach. Staes described the use of volunteer ride-out crews, emphasizing that participation is voluntary, so employees are not forced to remain onsite if they need to be with their families. He concluded that recent freeze events have reinforced the need to err on the side of caution and to continually refine procedures based on lessons learned.

Key Points

- Preparedness follows a **phased approach**:
 - **Pre-season readiness** (housekeeping, inspections)
 - **96-hour and 72-hour triggers** based on storm intensity and forecasted conditions
 - Operational decisions guided by safety thresholds (e.g., sustained winds)
- **Ride-out crews** are volunteer-based:
 - Staff remain onsite 24/7 throughout the event
 - Crews are housed, fed, and supported onsite
 - Separate **shutdown and startup teams** enable controlled transitions
- Controlled shutdowns are preferred over reactive responses.
- Continuous improvement of procedures based on lessons learned from freezes and storms.

Key Challenges Identified

- Extended power outages and access limitations
- Workforce mobility during curfews or flooded areas
- Long-term recovery demands following major events
- Increasing frequency of **freeze and winter weather events** compared to hurricanes since 2017

Lessons Learned & Improvements

- Improved **information flow** and forecasting accuracy (narrower hurricane cones, better inundation mapping)
- Expanded preparation for **ice, snow, and freeze events**
- Investments in alerting systems and infrastructure hardening
- Greater focus on **employee and family support** to ensure safe operations
- Emphasis on **early, conservative decision-making** to minimize risk

Small-Group Discussion Input

1. **What did you hear that was encouraging?**

- Liked hearing prep begins in May, well before hurricane season
- Appreciated knowing plants are sensitive/aware of employee need to care for families & personal properties
- Always working on ways to improve
- Ride out crew
- Sirens in South Pasadena and text alerts
- All seem to be concerned about their internal and external communities, plans in place
- Preparation & communication circles & collaboration
- New lessons learned from previous storms implemented
- All groups are better prepared, particularly for ice/snow/freezing weather
- Amount of coordination
- Year-round contact
- Lessons learned used & employed at Pasadena
- Sirens utilized that people can hear, piercing, loud, and helpful
- Methods of communication in place for city to notify community
- Notifications are timely
- Forecasts are getting more accurate

2. **What concerns do you still have regarding Natural Disaster Planning in PCAC Plants?**

- Didn't talk about redundancies; how many back-ups does a plant have
- Didn't address how they manage prep for potential chemical releases in the event of a natural disaster
- How do we get everyone signed up for the text alerts?
- Can't imagine what would sneak up; seems to be quite a lot of systems looking all the time
- Adequate prep for volunteers & crew staying at facility means to rotate crews
- What if everyone on emergency response list is unavailable?
- What is the contingency plan if people are not available?
- Getting accurate information to make critical decisions
- Technology/weather forecasting has improved but not perfect
- Citizens — other citizens don't!!
- Systems set to respond
- Concern – is weather is unpredictable
- More in the aspect of personnel & how they can make it within the plant
- Storms can cause issues on roadways
- Weather can be unpredictable; obligations to plants, but the employees have a need to take care of their families
- Still a challenge to time when to bring ride-out crews to plant, given weather unpredictability

3. **What gaps or challenges do you think exist in coordination between plants, local government, and county emergency management during disasters?**

- At our table, Pedro Hernandez addressed a long history of collaboration
- Getting information from plants all the way out to the community
- Based on what we heard, a lot of effort is spent making sure all partners are getting good information
- None that come to mind
- Communication/power grid infrastructure

- Not much gaps/challenges
- Dissemination of information can have gaps. For example, StormGeo can be finicky in execution for weather updates, especially in freezes

4. **What partnerships outside of industry (nonprofits, schools, local businesses) could strengthen community recovery efforts?**

- Social service agencies: Better outreach & registration for email chains & contact lists
- Community training prior to disaster / prior to hurricane season
- Local nonprofits could meet needs of communities outside of industry focus
- They are very valuable in identifying needs and distribution of services
- Websites w/ links for communication w/in multidisciplinary functions

HOST PLANT INTRO: Gulf Coast Authority

Slide about Gulf Coast Authority posted at www.pasadenacac.org

Denise Ehrlich, Facility Manager at Gulf Coast Authority (GCA), explained that GCA provides centralized wastewater treatment services for industrial facilities along the Houston Ship Channel and some municipalities. She explained the role they play in protecting Texas waterways by treating some of the hardest to treat wastewaters, including:

- Industrial wastewater from refineries, chemical plants, storage facilities
- Municipal wastewater (including from the City of Pasadena)
- Waste from portable toilets, septic tanks, washdown streams, and nonhazardous industrial sources

Ehrlich walked attendees through GCA’s biological treatment system, where microorganisms break down organic material in the wastewater. The water then goes through a settling and disinfection process, before the clear water is discharged into the Houston Ship Channel. Ehrlich emphasized that GCA’s mission is to protect water quality using environmentally sound, economically feasible, and technologically advanced wastewater solutions.

UPDATES

Plant Updates

The Plant Update Summary, with 17 of 18 plants reporting, was emailed to attendees shortly before the meeting. Facilities were reporting from Feb. 24 through March 24, 2026. **The meeting attendees offered vigorous applause when Morris announced that none of the reporting plants had environmental events or worker safety incidents since the group met in February.** Direct questions to Emily Morris, ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com or 832-443-3617.

In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 17 of 18 plants
- **0 of 17** had environmental events
- **0 of 17** had an OSHA recordable injury

17 plants had no environmental incidents

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

17 plants had no safety incidents

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| 6. Chevron Phillips | 13. Kinder Morgan Pasadena | |
| 7. Enterprise Products | | |

Chevron Phillips Chemical: Ryan Wood, Technical & EHSS Manager, reported that one of CPChem's units will begin a turnaround on March 27, which may result in increased traffic along Jefferson Road.

LyondellBasell Choate Road Facility Update: Despite the Choate Road facility **NOT** being a member plant in PCAC, Egypt Awanbor, External Affairs Advisor with LyondellBasell, reported on the upset at that facility, which resulted in a fire and emergency shutdown in early March. Awanbor said the fire was fully contained and extinguished, no injuries were reported, and monitoring showed no readings above background levels. The incident remains under investigation.

Community Updates

Trash Bash: Denise Ehrlich announced the 30th Annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash, a regional waterway cleanup event taking place at 11 locations across the Houston area from 8 a.m. through 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Gulf Coast Authority is one of the platinum sponsors of the event and will be volunteering at the Sims Bayou location. Attendees were encouraged to volunteer, with registration online or through the link at the QR code (*click the image on the right to access the website*).



Trash Bash®
Saturday, March 28, 2026
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Free Lunch • Entertainment • Education • T-shirts • Door Prizes



Volunteer at one of our cleanup sites!
Register today: WWW.TRASHBASH.ORG



PCAC Updates

FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

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

- **Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – Tour of San Jacinto College CPET Facility.** Please invite high schoolers. Plant reps can participate in the extended run activities. (Host Plant: INEOS Phenol).
- **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – Worker Safety Expo.** At Campbell Hall at Pasadena Fairgrounds. (No Host Plant). Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Call to order will be 5:45 p.m.

No meetings in June or July

PCAC DATES FOR 2026

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

PCAC meets at the RYSS Stem Academy Log Cabin, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena,

unless indicated by yellow highlight.*

Tues., Jan. 27 - canceled

Tues., Feb. 24

Tues., Mar. 24

Tues., Apr. 28 *

Tues., May 26 *

No June or July meetings

Tues., Aug. 25

Tues., Sept. 22 *

Tues., Oct. 27

No November meeting

Tues., Dec. 1

No late December meeting

***Location and date changes are possible, depending on topic confirmation.**

April: Tour of CPET facility at San Jacinto College, 7901 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77507

May: dinner 5-5:45 p.m., Campbel Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7601 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena, TX 77507

Sept.: Tour of Coast Guard Sector Ellington Field, 13411 Hillard St. at Ellington Field, Houston, TX, 77034