

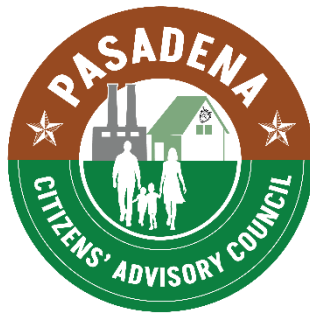
# MEETING NOTES

## PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET)  
at San Jacinto College



The 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET), 7901 Fairmont Pkwy. The notes from the March 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

#### Observers and Resources

Judy Bodine, caterer  
Keith Bodine  
Rick Cannon, Clear Flow Solutions  
Brandon Cizmar, PISD student  
Bryan Cizmar, PISD parent  
John Collins  
Brett Conaway, HCOHSEM  
Bubba Coxie, HCOHSEM  
Jay Culver, CPET  
Jesse DeLeon, PISD student  
Anthony D'Souza, Air Alliance  
Jo Estrada, Pasadena Economic Development  
Danny Forest, American Chemistry Council  
Angel Hernandez, PISD student  
Crystal Jackson, Hampton Inn and Suites  
Phillip Jackson  
Anita Jones  
Jerry Jones  
Julius Karow, Kingdom Care  
Shanda, Karow, Kingdom Care  
William Lathan, Harris Co. Pollution Control  
Patrick Matherne  
Brandon Mayorga, PISD student  
Shannon McNair  
Jeff Pearce, CPET

Judy Stevenson  
Glen Stevenson  
Timothy Stewart Virgilio, Pasadena Leadership  
Poala Velasco  
Victoria Velasco, Mariana, foreign exchange student  
David Wade, HCOHSEM  
Tiana Washington  
Brock Wilson, PISD engineering instructor  
Steve Zach, Pasadena Public Library  
Natasha Zarnstorff

#### CAC Plant Members

**Afton Chemical:** Hari Sundaram rep by Eric Massengill, Ethan Heins, Maryam Shekari, Buck Tadlock, Doug Ruring,  
**Air Products:** Gaby Lacayo rep by Alex Arboleda  
**Albemarle (was Ketjen):** Raina Warden, Paul Hernandez, Doug Thompson, Kevin Paul  
**BASF:** Sebastian Eifler rep by Ryan Brown, 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, Ryan Wood, Mike Deakle, William Rutherford

**Enterprise:** Audrey Munson rep by Aaron Pettiette, Heather Makarczyk, Mike McNallen  
**Ethyl:** Hari Sundaram rep by Eric Massengill, Ethan Heins, Maryam Shekari, Buck Tadlock, Doug Ruring,  
**Evonik:** Nathan Boye rep by Shelby Watwood, Michael Segree  
**Gulf Coast Authority:** Denise Ehrlich rep by John Mletzko, Rachel Cunningham, Clarisa Ledesma  
**INEOS Phenol:** Jose Rodriguez, Pedro Hernandez, Michael Reiter, David Pastalaniec  
**Intercontinental Terminals Co.:** Robert Surguy rep by Jesus Davila, Carlos Gracia, Jade Taylor  
**Kinder Morgan Export Terminal:** Chris Dale, Scott Eady, Sam Provenzale, Talon Page  
**Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal:** Bryan Thraikill, 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 rep by Geroge W. Kelly, George R. Kelly, Noah Kelly, Mike Carr, Jenna Timtiman

## Tour of Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology

Facilitator Emily Morris introduced the evening's main topic – the Tour of the Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET) at San Jacinto College in Pasadena – and made announcements for upcoming meetings. Morris pointed out that because of the nature of a tour, some of the usual elements of a typical PCAC meeting would be absent, such as the plant updates and small-group discussions. The Plant Update Summary is noted below. Morris introduced Jim Griffin, Sr. Vice President of CPET, who gave an overview of the facility and

introduced other CPET instructors who assisted with the tour.

Griffin explained that CPET operates within one of the world's most concentrated petrochemical regions, with approximately 130 petrochemical plants located within a 12-mile radius of the campus, representing about 30,000 direct jobs and about 100,000 indirect jobs. Griffin said the industry presence drives CPET's mission to provide industry-aligned training for the petrochemical, energy, and related sectors in the Pasadena and Greater Houston area.

San Jacinto College has trained process technology, instrumentation, and electrical technicians for nearly three decades. About 10 years ago, the program was expanded through a collaboration between San Jacinto College and regional industry leaders to develop a world-class training facility designed "by industry, for industry," which resulted in CPET. The current facility, built on a former golf course site, was completed in 22 months at a cost of \$67 million and has been in operation for about six years.

Griffin introduced key members of the CPET team, including Jeff Pearce, Coordinator for Education and Workforce, and Jay Culver, Incumbent Training Director. Together, they described how CPET blends technical instruction with a strong emphasis on safety culture, communication, and teamwork, while providing customized noncredit and incumbent training for industry partners.

**Other facts about the program included:**

- **Credentials:** Associate degrees; 60 credit hours
- **Time to completion:** ~2 years (full-time); ~3 years (part-time)
- **Enrollment:** ~3,000 students annually
- **Student mix:** ~50% degree/certificate students; ~50% incumbent workers
- **Programs offered:** Six associate-degree programs
- **Largest program:** Process Technology
- **Student profile:** Majority first-generation college students
- **Completion rate:** ~92%
- **Average GPA:** ~3.1 at graduation
- **Employers:** Regional and national petrochemical companies; additional placement in related industries, including **SpaceX** and **Eli Lilly**
- **Training focus:** Technical skills; safety culture; communication; teamwork

Griffin's overview concluded with PCAC members dividing into small groups for guided tours of CPET's training units and labs, allowing attendees to see firsthand how students are prepared for careers in petrochemical and related industries.

PCAC attendees observed the centerpiece of CPET's hands on training: the capstone extended run, which was underway at the time of the tour. During an extended run, students operate a pilot-scale unit continuously over multiple days, working rotating shifts that mirror real plant operations. Students practice shift turnover, permitting, troubleshooting, and response to simulated upsets and emergency scenarios. Industry representatives observe these runs, and many use them as opportunities to engage with students and conduct interviews.

As part of the CPET tour, attendees observed:

- Instrumentation and valve training classroom (in progress)
- Gas chromatography lab
- Electrical and motor control lab

- The control room, where students were monitoring and directing operations
- Outdoor process training systems, where students were communicating with the control room and troubleshooting errors introduced by the instructors
- Glass pilot plant labs used for small-scale, hands-on process training
- The glycol distillation unit used for capstone and extended-run operations

The tour reinforced the role CPET plays in developing and maintaining job-ready talent for the petrochemical facilities that anchor the Pasadena-area economy.

## HOST PLANT INTRODUCTION: INEOS PHENOL

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

Prior to the CPET overview and tour, Morris introduced Jose Rodriguez, the new site manager at INEOS Phenol, who explained some background on the facility and what it produces. Rodriguez said INEOS Phenol's Pasadena facility is the highest-capacity cumene plant in the world and supports the company's position as the world's largest producer of phenol and acetone. At the site, benzene and propylene are reacted to produce cumene (isopropyl benzene). Approximately 99 percent of the cumene produced is shipped by barge to an INEOS facility near Mobile, AL, where it is converted into phenol. Rodriguez said the Pasadena plant employs approximately 55 full-time employees and works with 26 contractors. Phenol produced from this process is used in a wide range of applications, including medical products such as oral analgesics and aspirin, as well as detergents, fibers, coatings, films, and construction materials, such as plywood and oriented strand board.

## UPDATES

### Plant Updates

The Plant Update Summary, with 18 of 18 plants reporting, was emailed to attendees shortly before the meeting. Facilities were reporting from March 24 through April 27, 2026. Direct questions to Emily Morris, [ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:ekmorrisconsulting@gmail.com) or 832-443-3617.

#### In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from **18 of 18 plants**
- **3 of 18** had environmental events, with **4 total** events
- **1 of 18** had an OSHA recordable injury
- **14** plants had neither

#### 15 plants had no environmental incidents

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

#### 17 plants had no safety incidents

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

## PCAC Updates

**Plant Rep Attendance:** After noting that she had been approached by plant and agency reps asking for documentation of attendance at CAP meetings, Morris suggested that all reps scan the QR code displayed at meetings to mark their attendance. Morris said the QR code “sign-in” would give her a digital record of attendance and would be more accurate than the italicized list of attendees in the meeting notes. Morris said she would remind attendees to use the QR code at each meeting.

## FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

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

- **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.\*

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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*