

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM



DEPARTMENT:

AGENDA DATE:

CONTACT PERSON NAME

2nd CONTACT PERSON

3rd CONTACT PERSON

PHONE NUMBER:

PHONE NUMBER:

PHONE NUMBER:

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:

STRATEGIC GOAL:

SUBGOAL:

SUBJECT:

REVISED

5:18 pm, Aug 11, 2026

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-0387

United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear TCEQ and EPA,

The emissions events that occurred at Marathon Petroleum Corporation's El Paso refinery on August 4 and 5, 2026 have raised significant concerns among El Paso residents regarding the public health, air quality, and the adequacy of information provided to the surrounding community.

As the state and federal agencies responsible for environmental oversight of the refinery, to promote transparency and accountability, we respectfully request that TCEQ and EPA convene a joint public meeting with El Paso's Marathon Petroleum refinery, in the next 30 days, to provide a detailed accounting of what occurred during the August 4-5 emissions events, the potential public-health implications, and the regulatory response.

We understand that TCEQ is continuing to review information associated with these events and that a report will be made available two weeks after the date these events occurred. Any forthcoming investigation or final report should provide an important foundation for this discussion; however, given the nature and quantity of the reported emissions and the concerns expressed by residents, we believe direct engagement with the community is also warranted.

Specifically, we request that TCEQ, EPA, and Marathon Petroleum address the following:

- **1,3-Butadiene:** TCEQ reported 19.1 pounds of 1,3 Butadiene, a known carcinogen, were emitted. We request an explanation of the potential health implications of the reported release, including the distinction between acute exposure risk and risks associated with repeated or long-term exposure.
- **Propylene and sulfur dioxide:** 8,887.9 pounds of Propylene and 862 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide were reportedly emitted. Marathon initially communicated their air monitors did not detect levels harmful to public health. Once TCEQ released reports of the amounts emitted, the public had significant concerns around these emissions and Marathon has not provided more information. We request that the agencies explain how those monitoring results should be understood in relation to the subsequently reported quantities, including where monitoring occurred, what pollutants were measured, what concentrations were detected, and whether the available monitoring was sufficient to characterize potential community health impact.
- Please provide a breakdown, to the extent available, of emissions resulting from combustion or flaring compared with pollutants released directly or otherwise vented without combustion.
- Please explain how meteorological conditions, pollutant characteristics, duration of the event, and proximity to the refinery may have affected dispersion and potential exposure in surrounding neighborhoods.

- Please identify the known acute and longer-term health effects associated with the pollutants released and clarify whether residents who experienced odors, respiratory irritation, headaches, nausea, or other symptoms should take any particular health precautions.
- We request an evaluation of whether the existing ambient and fence-line monitoring network surrounding the El Paso refinery is adequate to detect and characterize emissions that could affect nearby neighborhoods.
- We request consideration of a formal community notification system that would provide nearby residents with timely information regarding significant emissions events, including the nature of the incident, pollutants involved, available air-monitoring information, and appropriate safety guidance.

We further respectfully request that TCEQ and EPA evaluate whether Marathon Petroleum should be required to install continuous, publicly accessible fence-line monitoring for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and other appropriate pollutants at its El Paso refinery.

The events of August 4 and 5 have raised questions not only about what was emitted, but about whether residents had sufficient information to understand and respond to a potential public-health risk. Effective environmental regulation depends on both accurate monitoring and timely public disclosure. Residents cannot take reasonable precautions to protect themselves and their families if they do not know what has been released into the air around them.

We therefore respectfully request that TCEQ and EPA work with Marathon Petroleum to provide the El Paso community with a full accounting of these events and identify any additional monitoring, notification, enforcement, or regulatory measures necessary to protect public health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

The City of El Paso
300 North Campbell Street
El Paso, Texas 79901