HEARING PROCEDURES FOR ARANSAS COUNTY APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD

I. ARB Membership

[Tax Code Section 5.103(b)(16), (15), and (12)]

1. Administration of ARB Appointments

ARB members are not provided any statutory role in the process for the administration of applications or requests for appointment for membership on the ARB. If an ARB member is contacted by an individual regarding requesting an appointment to the ARB, the member shall direct the individual to the person designated to receive applications or requests for appointment for the ARB.

2. Conflicts of Interest

Each ARB member is responsible for ensuring that he or she does not have any conflict of interest that results in ineligibility to serve on the ARB or restricts or prohibits the ARB member's participation in ARB activities, such as participation in the determination of a taxpayer protest. An ARB member must promptly report any conflict of interest to the ARB chairman in addition to any other individual or entity as may be provided by law. The chairman shall ensure prompt notification of reported conflicts of interest to the appropriate individuals.

If an ARB member discovers before or during a protest hearing that a conflict of interest exists, the member may not participate in a protest hearing. If the conflict exists due to the provisions of the Local Government Code Chapter 171, an affidavit must be filed with the secretary of the ARB. The affidavit must be filed as soon as the conflict is identified, even if it requires a delay in the conduct of the hearing. If the conflict arises from Tax Code Section 41.69, no affidavit must be filed; however, the ARB member must recuse himself or herself immediately from the hearing and report the conflict to the chairman or secretary of the ARB.

ARB members must remember that while Local Government Code Chapter 171 addresses matters of "substantial interest," Tax Code Section 41.69 applies to any protest in which an ARB member is interested (i.e. there is no requirement under Tax Code 41.69 that the interest be substantial). Therefore, while a conflict of interest under Local Government Code Chapter 171 may not prohibit an ARB member from participation in a protest, Tax Code 41.69 may still prohibit participation. If an ARB member has a question as to whether or not he or she has a conflict of interest that might prohibit his or her involvement, the member shall immediately contact the ARB chairman to address the matter.

In the recusal process, the ARB member not only may not vote on the matter that is the subject of the protest, but also may not hear or deliberate on the protest.

3. Ex Parte and Other Prohibited Communications

ARB members shall not engage in prohibited ex parte or other communications. If an ARB member is approached by one or more individuals that appear to be engaging or attempting to engage in a prohibited communication, the ARB member shall immediately remove himself or herself from the conversation.

II. ARB Duties

[Tax Code Section 5.103(b) (1), (5), and (6)]

1. Statutory Duties of an ARB

Each ARB member is responsible for ensuring that he or she understands the statutory duties of the ARB and shall comply with all statutory requirements in performing statutory duties as a member of the ARB.

2. Notices Required under the Property Tax Code

Each ARB member is responsible for obtaining and maintaining familiarity with notices required under the Property Tax Code. If an ARB member has reason to believe that any notice that is required by law to be provided by the ARB is not being provided or does not meet the requirements of applicable law, the ARB member shall promptly notify the ARB chairman. The ARB chairman shall investigate each such report and take appropriate action to correct all verified problems.

3. Determination of Good Cause under Tax Code Section 41.44(b)

"Good cause" for filing late protests is not defined in Tax Code Section 41.44(b). Claims of good cause for late-filed protests should be carefully considered and standards in making determinations of good cause under Tax Code Section 41.44(b) should be uniformly applied. The ARB should give due consideration to good cause claims in such a manner that properly respects the rights of property owners while not undermining or contravening laws related to filing deadlines or the orderly and expeditious fulfillment of ARB duties.

4. One-third/forth-over-appraisal-error

For protests brought forth under the "25.25" rule it is the responsibility of the ARB to FIRST determine the value of the property and THEN to determine the eligibility of that property for a change in value. The corrected value of the property assigned by the ARB will be referred to as ARBCORVAL.

If the property has been designated a HOMESTEAD then for the property to be eligible for change in the rolls ARBCORVAL X 1.25 must be less than the current appraised value.

If the property has been NOT designated a HOMESTEAD then for the property to be eligible for change in the rolls ARBCORVAL X 1.3333 must be less than the current appraised value.

III. ARB Hearings (formal hearings, not informal meetings between property owners and appraisal district staff)

[Tax Code Section 5.103(b)(3), (4), (7), and (14)]

1. Scheduling Hearings Generally

The ARB shall schedule a hearing when a timely notice of protest is filed and, in doing so, may be provided with clerical assistance by the appraisal district.

A person leasing property who is contractually obligated to reimburse the property owner for taxes imposed on the property is entitled to protest before the ARB the appraised value of the property if the property owner does not file a protest relating to the property. Under Tax Code Section 41.413, the lessee can designate another person to act as an agent with the same authority and limitations as an agent designated under Tax Code Section 1.111. Designated agents have the same authority and are subject to the same limitations as agents designated by property owners.

2. Scheduling Hearings for Property Owners, Agents and Qualifying Lessees

Pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(i), hearings filed by property owners not represented by agents designated under Tax Code Section 1.111 shall be scheduled for a specific time and date. More than one protest may be scheduled for hearings at the same time and date; however, if a hearing for a property owner is not started by the ARB within two hours of the scheduled hearing time, the ARB is required to postpone the hearing, if a postponement is requested by the property owner. The request for postponement must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB shall respond in writing or by email to the request for postponement not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request. Protest hearings are scheduled in blocks with several protests scheduled for each block. A full day would consist of 4 blocks, 8:30-10:00 (minimum 1 protest scheduled), 10:00-12:00 (minimum 1 protest scheduled), 1:30-3:00 (minimum 1 protest scheduled), and 3:00-5:00 (minimum 1 protest scheduled). If no protesters scheduled for a block appear before the ARB after 15 minutes from the scheduled start of the block the ARB may adjourn the hearing and resume at the next scheduled block. The ARB may choose to use this time to hear any protests by affidavit which may be pending.

3. Scheduling Hearings for Multiple Accounts

If requested by a property owner or a designated agent, hearings on protests concerning up to 20 designated properties shall be scheduled on the same day by the ARB. The request must meet all requirements of Tax Code 41.66(j), including the required statement in boldfaced type: "request for same-day protest hearings." No more than one

such request may be filed in the same tax year by a property owner or a designated agent. Also pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(j), the ARB may schedule hearings on protests concerning more than 20 properties filed by the same property owner or designated agent and may use different panels to conduct the hearings based on the ARB's customary scheduling. The ARB may follow the practices customarily used in the scheduling of hearings under 41.66(j).

4. ARB Panel Assignments

Special Panels do not apply [Tax Code Section 6.425(a) and 6.41(b-2)]

Single Member Panels [Tax Code Section 41.45(b-4)]

Tax Code Section 41.45(b-4) allows a property owner to request that a single-member panel conduct the protest hearing. The property owner must submit the request not later than the 10th day before the hearing date in writing on the notice of protest or by a written submission. If the ARB does not accept the recommendations made by the single-panel member, the ARB can determine the protest or refer it for rehearing to a single-member panel composed of someone who did not hear the original protest.

5. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(e)

A property owner who is not represented by an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111 is entitled to one postponement of a hearing without showing cause, if the request is made before the date of the hearing. The request may be made in writing, including by electronic mail, by telephone, or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel, or the ARB chairman. If the hearing for which the postponement is requested is scheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chairman or the chairman's representative may act on the request for postponement without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the date and time of the hearing as postponed are agreed to by the ARB chairman or the chairman's representative, the property owner, and the chief appraiser, the hearing may not be postponed to a date less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

In addition, and without limit as to the number of postponements, the ARB shall postpone a hearing if the property owner or his/her designated agent at any time shows good cause, as defined in Tax Code Section 41.45(e-2). The request may be made in writing, including by electronic mail, by telephone, or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel, or the ARB chairman. If the hearing for which the postponement is requested is scheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chairman or the chairman's representative can act on the request for postponement without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the date and time of the hearing as postponed are agreed to by the ARB chairman or the chairman's representative, the property owner, and the chief appraiser, the hearing may not be postponed to a date less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

In addition, and without limit, the ARB shall postpone a hearing if the chief appraiser consents to the postponement. The request may be made in writing, including by electronic mail, by telephone, or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel, or the ARB chairman. If the hearing for which the postponement is requested is scheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chairman or the chairman's representative may can act on the request for postponement without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the date and time of the hearing as postponed are agreed to by the ARB chairman or the chairman's representative, the property owner, and the chief appraiser, the hearing may not be postponed to a date less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

6. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(e-1)

A property owner or a person designated by the property owner as the owner's agent to represent the owner at the hearing who fails to appear at the hearing is entitled to a new hearing if the property owner or the owner's agent files, not later than the fourth day after the date the hearing occurred, a written statement with the ARB showing good cause, as defined in Tax Code Section 41.45(e-2), for the failure to appear and requesting a new hearing.

The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

7. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(g)

The ARB must postpone a hearing to a later date if:

- (1) the owner of the property or the owner's agent is also scheduled to appear at a hearing on a protest filed with the ARB of another appraisal district;
- (2) the hearing before the other ARB is scheduled to occur on the same date as the hearing set by this ARB;
- (3) the notice of hearing delivered to the property owner or the owner's agent by the other ARB bears an earlier postmark than the notice of hearing delivered by this ARB or, if the date of the postmark is identical, the property owner or agent has not requested a postponement of the other hearing; and
- (4) the property owner or the owner's agent includes with the request for a postponement a copy of the notice of hearing delivered to the property owner or the owner's agent by the other ARB.
- 8. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(h)

The ARB shall postpone a hearing (one time only) if the property owner requests additional time to prepare for the hearing and establishes that the chief appraiser failed to comply with Tax Code Section 41.461. Only the property owner may request a postponement for this reason. The request for postponement must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB shall respond in writing or by email to the request for postponement not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

9. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(i)

Hearings on protests filed by property owners not represented by agents designated under Tax Code Section 1.111 shall be scheduled for a specific time and date. More than one protest may be scheduled for hearings at the same time and date; however, if a hearing for a property owner is not started by an ARB panel or the full ARB within two hours of the scheduled hearing time, the ARB is required to postpone the hearing, if a postponement is requested by the property owner. The request for postponement must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB shall respond in writing or by email to the request for postponement not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

10. Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(k)

Does not apply [Tax Code Section 6.425(a) and 6.42(b-2)]

11. Settlement and Waiver of Protest

Included in the Hearing Notice package to a protesting property owner is a Settlement and Waiver of Protest form which allows the property owner to settle his protest and waive a scheduled hearing without rescheduling.

12. Failure to Appear

A protester or their agent who fails to appear for his/her scheduled hearing or fails to call if the protester requested a telephone conference within 15 minutes of the scheduled time and without notification to the chief appraiser or a member of the ARB up and until the scheduled hearing time has waived his/her right to a postponement unless he/she has suffered an accident, illness, or death which has prevented such notification.

IV. Conduct of ARB Hearings (formal hearings, not informal meetings between property owners and appraisal district staff)

[Tax Code Section 5.103(b)(2), (9), and (10)]

1. Conducting Hearings Open to the Public

This introductory statement should be read at the beginning of each hearing:

We are the appraisal review board that will be hearing your protest today. We do not work for the appraisal district. We are appointed to perform an independent review of your protest. At the end of the hearing, you may complete a survey regarding your experience. The survey may be completed using the survey form and emailed to ptad.communications@cpa.texas.gov or the tablet located on the table in the hearing room (*Point*) or online at surveymonkey.com/r/surveyARB. The survey is voluntary. (*The ARB does not have to read the statement above if the owner or agent has previously appeared before the ARB that same day*.)

The ARB or ARB panel does not have to read the statement above if the owner or agent has previously appeared before the ARB or any ARB panel for the ARB for that county that same day.

For most protest hearings, the hearing should be conducted in the following order:

- a. Commence the hearing and announce the assigned protest number, property location and owner, and other identifying information.
- b. Announce that, in accordance with Tax Code Section 41.45(h), all written material that has not been provided must be provided.
- c. State that the ARB members who are considering the protest have not communicated with anyone about the protest and are signing an affidavit to that effect.
- d. Welcome the parties and remind them of the content of the hearing procedures, time limits for the hearing, and other relevant matters.
- e. Ask if any testifying witness holds a license or certificate from the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board and if the witness is appearing in that capacity.
- f. Inform witnesses that all testimony must be given under oath and swear-in all witnesses who plan to testify.
- g. Ask the property owner to decide if he/she wishes to present his/her evidence and argument before or after the appraisal district.
- h. If the property owner or agent presents his/her case first, he/she shall have 5 minutes to present evidence (documents and/or testimony). If witnesses are present, the property owner or agent may examine the witnesses as part of the presentation of evidence. At the end of the presentation, the property owner or agent must state an opinion of property's value (if applicable).
- i. Next, the appraisal district representative may take 2 minutes to cross-examine the property owner, the agent, or the representative and/or witnesses.
- j. If the property owner or agent presented his/her case first, the appraisal district representative shall have 5 minutes to present evidence (documents and/or testimony) next. If witnesses are present, the appraisal district representative may examine the witnesses as part of the presentation of evidence. At the end of the presentation, an opinion of value (if applicable) for the property must be stated.
- k. Then, the property owner or agent may take 2 minutes to cross-examine the appraisal district representative and/or witnesses for no more than 2 minutes.
- 1. Members of the ARB shall not be examined or cross-examined by parties.
- m. The party presenting its case first may take 2 minutes to offer rebuttal evidence (additional evidence to refute evidence presented by the other party).
- n. The other party may then offer rebuttal evidence for no more than 2 minutes.

- o. The party presenting its case first shall have 1 minute to make its closing argument and state the ARB determination being sought.
- p. The party presenting its case second shall have 1 minute to make its closing argument and state the ARB determination being sought.
- q. The ARB chairperson shall state that the hearing is closed.
- r. The ARB shall deliberate orally for no more than 5 minutes. No notes, text messages, or other form of communication are permitted.
- s. The ARB chairperson shall ask for a separate motion for each matter that was the subject of the protest hearing. The motion should include the exact value or issue to be determined. A vote shall be taken and recorded by a designated appraisal district staff person or member of the ARB assigned for this purpose. Separate motions and determinations must be made for each protested issue (i.e., excessive appraisal and unequal appraisal must have separate ARB motions and determinations).
- t. Thank the parties for their participation and announce the determination(s) of the ARB and that an order determining protest will be sent by certified mail. Provide the property owner or their agent documents indicating that the members of the board hearing their protest signed the required affidavit.

If computer screens are used by ARB members during ARB hearings for reviewing evidence and other information, computer screens also must be available to property owners and agents at the hearings to view the same information that is presented to the ARB members by the appraisal district staff. This requirement is met if the property owner or agent can see all information displayed on at least one computer screen in the hearing location (there is no requirement that the property owner or agent be provided a separate screen).

If a chief appraiser uses audiovisual equipment at a protest hearing, the appraisal office must provide equipment of the same general type, kind and character for the use of the property owner or agent during the hearing. See section VI, Other Issues, for more information regarding audiovisual equipment requirements.

The presiding officer has the authority to extend the hearing to accommodate complex issues. In this case both the district and the protester must be allowed equal time.

The property owner or agent and the appraisal district representative are prohibited from debating each other. All communications must be directed to the ARB members, except for examination or cross-examination during testimony of witnesses or parties testifying at the hearing.

For taxing unit challenges, motions to correct appraisal records, protests regarding exemptions, or other matters that may be the subject of ARB hearings, the ARB should follow the order of conducting hearings above, but may make exceptions for the type of hearing.

Records for each ARB proceeding must be kept according to Tax Code Section 41.68 and Comptroller Rule 9.803. This includes the ARB retaining evidence offered or submitted

by the parties as required by Tax Code Section 41.45 and Comptroller Rules 9.803 and 9.805.

The secretary of the ARB is responsible for ensuring proper record keeping, maintenance, and retention.

2. Conducting Hearings by Telephone Conference Call or Video Conference

A property owner initiating a protest is entitled to offer evidence or argument by affidavit without personally appearing. To appear at a hearing by telephone conference call, a property owner must notify the ARB by written request not later than the 10th day before the date of the hearing.

To offer evidence or argument at a hearing conducted by telephone conference call, a property owner must submit a written affidavit of any evidence before the hearing begins. To be valid, the affidavit must include the name and telephone number of the property owner initiating the protest, a description of the property subject to the protest and evidence or argument. It is recommended that any evidence be clearly numbered or labeled. No additional evidence will be allowed during the hearing by telephone conference except what is submitted to the ARB in the affidavit. A property owner is responsible for providing access to a hearing conducted by telephone conference call to another person the owner invites to participate in the hearing.

The ARB will provide a telephone number for the property owner to call to participate in the hearing. The property owner is responsible for calling the telephone number provided by the ARB prior to his/her scheduled hearing date and time and be prepared to give the owner's name, telephone number, account number and scheduled time. If the property owner does not call within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, and without notification to the chief appraiser or a member of the ARB up to and until the scheduled hearing time has waived his/her right to a postponement unless he/she has suffered an accident, illness, or death which has prevented such notification.

If the ARB is not available to hold the hearing right away, the ARB member or staff member answering the call will advise the property owner that the owner may be placed on hold or explain that the ARB will call the owner back when the ARB is available. The owner is responsible for keeping the line clear and answering promptly when the ARB calls. If the ARB cannot reach the owner, the owner will forfeit the opportunity to participate in the hearing by telephone.

If a property owner not represented by an agent has had to wait more than two hours from the time scheduled for his/her hearing and the hearing has not begun, the owner may terminate the call or video conference if he/she is on hold. The owner should promptly call the ARB and state that he/she is exercising the right to request a postponement of the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Section IV. 1. of this document. All parties shall comply with the times stated in Section IV. 1. The presiding officer has the authority to extend the hearing to accommodate complex issues. In this case both the district and the protester will be allowed equal time.

The property owner or agent and the appraisal district representative are prohibited from debating each other. All communications must be directed to the ARB members, except for examination or cross-examination during testimony of witnesses or parties testifying at the hearing.

3. Conducting Hearings Closed to the Public [Tax Code Section 41.66(d), (d-1)]

A joint motion by the chief appraiser and the property owner is required to request that the hearing be closed due to intent to disclose proprietary or confidential information that will assist the ARB in determining the protest.

The ARB chairperson shall convene the hearing as an open meeting and then announce that the meeting will be closed to the public as permitted by Tax Code Sections 41.66(d) and (d-1). Only the parties to the protest, their witnesses, and the ARB members are permitted to stay in the hearing room. The same order of proceedings as for hearings open to the public should be followed.

The secretary of the ARB is responsible for ensuring that a separate tape recording or written summary of testimony is kept for the closed meeting in accordance with the provisions of Comptroller Rule 9.803 generally. The proprietary or confidential evidence presented at the hearing giving rise to the closed hearing is confidential according to Tax Code Section 22.27 and shall be marked as "confidential" and maintained as confidential in the ARB records for proper handling. At the conclusion of the hearing, the ARB shall confirm with the parties that all proprietary and confidential information has been appropriately identified by the ARB. The confidentiality of the information must be maintained by the ARB members and disclosed only as provided by law.

After deliberation, the ARB shall reconvene in open meeting and vote or take final action on the protest deliberated in the closed meeting. There must be no mention of the proprietary or confidential information during the open meeting.

4. Right to Examine and Cross-Examine Witnesses or Other Parties

Tax Code Section 41.66(b) states that "each party to a hearing is entitled to offer evidence, examine or cross-examine witnesses or other parties, and present argument on the matters subject to the hearing." The ARB may not prohibit this entitlement in any way; however, it may enforce time limits and dictate the order of ARB hearings for witness examination and cross-examination. To the extent possible, the parties should be advised in advance of any time limitations the ARB has determined to impose regarding the presentation of evidence.

5. Party's Right to Appear by an Agent

The ARB shall accept and consider a motion or protest filed by an agent if an agency authorization is filed at or before the hearing on the motion or protest. The ARB may not require that an agency authorization be filed at an earlier time. The ARB may not require

a person to designate an agent to represent the person in a property tax matter other than as provided by Tax Code Section 1.111.

A person leasing property who is contractually obligated to reimburse the property owner for taxes imposed on the property is entitled to file a protest if the property owner does not, and to designate, under Tax Code Section 41.413, another person to act as his/her agent with the same authority and limitations as an agent designated under Tax Code Section 1.111.

V. Evidence Considerations

[Tax Code Section 5.103(8), (11), and (13)]

1. A Party's Right to Offer Evidence and Argument

The ARB may not prohibit a party's right to offer evidence and argument. However, the ARB will enforce time limits and dictate the order of ARB hearings. To the extent possible, the parties will be advised in advance of any time limitations the ARB has determined to impose regarding the presentation of evidence and argument. The ARB should, schedule permitting, provide as much time as possible to each party to a hearing to fully present evidence and offer argument.

Evidence may be submitted for any hearing type either on paper or on digital media, CD, thumb drive, or USB Flash drive, which will be kept by the ARB as part of the hearing records. All evidence submitted will be available for presentation during the hearing. Formats allowed are: jpeg/jpg, tif, pdf, png, bmp, doc/docx, and txt. Files created in their native formats by Word Perfect and Lotus Notes will not be accepted. Files, pictures, and documents on phones, tablets, or laptops must be copied to a removable USB drive prior to submission. The property owner, agent, or witness to the hearing does not have the right to connect to the appraisal district website or internet.

2. Prohibition of Consideration of Information Not Provided at the ARB Hearing

In a protest hearing, the ARB will not consider any appraisal district information on a protest that was not presented to the ARB during the protest hearing. In order for any appraisal district record (i.e., appraisal roll history, appraisal cards) to be considered by the ARB, it must be presented as evidence by or on behalf of a party (e.g. chief appraiser, appraisal district representative, property owner, agent, or witness) at the protest hearing.

3. Exclusion of Evidence Required by Tax Code Section 41.67(d), (e)

If it is established during a protest hearing that information was previously requested under Tax Code Section 41.461 by the protesting party and that the information was not made available to the protesting party at least 14 days before the scheduled or postponed hearing, the requested information not made available may not be used as evidence in

the hearing. The ARB shall make a determination to exclude evidence under Tax Code Section 41.67(d) only if evidence presented at the hearing establishes that:

- 1. the information sought to be excluded as evidence was not made available at least 14 days before the hearing; and
- 2. the information sought to be excluded as evidence was previously requested by the protesting party.

Tax Code Section 41.67(e) prohibits the chief appraiser from offering evidence at a hearing in support of a modification or denial of an exemption or application unless:

- 1. the chief appraiser provided the reasoning for the modification or denial to the property owner in writing no later than the 14th day before the hearing date; and
- 2. evidence establishes that the additional reason was not known by the chief appraiser at the time the chief appraiser delivered the original notice of modification or denial.

VI. Other Issues

[Tax Code Section 5.103(17)]

1. Compliance with the Law, Integrity, and Impartiality

Members of the ARB shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the ARB.

2. Patience and Courtesy

ARB members must be patient, dignified, and courteous to parties appearing before the ARB. The Protester must be patient, dignified and courteous to the ARB members. The parties can disagree without being disagreeable. Antagonistic or obnoxious behavior shall not be tolerated.

3. Bias or Prejudice

Members of the ARB shall perform their ARB duties without bias or prejudice.

4. Confidential Information

Members of the ARB shall not disclose or use for any purpose unrelated to ARB duties confidential information acquired in the performance of ARB duties.

5. Handling Complaints

Any protester having a complaint or grievance regarding the Appraisal Review Board actions, conduct, or procedures can write to the Chairman of The Board of the Aransas County Appraisal District at 11 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas 78382.