

## **FRANKLIN CAD MASS APPRAISAL REPORT 2023**

The appraisal of a large number of real and personal property as a group within an established period of time using standardized procedures and subjecting the resulting appraisals to statistical testing is the definition of mass appraisal.

The mass appraisal report is a report prepared and certified by the Chief Appraiser at the conclusion of the appraisal phase of the ad valorem tax calendar. The purpose of this report is to summarize the methods and techniques utilized by Franklin CAD. The certification of the appraisal roll concludes the appraisal phase of the appraisal calendar normally July 25<sup>th</sup> of each year. This report is reflective of the values which do not have an outstanding protest and represent 95% or more of the appraisal roll with final determinations on protested properties brought before the Appraisal Review Board.

Since the majority of ad valorem real property taxation in Franklin County is accomplished using mass appraisal techniques, the general standard for appraisal should reflect compliance with USPAP Standard 6. The signed certification is compliant with the Standard Rule 6-9 of USPAP. The values generated by the appraisal district are reviewed annually by the Property Tax Division of the Comptroller of Public Accounts in order to finalize a value study biannually for the purpose of the use in TEA state funding calculation. The written reappraisal plan is attached to the Mass Appraisal report by reference.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The scope of work for a mass appraisal includes the following:

1. Identifying properties to be appraised
2. Defining market areas
3. Identifying characteristics that affect the market value
4. Developing a benchmark property that reflects the relationship of characteristics affecting value
5. Calibrating the benchmark
6. Calculate the conclusion of the property being appraised
7. Reviewing the mass appraisal results

The purpose and scope of the mass appraisal completed by Franklin County Appraisal District is to estimate fair market value for ad valorem tax purposes. Ad valorem equates to tax based on value and maintains a consistent appraisal date of January 1 of each year with the exception of some inventories. These values are used by the taxing jurisdictions in the county. The entities include Franklin County, Franklin County Water District, Mount Vernon ISD, Winnsboro ISD, Sulphur Bluff ISD, Saltillo ISD, Rivercrest ISD, the City of Mount Vernon, and the City of Winnsboro.

Each of the above units adopts its own tax rate to generate revenue to pay for such things as police protection, fire protection, public schools, road/street maintenance, courts, water, sewer, indigent health care, and many other public services.

## **LEGAL AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The Texas Property Tax Code governs the legal, statutory, and administrative requirements of the appraisal district. The appraisal district is governed by a board of directors appointed by the taxing units within its boundaries. The Chief Appraiser, appointed by the board of directors, is the chief administrator and chief executive officer of the appraisal district.

Thru its Chief Appraiser, the district promotes and adheres to the professional standards and ethics set forth by:

- The Texas Department of Licensing (TDLR)
- The Property Tax Assistance Division of the Texas State Comptroller's Office (PTAD)
- The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP)
- The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
- The Appraisal Foundation

## **MARKET VALUE DEFINED**

The definition of market value as established by the Texas Property Tax Code differs from the definition established by USPAP, therefore, a jurisdictional exception applies.

Market value is defined as Sec. 1.04 of the Texas Property Tax code states:

“Market value is the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if exposed for sale on the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a buyer; both buyer and seller know of all of the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on it use; both the seller and purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other”

\*\*Ad valorem equates to tax based on value and maintains a consistent appraisal date of January 1 of each year with the exceptions of some inventories. Inventory owners may request a September 1 value determination if the property owner files an application by July 31.

The Cost Approach, Market Approach, and Income Approach will be used to develop, analyze, calculate, and develop a final conclusion of market value on all real and personal properties which dependable data can be collected to use each of the approaches to value. All information is reviewed for accuracy and reliability; information that does not meet the prescribed standards is not used in the compilation of the appraisal schedules. Exclusion of an approach will occur only if there is not enough creditable data that can be verified.

## AREA ANALYSIS

Properties appraised by Franklin County Appraisal District are located in a 295 square mile area contained in the boundaries of Franklin County Texas. The county is located in North Easter Texas approximately 100 miles east of Dallas, Texas along the primary transportation routes of I-30 and Texas State Highway 37. As of the 2020 census, its population was 10,359. The county seat is Mount Vernon. Primary employers are Mount Vernon ISD, Lowes RDC, and Elara Caring.

Agriculture and Timber both are thriving businesses. Poultry production has been recognized as the largest agricultural business in the county, followed by cattle ranching, dairies, and timber production. The primary land types and uses are residential, improved pasture, native pasture, and hardwood timber.

Lake Cypress springs is also located in Franklin County with 1,475 waterfront properties and over 21 private lake communities' lake Cypress Springs is real estate sales accounts for the vast majority of property sales in Franklin County.

The table below reports the certified market and taxable values of properties located in each taxing jurisdiction of Franklin County.

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	<b>TAXABLE VALUE</b>	<b>PARCEL COUNT</b>
FRANKLIN COUNTY	\$ 3,135,693,178	\$ 1,970,665,721	26,161
FCWD	\$ 3,150,717,878	\$ 2,117,206,861	26,160
MOUNT VERNON ISD	\$ 2,809,543,470	\$ 1,633,828,575	21,300
WINNSBORO ISD	\$ 248,983,208	\$ 121,280,368	2,193
RIVERCREST ISD	\$ 62,523,960	\$ 20,327,720	2,619
SULPHUR BLUFF ISD	\$ 20,924,780	\$ 5,306,760	160
SALTILLO ISD	\$ 8,742,550	\$ 1,901,950	51
CITY OF WINNSBORO	\$ 67,511,830	\$ 50,416,740	495
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON	\$ 302,890,222	\$ 201,971,048	1,696

## **THE PLAN FOR PERIODIC REAPPRAISAL**

Section 25.18 of the Tax code (a) and (b) implements the following:

(a) “Each appraisal office shall implement the plan for periodic reappraisal of property approved by the board of directors under Section 6.05 (i).

(b) The plan shall provide for the following reappraisal activities for all real and personal property in the district at least once every three years:

(1) Identifying properties to be appraised through physical inspection or by other reliable means of identification, including deeds or other legal documentation, aerial photographs, land-based photographs, surveys, maps and property sketches;

(2) Identifying and updating relevant characteristics of each property in the appraisal records;

(3) Defining market areas in the district;

(4) Identifying property characteristics that affect property value in each market area

(A) The location and market area of the property;

(B) Physical attributes of the property such as size, age, and condition;

(C) Legal and economic attributes; and

(D) Easements, covenants, leases, reservations, contracts, declarations, special assessments, ordinances, or legal restrictions;

(5) Developing an appraisal model that reflects the relationship among the property characteristics affecting value in each market area and determine the contribution of individual property characteristics:

(6) Applying the conclusions reflected in the model to the characteristics of the properties being appraised; and

(7) Reviewing the appraisal results to determine value.

The Franklin County Appraisal District makes a determination as to the timing of all re-evaluation on an annual basis. This determination will dictate the re-appraisal of all property located in the CAD or determine re-appraisal of areas or categories of property located within the CAD such as subdivision, geographical areas, rural areas, commercial areas, residential, vacant lots, etc. Regional divisions of the county ensure the CAD re-inspects and re-evaluates properties as required by the Property Tax Code on the three-year cycle as described in this plan. The endorsement of the appraiser validates the action taken on each property appraisal or re-appraisal. If a property does not change in value this action does not invalidate an action of re-appraisal if the value is endorsed by the appraiser. Any property that has not been re-appraised in the previous year or in the above-described scenario will fall into the category of annual determination of re-evaluation by region.

The Chief Appraiser submitted a proposed reappraisal plan to the board of directors and conducted a public hearing on August 19, 2022 and the plan was adopted for 2023- 2024.

The reappraisal plan for Franklin County Appraisal District is to:

1. Incorporate the application of proven and professionally acceptable techniques and procedures;
2. Provide for the compilation of complete and accurate data and the processing of that data into an indication of value approximating the prices actually being paid in the market place;
3. Provide the necessary standardization measures and quality controls essential to promoting and maintaining uniformity throughout the jurisdiction;
4. Provide the appropriate production controls necessary to execute each phase of the operation in accordance with a carefully planned budget and work schedule.
5. Provide techniques especially designed to streamline each phase of the operation, eliminating functions, and reducing the complexities inherent in the appraisal process to more simplified but equally effective procedures.

#### **PLAN PERFORMANCE**

The Chief Appraiser and staff were able to substantially complete the appraisal assignment as required by the re-appraisal plan as adopted or as amended by the board of directors.

During the re-appraisal on site inspections, appraisers validated all information and property characteristics listed on the property record and updated any missing characteristics.

The final result accomplished with this plan is every property being re-appraised at least one every three years.

#### **APPRAISAL RESOURCES**

##### **Personnel:**

The ability to fund an appropriate number of qualified employees willing to work to complete the task of each re-appraisal is one of the major resources each chief appraiser faces. The appraisal district staff's classifications consist of administrative, appraisal, clerical, deed processors, mapping, records management, and customer service. The staff which performs the functions of the re-appraisal process must be registered or certified by Texas Department of Licensing. The employees which helped with the process for the 2022-2023 re-appraisal year were:

Billy Dyson  
Fawn Adams  
Josh Drupp  
Russell McCurdy  
Mary Allen  
Eric Lawrence  
Cleta Blair  
Kelly Garza (deeds & mapping)

## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Personal computer workstations are networked into a Cloud Based Server. This server stores all data generated material, as well as, forms received from the property owners. The computer assisted mass appraisal system has been developed using the software provided and developed by Pritchard & Abbott or better known as P&A. This system provides access to all the data collected and processed. The software has been designed to house and provide the calculation for age and condition tables, current cost schedules, photographs, mapping, deed information, and other documents related to each property in the Franklin County Appraisal District. This software, along with the geographical information system, and aerials provides for digital mapping storage for the mapping software. This provides to the appraiser viewing capabilities for pasturelands, timberlands, croplands, orchards, wildlife habitat, and structures. The mapping is available for public view on the appraisal district website. [www.franklin-cad.org](http://www.franklin-cad.org).

## **DATA COLLECTION**

Activities scheduled for each tax year include new construction, demolition, remodeling, re-inspection of problematic market areas, and re-inspection of the universe of properties on a specific cycle. The specific cycle will be determined annually after appropriate documentation on sales activity, replacement cost new data, and or any other economic catalyst that affects a sufficient number of properties that indicate a complete re-appraisal is necessary.

The principal source of data collection for new construction and remodeling are field inspections, building permits, and mechanic liens filed with the city and the county. Mobile home installation reports, utility connection reports, 911 address assignments, septic permits, advertisements, and renditions are all utilized in an effort to locate and update property within the county. A field effort of driving the county also generates a constant watchful eye on any new construction or additions that may be added to the property. With the addition of web connection, property owners themselves are generating and filtering information to the CAD about the property description of their individual property.

Data surveys included in the buyer and seller questionnaire when returned are helpful in identifying characteristic that are needed to correctly appraise property, and gives to the CAD current sales data. Identifying these characteristics with the sales information aides in the model calibration of properties included in that class or category and identifies problematic areas. Quality of data is emphasized as the goal and responsibility of each appraiser. Sales information is verified by sources such as new owner letters, seller letters, warranty deeds, and Multiple Listing Service serve as a good source for data characteristics and information.

Field appraisers perform field inspections to ensure the data they have entered into the computer-based system has been maintained and is correct. Additionally, they review for additions/deletions, the class, condition, & effective age of structures. For instances when a property cannot be physically inspected the appraiser utilizes Pictometry aerial imagery. Data updates and file modification for property descriptions and input accuracy is conducted and is the responsibility of the field appraiser.

Texas Railroad Commission and division orders are the source for our mineral appraisals.

Personal Property rendition forms are the source of data for commercial property inventories, furniture, fixtures, machinery, and equipment. Assumed names filed with county also, generate additional check points for new business personal property. Inspections for personal property included the classification of inventories, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment and verification of the renditions submitted for processing.

Land records in the scheduled reappraisal area were reviewed by utilization of the most recent versions of aerial photography available from the processed Pictometry flyover. Land records were updated for soil classification, timber productivity, and agriculture productivity.

### **ANALYSIS**

Calculation of preliminary values enables the district to use the market analysis of comparable sales and gathered cost data to ensure that the ratio study performed in each category of property, neighborhood, and defined market areas generates an acceptable ratio in each segment of property or grouped segment of properties. Properties in selected market areas are updated in non-reappraisal years as well as in reappraisal years if the ratio results reflect the need for a change.

Therefore, the need for re-appraisal years is made on an annual basis and determined by market areas. Every property is re-appraised at least once every three years. A change may or may not occur depending on the cost data gathered, sales information gathered, or other pertinent information pertaining to the individual property or property characteristics. After the survey of similar segments or jurisdictions of properties a determination was made which may have included neighborhood adjustment factors, schedule changes, land schedule changes, and depreciation adjustments for the various locations.

Final model calibration were performed in late March and April prior to the preparation of notices of appraised values.

Exemptions and special use valuation applications were mailed to property owners in January with explanations regarding the need to re-file applications or submit a first-time application. Throughout the year, properties with ownership changes are flagged for the removal of the exemptions or special valuation methods and removed or reset with the processing of the year end process and mailing of additional applications to new owners. Applications received by the district were reviewed for qualifications by staff appraisers. Property owners were notified by certified mail when the application was denied.

Franklin CAD contracted with BIS who is responsible for obtaining the necessary documents to make ownership changes and update the GIS map. This information was obtained from the Franklin County Clerks Office on a monthly basis.

## VALUATION APPROACH

While the universe of market area is considered to be Franklin County, subsets of market areas can be broken out by school districts, cities, lake areas, rural areas, regions, and neighborhoods. These areas are defined as city of Mount Vernon, city of Winnsboro, Mount Vernon ISD, Winnsboro ISD, Rivercrest ISD, Saltillo ISD, Sulphur Bluff ISD, Lake Cypress Springs, Lake Bob Sandlin, Purley area, Hopewell area, Scroggin's area, Hagansport area, North Region, South Region. Then these are subdivided by MAP ID for the appraisers to complete inspections.

Market areas are refined to reflect the category of properties such as real property with a total of 18,154 parcels, business personal property with 347 parcels, commercial properties with 323 parcels, utility properties with 169 parcels, and mineral properties with 4,576 parcels. This count of parcels reflects historical data as the parcel count will change on a regular basis in the normal course of business by adding new property and deleting removed property.

All properties must be analyzed and appraised at its highest and best use. Highest and best use is defined as the most reasonable and probable use of the land generating the highest return to the property owner over a period of time. The use must be legal, physically possible, economically feasible, and the most profitable of the potential uses. Identification of the property's highest and best use should be considered a statement of opinion made by the appraiser and never a statement of fact.

An appraiser must estimate its highest and best use as if the land were vacant, ignoring the value and restrictions created by existing improvements. Value in use is the value a specific property has for a specific use. In estimating use value, the appraiser's focus is the value the real estate contributes to the enterprise of which it is a part, without regard to the highest and best use of the property or the monetary amount that might be realized from its sale. Real property has both a use value and a highest and best use value which may or may not be the same. The prime example of this type of use value relates to farming, ranching, timber production, or as known as special productivity value.

State law requires the appraisal district to appraise the land and improvements of residence homestead property based on the use as a residence homestead regardless of the actual highest and best use. This generates another exception from the USPAP standard when applied to residential properties.

Values are determined by the application of a series of schedules for replacement cost and depreciation that have been tested against current market data. The district's appraiser may consider the most appropriate of the three approaches to value when determining a property's value. The three approaches are Cost, Market, and Income.

All three approaches to value will be considered on all types of properties. The appraiser will determine and select the method that gives the greater weight of market value. Below is an itemization of which approach being common for each type of property and why the other approaches may not generate a representative market value.

## **PROPERTY TYPES**

### **RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales comparison method is the most frequently used method of appraisal for this property.

Cost approach will be used in conjunction with the market approach when sales information is limited. Additionally, the cost approach will be used to develop class schedules to maintain a fair & equitable values.

The income approach will be considered if rental income may be a better indication of value.

### **SPECIAL INVENTORY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

Cost approach to value is the most common usage in this category of property. Developers have the same benefits and rights as individuals with other types of inventories in which they are entitled to have property grouped as if it were to be sold as a whole. This method is based on the use of cost or market whichever is the lowest.

Sales approach is not used until the developer sales the property and the category changes to a category other than inventory.

Income approach to value is not used on this property because it is not income producing.

### **MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

Due to the limited number of sales in this type of property it is not feasible to use the sales comparison approach to value, but is always considered if the data is available.

The cost approach would be used as a comparison to the income approach which would be the best approach to value considering the evidence of income and expense information for properties of this type in Franklin County. The inability to collect income and expense information determines whether the cost approach will be the reliable approach for this county.

Income approach will be considered; however, it may not be feasible because of the inability to receive documented evidence on true income and expense information in this subject area. Efforts and attempts to collect income data along with maintaining the income data will continue.

## **COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales comparison approach to value is a limited resource and is not a reliable approach for this group of property when sales are limited in number. Sales data may or may not include a documented value for goodwill without this measure the sales approach may generate a distorted value. The infrequency of sales activity limits the measure in this approach.

Cost approach to value is the most reliable approach to market for this type of property in this county.

Income approach will be considered if data collected is reliable and can be updated if the property is an income producing property such as apartments, hotels, motels, mini storage warehouse etc.

## **VACANT REAL PROPERTY OR LAND**

Sales comparison approach is the best approach for this type of property and is the most common used approach for this type of property.

Cost approach is not feasible.

Income approach could be used only on those properties that were generating a rental income. This is not the most common used approach in this type of property.

## **INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Sales comparison approach is the best approach for this type of property but because of the limited sale activity in the area information may or may not be readily available.

Cost approach is a valid and sometimes the most effective process to generate a market value.

Income approach is not a common approach to value for this type of property but is always considered.

## **UTILITIES**

Sales comparison approach is not used in this type of property appraisal because of the limited sales activity in the type property.

Cost approach can and will be considered.

The income approach is the most reliable approach to value for this property type.

### **MINERAL INTEREST**

Sales comparison approach is not used in this type of appraisal because of the limited sales activity associated with this type of property.

Cost approach cannot be considered in this type of property.

The income approach is the most reliable approach to value.

### **SPECIAL VALUATION PROPERTIES OR AG/TIMBER LAND**

Sales comparison approach is not used in this type of appraisal. This property is appraised based on its ability to generate income.

Cost approach is not used on this type of property. There is no effective or feasible way to use a cost approach on this type property.

Income approach is the correct approach used on this type of property because it is an income producing property and is based on the land's ability to generate income.

## **INDUSTRIAL TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Cost approach to value is the most reliable approach with the aid of renditions that are prepared by the owner giving the historical cost of the items and with the use of indexing the historical value to generate an in use current value.

Income approach is not used as the personal property is not normally used nor produces rental income.

Sales approach is not used due to the limited number of sales activities in this type of property.

## COMPUTER FORMULAS AND MODELS

Basic model for Real Property:

$$MV = IV + LV$$

MV = Market Value

IV = Improvement or structure value

LV = Land Value

Expanded model:

$$MV = [(IUNIT \times ISIZE) + OR - ADDITIVES \times \% GOOD \times INF] + [(LUNIT \times LSIZE) \times LNF]$$

MV = MARKET VALUE

IUNIT = REPLACEMENT COST NEW PER SQ FT

ISIZE = IMPROVEMENT SQ FT LIVING AREA

ADDITIVES = IMPROVEMENT AMENITIES CONTRIBUTORY VALUES

%GOOD = ALLOWED OR ALLOWABLE DEPRECIATION

INAF = IMPROVEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD FACTOR IF MEASUREABLE

LUNIT = LAND VALUE FROM SCHEDULES

LSIZE = LAND PARCEL PER SQ FT, ACREAGE OR FRONT FOOTAGE

LNAF = LAND NEIGHBORHOOD FACTOR IF MEASUREABLE

Basic model for personal property:

$$MV = PVF \times HC \times DF$$

MV = MARKET VALUE

PVF = PRESENT VALUE FACTOR

HC = HISTORICAL COST

DF = DEPRECIATION FACTOR

## **CALIBRATION METHODS OR PERFORMANCE TESTING**

Sales ratio studies are conducted each tax year by category and market areas to evaluate the district's mass appraisal performance. The statistical data generated to determine changes in models are provided by the median, mean, weighted mean, and the standard deviation. The models not performing satisfactorily are refined and retested. Discovery of necessary adjustments will be disbursed among the market areas to correctly reflect market conditions in those market areas as described above in valuation approaches. These procedures used for model specification and model calibration are in compliance with Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, and Standard Rule 6.

Each neighborhood is reviewed annually by the district through sales data gathered and sales ratio analysis performed after the sales data is entered into the computer system and reports generated to determine the sales to appraisal ratios as mentioned above.

After this review neighborhood factors to reach market value are developed and implemented to those areas which are falling below the tested measures. The districts use a hybrid cost-sales approach to value residential properties commonly referred to as market modified cost. This type of approach accounts for neighborhood market influences.

Comparative appraisal analysis or market analysis tells you what homes like yours are selling on the open market, how long it takes, and what the sales price is. This comparative analysis is performed by generating reports from data gathered from sales letters mailed to sellers and buyers, MLS data, and fee appraisal reports, and local cost information. The data gathered is compared to the appraisal the appraisal district has on the property and then a comparison report is generated by taking the appraisal value divided by the sales data to develop what is called an individual sales ratio comparison. This ratio has a direct relationship to the appraisal activity of the appraisal district.

## **ASSUMPTION OF LIMITING CONDITIONS**

Appraisals completed by the appraisal district office are subject to the following assumptions and limiting conditions:

1. Title to the property is assumed to be good and marketable and the legal description correct.
2. All existing liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances have been disregarded and the property is appraised as through free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management.
3. All sketches in the appraisal documents are intended to be visual aids and should not be construed as surveys or engineering report unless otherwise specified.
4. All information in the appraisal documents has been obtained by member of the appraisal district staff or other reliable sources.
5. The opinion of value for each property applies to land and improvements. The value of trade fixtures, furnishings and other equipment has not been included with the value of the real estate.
6. The appraisals were prepared exclusively for ad valorem tax purposes.
7. The appraisers developing these appraisals are not required to give testimony or attendance in court by reason of the appraisal, unless directed by, employed by and provided legal counsel by the Franklin County Appraisal District.
8. Subsurface rights (minerals and oil) were not considered in making the appraisals.
9. The appraisers have inspected, as far as possible, by observation, the land and the improvements, however, it is not possible to personally observe conditions beneath the soil or hidden structural components within the improvements. No representation of this matter is made unless specifically detailed by the owner or approval for inside inspection by the owner.
10. The values generated by the appraisal district are reviewed annually by the Property Tax Division of Comptroller of Public Accounts in order to finalize a Value Study each year for the purpose of the use in TEA state funding calculation in the school district budget.
11. Definition of market value as established by the State Property Tax code differs from the USPAP definition.

It must be noted that no re-appraisal program, regardless of how skillfully administered, can ever be expected to be error free. The correction of errors can best be assisted by giving the taxpayer an opportunity to question the value placed upon his individual property and the opportunity to produce evidence that the value is incorrect or inequitable. Errors will be brought to light and taking corrective action will serve to further the objectives of the program.

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:**

"I, Russell McCurdy, Chief Appraiser for the Franklin County Appraisal District, solemnly swear that I have made or caused to be made a diligent inquiry and search to ascertain all property in the district subject to appraisal by me, and that I have included in the records all property that I am aware of at an appraised value which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, was determined as required by law."

*Russell McCurdy*

*9/19/2023*

Russell McCurdy, RPA, RTA, CTA  
Chief Appraiser TDLR# 73696

Date

Assisted by:

Billy Dyson TDLR# 74646

Josh Drupp TDLR# 77072

Audrey Weatherford TDLR# 77743

Clyde Arrendale (P&A) Real property TDLR# 30008

Eric Lawrence (P&A) Industrial real & BPP TDLR# 71146

Cleta Blair (P&A) Minerals TDLR# 66430

Mary Allen (P&A) Minerals TDLR# 76463

Kelly Garza (BIS) Mapping & deed work

**THE APPRAISAL OF  
MINERAL, INDUSTRIAL, UTILITY, PERSONAL PROPERTY  
AND  
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE  
AS PER  
UNIFORM STANDARDS OF  
PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE  
(USPAP)**

**Effective January 1, 2020  
(Applicable for Tax Years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023\*)**

*\*On August 11, 2022, for the second consecutive year, The Appraisal Foundation's Appraisal Standards Board (ASB) announced that the current edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) would be extended by one additional year. Therefore, the 2020-2021 USPAP will now be effective until December 31, 2023.*

**Includes, in part, the Written Mass Appraisal Report and Certification as promulgated by USPAP Standards 6-1 through 6-3. This report was assembled in part with direct reference to the 2020-2021 Edition of USPAP as published by the Appraisal Standards Board of The Appraisal Foundation, authorized by United States Congress as the Source of Appraisal Standards and Appraiser Qualifications.**

*This report is intended to satisfy the requirements of S.B. 841, enacted by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1039, § 22, effective January 1, 1998; amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1295 (S.B. 1641), § 1, effective January 1, 2000, when performing mass appraisals for ad valorem (property) tax purposes. This report is a work product of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., Valuation Consultants (P&A), developed on behalf of, and for exclusive use by, P&A's valuation clients. Written permission must be obtained before reproduction of these contents or distribution to outside parties.*



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## POLICY STATEMENT OF PRITCHARD & ABBOTT, INC., ON THE UNIFORM STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE

Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., (P&A), a privately held company engaged primarily, but not wholly, in the ad valorem tax valuation industry endorses Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) as the basis for the production of sound appraisals. Insofar as the statutory requirement to appraise groups (or a “universe”) of real and personal property within an established period of time using standardized procedures—and subjecting the resulting appraisals to statistical measures—is the definition of mass appraisal, P&A subscribes to USPAP Standards 5 and 6 (Mass Appraisal, Development and Reporting) whenever applicable in the development and defense of values. When circumstances clearly dictate the use of single property appraisal procedures, P&A adheres to the spirit and intent of the remaining USPAP Standards within all appropriate, practical, and/or contractual limitations or specifications.

This “USPAP Report” provides general information about the rather comprehensive USPAP Scope of Work rule, as well as the specific steps P&A takes in the actual appraisal of various property types per our contractual obligations. This report, as well as the Biennial Reappraisal Plan that P&A provides our clients before the appraisal season, should not be confused or conflated with an “appraisal manual” or other “how-to” guide which may or may not exist within P&A for any particular property type we appraise.

This report discusses all additional USPAP rules that interact with the Scope of Work Rule, such as the Ethics Rule, the Competency Rule, the Record Keeping Rule, and Jurisdictional Exception Rule, as well as USPAP Definitions. This report, and specifically the certification page at the end, is meant to accompany our appraisals and supporting documentation provided to clients per Property Tax Code, Sec. 25.01(c) at the completion of each tax year. An appraisal season thus begins with an appraisal plan (approved by the CAD's Board of Directors) and ends with appraisal reports. Providing these reports is definitely part of the plan. Likewise, much of the verbiage in this “USPAP report” is a reiteration of the Biennial Reappraisal Plan.

USPAP defines “appraisal” as the act or process of developing an opinion of value or pertaining to appraising and related functions such as appraisal practice or appraisal services. Valuation services is defined as services pertaining to an aspect of property value, regardless of the type of service and whether it is performed by appraisers or by others. The USPAP definition of “appraiser” is one who is expected to perform valuation services competently and in a manner that is ***independent, impartial, and objective***. USPAP Advisory Opinion 21: *USPAP Compliance* states that this expectation (by clients and intended users of appraisal reports) is the basis that creates an ethical obligation to comply with USPAP, even if not legally required. Advisory opinions do not establish new standards or interpret existing standards, but instead are issued to illustrate the applicability of appraisal standards in specific situations.

The majority of property types that P&A typically appraises for ad valorem tax purposes are categorized as unique, complex, and/or “special purpose” properties (mineral interests, industrial, utility, and related personal property). These categories of properties do not normally provide sufficient market data of reliable quality and/or quantity to support the rigorous use of all USPAP-prescribed mass appraisal development mandates (Standard 5: Mass Appraisal, Development), particularly with regards to some, but not all, of the *model calibration* and *statistical performance testing* confines. However, P&A does strive to employ all or most elements of mass appraisal techniques with regards to the *definition* and *identification of property* characteristics and *model specification* and application.

Per USPAP Advisory Opinion 32: *Ad Valorem Property Tax Appraisal and Mass Appraisal Assignments*, in the interests of equity, the scope of work in mass appraisal assignments for ad valorem taxation can include consideration of appraisal level (the overall proximity between appraised values and actual prices) and the uniformity of property values (equity within groups of like properties). The appraiser is responsible for

recognizing when the concepts of appraisal level and appraisal uniformity are necessary for credible assignment results in a mass appraisal assignment for ad valorem taxation.

Residential real estate property appraisers most frequently apply mass appraisal methods within the sales comparison (market) approach to value. Through the use of standardized data collection (i.e., actual market sales), specification and calibration of mass appraisal models, tables, and schedules are possible. Through ratio study analysis and other performance measures, a cumulative summary of valuation accuracy can thus be produced in order to calibrate the appraisal model(s). Where sufficient data of reliable quality exists, mass appraisal is also used for other types of real estate property such as farms, vacant lots, and some commercial uses (e.g., apartments, offices, and small retail).

Regarding mass appraisal reports due the client and other intended users per USPAP (Standard 6 (Mass Appraisal, Reporting), a written report of the mass appraisal as described in Standards 6-2 is not provided for each individual property. An individual property record or worksheet may describe the valuation of the specific property after the application of the mass appraisal model. To understand the individual property result developed in a mass appraisal requires the examination of all the information and analysis required by Standards 6-2.

P&A will clearly state or otherwise make known all extraordinary assumptions, hypothetical conditions, limitations imposed by assignment conditions, and/or jurisdictional exceptions in its appraisal reports as they are conveyed to our clients. ***Intended users of our reports are typically the client(s) for which we are under direct contract.*** Although taxpayers or their agents who own and/or represent the subject property being appraised often receive these reports either by law or as a courtesy of the client or P&A, this receipt does not mean these parties automatically become Intended Users as defined by USPAP. ***A party receiving a copy of a report in order to satisfy disclosure requirements does not become an intended user of the appraisal or mass appraisal unless the appraiser specifically identifies such party as an intended user.*** Potential other users include parties involved in adjudication of valuation disputes (review board members, lawyers, judges, etc.), governmental agencies which periodically review our appraisals for various statutory purposes (such as the Texas Comptroller's Office) and private parties who may obtain copies of our appraisals through Open Records Requests made to governmental agencies.

USPAP does not currently address communications of assignment results prior to completion of the assignment, thus such communications have no requirements other than to comply with the general requirements in the Ethics Rule, the Competency Rule, and the Jurisdictional Exception Rule. The client and all intended users should be aware that mass appraisals, as opposed to most "fee" appraisals, are somewhat inherently "limited" versus "complete" and that appraisal reports, unless otherwise contracted for by the client, will most often be of a "restricted" nature whereas explanations of appraisal methods and results are more concise versus lengthy in order to promote brevity, clarity, and transparency to the intended user(s).

Per USPAP, the appropriate reporting option and level of information in a report are dependant on the intended use and the intended users. Although the reporting verbiage in USPAP Standard 6 does not specifically offer or promulgate a "Restricted Appraisal Report" such as in Standard 2 (Real Property Appraisal, Reporting) and Standard 8 (Personal Property Appraisal, Reporting), it should be noted that: a) all mass appraisals and mass appraisal reports deal with real and personal property in some form or fashion; and b) P&A is a private consulting firm, a fact which may necessitate the withholding of certain data and/or appraisal models/techniques which are deemed confidential, privileged and/or proprietary in nature. The use of "limited" appraisals in conjunction with "restricted" reports in no way implies non-compliance with USPAP. ***The substantive content of a report determines its compliance.***

P&A believes that, with its vast experience and expertise in these areas of appraisal, all concluded values and reports thereof are credible, competent, understandable, uniform and consistent; and most importantly for ad valorem tax purposes, accomplished in a cost-efficient and timely manner.

Per previous ASB comments under Standard 6-2(b) [*scope of work... special limiting conditions*]:

***“Although appraisers in ad valorem taxation should not be held accountable for limitations beyond their control, they are required by this specific requirement to identify cost constraints and to take appropriate steps to secure sufficient funding to produce appraisals that comply with these standards. Expenditure levels for assessment administration are a function of a number of factors. Fiscal constraints may impact data completeness and accuracy, valuation methods, and valuation accuracy. Although appraisers should seek adequate funding and disclose the impact of fiscal constraints on the mass appraisal process, they are not responsible for constraints beyond their control.”***

In any event, however, it is not P&A’s intent to allow constraints, fiscal or otherwise, to limit the scope of work to such a degree that the mass appraisal results provided to our clients are not credible within the context of the intended use(s) of the appraisal.

## CHANGES FROM 2018-19 EDITION OF USPAP

The Appraisal Foundation, through its Appraisal Standards Board, constantly seeks to clarify and improve where possible the previously published edition of USPAP. Below is a summary of the changes applicable to the current edition as they apply to P&A's mass appraisal assignments and reports:

### **Revisions to the Standards regarding reporting options and Comments in Standards Rules**

The Board adopted revisions to permit additional intended users besides the client for Restricted Appraisal Reports, as long as the other intended users are named in the report (i.e., not merely identified "by type"). The second adopted change for Restricted Appraisal Reports is a simplification of warning language that will no longer include a reference to the appraiser's workfile.

### **Revision of SCOPE OF WORK RULE**

The Board adopted revisions to add language to the Disclosure Obligations section of the SCOPE OF WORK RULE to address the flexibility afforded the appraiser in the disclosure of scope of work.

### **Revisions to COMPETENCY RULE**

The Board revised the "Perfection is impossible to attain..." Comment in Standards Rules 1-1, 3-1, 5-1, 7-1, and 9-1, and moved it into the COMPETENCY RULE. Moving the Comment into the COMPETENCY RULE reduces duplication and, at the same time, broadens the applicability since the COMPETENCY RULE applies to both development and reporting in all disciplines.

### **Revisions to DEFINITIONS**

The Board adopted some modifications and additions to the DEFINITIONS in order to help readers better understand USPAP. The Board adopted changes to the definitions of APPRAISAL, APPRAISAL PRACTICE, APPRAISAL REVIEW, APPRAISER, ASSIGNMENT CONDITIONS, ASSIGNMENT RESULTS, CLIENT, COST, EXPOSURE TIME, MARKET VALUE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, REAL PROPERTY, VALUATION SERVICE, VALUE and WORKFILE. The Board also adopted new definitions for the terms ASSIGNMENT ELEMENTS, EFFECTIVE DATE, MISLEADING, PERSONAL INSPECTION, PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS, and RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS, to help clarify how each term is used in USPAP.

### **Other Edits to Improve Clarity and Enforceability of USPAP**

The Board adopted changes related to the phrases "accept an assignment" and "intangible items." The edits are intended to improve clarity and consistency.

### **Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 1, Sales History**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 1, Sales History, to provide additional detail and illustrations related to an appraiser's obligation to analyze the listing, contract, and sales history of the subject property.

### **Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 2, Inspection of Subject Property**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 2, Inspection of Subject Property, to provide guidance and illustrations reflecting changes in the marketplace related to an appraiser's inspection of a property.

### **Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 28, Scope of Work Decision, Performance, and Disclosure**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 28, Scope of Work Decisions, Performance, and Disclosure, including a new Illustration 2 regarding a scope of work problem related to tangible personal property, and adding an additional illustration regarding a scope of work problem related to real property.

### **Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 31, Assignments Involving More than One Appraiser**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 31, Assignments Involving More than One Appraiser, to help

clarify guidance related to significant appraisal assistance and Standards Rules 2-3, 4-3, 6-3, 8-3, and 10-3.

**Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 32, Ad Valorem Property Tax Appraisal and Mass Appraisal Assignments**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 32, Ad Valorem Property Tax Appraisal and Mass Appraisal Assignments, that adds a new Illustration 5 on the topic of an appraiser's obligations regarding the quantity and quality of factual data collected in a mass appraisal assignment.

**Revisions to ADVISORY OPINION 36, Identification and Disclosure of Client, Intended Use, and Intended Users**

The Board adopted revisions to Advisory Opinion 36, Identification and Disclosure of Client, Intended Use, and Intended Users, to clarify an appraiser's requirement to make a proper disclosure of the client and any other intended users in an Appraisal Report or Restricted Appraisal Report, particularly in cases where the client has requested anonymity in the report.

**Creation of ADVISORY OPINION 38, Content of an Appraisal Report and Restricted Appraisal Report**

The Board adopted newly-created Advisory Opinion 38, Content of an Appraisal Report and Restricted Appraisal Report. The new Advisory Opinion compares the reporting requirements under the revised Appraisal Report and Restricted Appraisal Report options, and replaces the prior guidance offered in Advisory Opinions 11 and 12.

**Retirement of ADVISORY OPINION 4, Standards Rule 1-5(b); ADVISORY OPINION 11, Content of the Appraisal Report Options of Standards Rules 2-2, 8-2, and 10-2; and ADVISORY OPINION 12, Use of the Appraisal Report Options of Standards Rules 2-2, 8-2, and 10-2**

The Board adopted the retirement of Advisory Opinions 4, 11, and 12. Advisory Opinion 4 was narrowly-focused, and was more appropriately housed where it also currently exists in the USPAP Frequently Asked Questions. As stated above, Advisory Opinions 11 and 12 have been replaced with the newly-created Advisory Opinion 38, Content of an Appraisal Report and Restricted Appraisal Report.

Additional administrative edits will be made to other Advisory Opinions and FAQs for consistency with the adopted changes.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice*, the following definitions apply:

**APPRAISAL:** (noun) the act or process of developing an opinion of value; an opinion of value. (adjective) of or pertaining to appraising and related functions such as appraisal practice or appraisal services.

Comment: An appraisal is numerically expressed as a specific amount, as a range of numbers, or as a relationship (e.g., not more than, not less than) to a previous value opinion or numerical benchmark (e.g., assessed value, collateral value).

**APPRAISAL PRACTICE:** valuation services performed by an individual acting as an appraiser, including but not limited to appraisal or appraisal review.

Comment: Appraisal practice is provided only by appraisers, while valuation services are provided by a variety of professionals and others. The terms appraisal, appraisal review, and appraisal consulting are intentionally generic and are not mutually exclusive. For example, an opinion of value may be required as part of an appraisal review assignment.

**APPRAISAL REVIEW:** the act or process of developing and communicating an opinion about the quality of another appraiser's work (i.e., a report, part of a report, a workfile, or some combination of these), that was performed as part of an appraisal or appraisal review assignment; (adjective) of or pertaining to an opinion about the quality of another appraiser's work that was performed as part of an appraisal or appraisal review assignment.

**APPRAISER:** one who is expected to perform valuation services competently and in a manner that is independent, impartial, and objective.

**APPRAISER'S PEERS:** other appraisers who have expertise and competency in a similar type of assignment.

**ASSIGNMENT:** a valuation service that is provided by an appraiser as a consequence of an agreement with a client.

**ASSIGNMENT CONDITIONS:** Assumptions, extraordinary assumptions, hypothetical conditions, laws and regulations, jurisdictional exceptions, and other conditions that affect the scope of work.

**ASSIGNMENT ELEMENTS:** Specific information needed to identify the appraisal or appraisal review problem: client and any other intended users; intended use of the appraiser's opinions and conclusions; type and definition of value; effective date of the appraiser's opinions and conclusions; subject of the assignment and its relevant characteristics; and assignment conditions.

**ASSIGNMENT RESULTS:** An appraiser's opinions or conclusions, not limited to value, that were developed when performing an appraisal assignment, an appraisal review assignment, or a valuation service other than an appraisal or appraisal review.

Comment: Physical characteristics are not assignment results.

**BIAS:** a preference or inclination that precludes an appraiser's impartiality, independence, or objectivity in an assignment.

**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE:** an entity pursuing an economic activity.

**BUSINESS EQUITY:** the interests, benefits, and rights inherent in the ownership of a business enterprise or a part thereof in any form (including but not limited to capital stock, partnership interests co-operatives, sole proprietorships, options, and warrants).

**CLIENT:** the party or parties (i.e., individual, group, or entity) who engage, an appraiser by employment or contract in a specific assignment whether directly or through an agent.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** information that is either: (a) identified by the client as confidential when providing it to an appraiser and that is not available from any other source; or (b) classified as confidential or private by applicable law or regulation.\*

\*Notice: For example, pursuant to the passage of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act in November 1999, some public agencies have adopted privacy regulations that affect appraisers. The Federal Trade Commission issued two rules. The first rule (16 CFR 313) focused on the protection of “non-public personal information” provided by consumers to those involved in financial activities “found to be closely related to banking or usual in connection with the transaction of banking.” These activities include “appraising real or personal property.” The second rule (16 CFR 314) required appraisers to safeguard customer non-public personal information. Significant liability exists for appraisers should they fail to comply with these FTC rules.

**COST:** the actual or estimated amount required to create, reproduce, replace, or obtain a property.

**CREDIBLE:** worthy of belief.

Comment: Credible assignment results require support, by relevant evidence and logic, to the degree necessary for the intended use.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** the date to which an appraiser’s analyses, opinions, and conclusions apply; also referred to as date of value.

**EXPOSURE TIME:** an opinion, based on supporting market data, of the length of time that the property interest being appraised would have been offered on the market prior to the hypothetical consummation of a sale at market value on the effective date of the appraisal.

**EXTRAORDINARY ASSUMPTION:** an assignment-specific assumption as of the effective date that is used in an analysis despite indications that the assumption could be false, and which, if found to be false, could alter the appraiser’s opinions or conclusions.

Comment: Extraordinary assumptions presume as fact otherwise uncertain information about physical, legal, or economic characteristics of the subject property; or about conditions external to the property, such as market conditions or trends; or about the integrity of data used in an analysis.

**FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS:** a study of the cost-benefit relationship of an economic endeavor.

**HYPOTHETICAL CONDITION:** a condition, directly related to a specific assignment, which is contrary to what is known by the appraiser to exist on the effective date of the appraisal results, but is used for the purpose of analysis.

Comment: Hypothetical conditions assume conditions contrary to known facts about physical, legal, or economic characteristics of the subject property; or about conditions external to the property, such as market conditions or trends, or about the integrity of data used in an analysis.

**INTANGIBLE PROPERTY (INTANGIBLE ASSETS):** non-physical assets, including but not limited to franchises, trademarks, patents, copyrights, goodwill, equities, mineral rights, securities, and contracts, as distinguished from physical assets such as facilities and equipment.

**INTENDED USE:** the anticipated use(s) of assignment results as identified by the appraiser based on communication with the client.

**INTENDED USER:** the client and any other party as identified, by name or type, as users of the appraisal or appraisal review report by the appraiser based on communication with the client.

*Per Advisory Opinion 32: In ad valorem taxation assignments, the client is typically the government or taxing authority that engages the appraiser. As defined in USPAP, the client is an intended user. Through communication with the client, the appraiser may identify other intended users. A party [such as a taxpayer] receiving a copy of a report in order to satisfy disclosure requirements does not become an Intended user of the appraisal or mass appraisal unless the appraiser specifically identifies such party as an intended user.*

**JURISDICTIONAL EXCEPTION:** an assignment condition established by applicable law or regulation, which precludes an appraiser from complying with a part of USPAP.

**MARKET VALUE:** a type of value, stated as an opinion, that presumes the transfer of a property (i.e., a right of ownership or a bundle of such rights), as of a certain date, under specific conditions set forth in the value definition that is identified by the appraiser as applicable in an appraisal.

Comment: Appraisers are cautioned to identify the exact definition of market value, and its authority, applicable in each appraisal completed for the purpose of market value.

**MASS APPRAISAL:** the process of valuing a universe of properties as of a given date utilizing standard methodology, employing common data, and allowing for statistical testing.

**MASS APPRAISAL MODEL:** a mathematical expression, tool, or formula that describes how supply and demand factors interact in a market.

**MISLEADING:** Intentionally or unintentionally misrepresenting, misstating, or concealing relevant facts or conclusions.

**PERSONAL INSPECTION:** a physical observation performed to assist in identifying relevant property characteristics in a valuation service.

Comment: An appraiser's inspection is typically limited to those things readily observable without the use of special testing or equipment. Appraisals of some types of property, such as gems and jewelry, may require the use of specialized equipment. An inspection by an appraiser is not the equivalent of an inspection by an inspection professional (e.g., a structural engineer, home inspector, or art conservator).

**PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Any tangible or intangible article that is subject to ownership and not classified as real property, including identifiable tangible objects that are considered by the general public as being "personal," such as furnishings, artwork, antiques, gems and jewelry, collectibles, machinery and equipment; and intangible

property that is created and stored electronically such as plans for installation art, choreography, emails, or designs for digital tokens.

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:** attributes of a property that are observable or measurable as a matter of fact, as distinguished from opinions and conclusions, which are the result of some level of analysis or judgment.

**PRICE:** the amount asked, offered, or paid for a property.

Comment: Once stated, price is a fact, whether it is publicly disclosed or retained in private. Because of the financial capabilities, motivations, or special interests of a given buyer or seller, the price paid for a property may or may not have any relation to the value that might be ascribed to that property by others.

**REAL ESTATE:** an identified parcel or tract of land, including improvements, if any.

**REAL PROPERTY:** the interests, benefits, and rights inherent in the ownership of real estate.

**RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS:** features that may affect a property's value or marketability such as legal, economic, or physical characteristics.

**REPORT:** any communication, written or oral, of an appraisal or appraisal review that is transmitted to the client or a party authorized by the client upon completion of an assignment.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** the type and extent of research and analysis in an appraisal or appraisal review assignment.

**SIGNATURE:** personalized evidence indicating authentication of the work performed by the appraiser and the acceptance of the responsibility for content, analyses, and the conclusions in the report.

**VALUATION SERVICE:** a service pertaining to an aspect of property value, regardless of the type of service and whether it is performed by appraisers or by others.

**VALUE:** the monetary relationship between properties and those who buy, sell, or use those properties.

Comment: Value expresses an economic concept. As such, it is never a fact but always an opinion of the worth of a property at a given time in accordance with a specific definition of value. In appraisal practice, value must always be qualified - for example, market value, liquidation value, or investment value.

**WORKFILE:** documentation necessary to support an appraiser's analysis, opinions, and conclusions.

## PREAMBLE

The purpose of USPAP is to establish requirements and conditions for ethical, thorough, and transparent property valuation services. Valuation services pertain to all aspects of property value and include services performed by appraisers and other professionals including attorneys, accountants, insurance estimators, auctioneers, or brokers. Valuation services include appraisal, appraisal review, and appraisal consulting. The primary intent of these Standards is to promote and maintain a high level of public trust in professional appraisal practice.

It is essential that professional appraisers develop and communicate their analyses, opinions, and conclusions to intended users of their services in a manner that is meaningful and not misleading. The importance of the role of the appraiser places ethical obligations upon those who serve in this capacity. These USPAP Standards reflect the current standards of the appraisal profession.

These Standards are for both appraisers and users of appraisal services. To maintain a high level of professional practice, appraisers observe these Standards. However, these Standards do not in themselves establish which individuals or assignments must comply. The Appraisal Foundation nor its Appraisal Standards Board is not a government entity with the power to make, judge, or enforce law. Compliance with USPAP is only required when either the service or the appraiser is obligated to comply by law or regulation, or by agreement with the client or intended users. When not obligated, individuals may still choose to comply.

USPAP addresses the ethical and performance obligations of appraisers through Definitions, Rules, Standards, Statements (if any), and Advisory Opinions. USPAP Standards deal with the procedures to be followed in performing an appraisal or appraisal review and the manner in which each is communicated. A brief description of the USPAP Standards are as follows:

- **Standards 1 and 2:** establish requirements for the development and communication of a real property appraisal.
- **Standards 3 and 4:** establishes requirements for the development and communication of an appraisal review.
- **Standards 5 and 6:** establishes requirements for the development and communication of a mass appraisal.
- **Standards 7 and 8:** establish requirements for the development and communication of a personal property appraisal.
- **Standards 9 and 10:** establish requirements for the development and communication of a business or intangible asset appraisal.

Section 23.01(b) [*Appraisals Generally*] of the Texas Property Tax Code states:

*“The market value of property shall be determined by the application of generally accepted appraisal methods and techniques. If the Appraisal District determines the appraised value of a property using mass appraisal standards, the mass appraisal standards must comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice....”* (underline added for emphasis)

Consequently, USPAP Standards 5 and 6 are assumed to be the applicable standard for ad valorem tax purposes in Texas, if mass appraisal practices are in fact being used to appraise the subject property. USPAP Advisory Opinion 32 suggests several USPAP standards other than Standards 5 or 6 can apply in ad valorem tax work. It appears that an appraiser engaged in ad valorem tax work in Texas is not specifically required by law to follow these USPAP standards if in fact mass appraisal practices have not been used to appraise the subject property. In this case it could be deemed appropriate to invoke the Jurisdictional Exception Rule which is applicable when there is a contradiction between the requirements of USPAP and the law or regulation of a jurisdiction. Please

see the P&A Policy Statement on USPAP as provided elsewhere in this report for a more detailed discussion regarding this matter.

## ETHICS RULE

Because of the fiduciary responsibilities inherent in professional appraisal practice, the appraiser must observe the highest standards of professional ethics. This Ethics Rule is divided into three sections:

- Conduct;
- Management;
- Confidentiality.

This Rule emphasizes the personal obligations and responsibilities of the individual appraiser. However, it should be noted that groups and organizations ***which are comprised of individual appraisers engaged in appraisal practice*** effectively share the same ethical obligations. To the extent the group or organization does not follow USPAP Standards when legally required, individual appraisers should take steps that are appropriate under the circumstances to ensure compliance with USPAP.

Compliance with these Standards is required when either the service or the appraiser is obligated by law or regulation, or by agreement with the client or intended users, to comply. ***Compliance is also required when an individual, by choice, represents that he or she is performing the service as an appraiser.***

An appraiser must not misrepresent his or her role when providing valuation services that are outside of appraisal practice.

***Honesty, impartiality, and professional competency*** are required of all appraisers under USPAP Standards. To document recognition and acceptance of his or her USPAP-related responsibilities in communicating an appraisal or appraisal review completed under USPAP, an appraiser is required to certify compliance with these Standards.

### CONDUCT

An appraiser must perform assignments with impartiality, objectivity, and independence, and without accommodation of personal interests.

An appraiser:

- must not perform an assignment with bias;
- must not advocate the cause or interest of any party or issue;
- ***must not accept an assignment that includes the reporting of predetermined opinions and conclusions;***
- must not misrepresent his or her role when providing valuation services that are outside of appraisal practice;
- must not communicate assignment results with the intent to mislead or to defraud;
- must not use or communicate a report or assignment results known by the appraiser to be misleading or fraudulent;
- must not knowingly permit an employee or other person to communicate a report or assignment results that are misleading or fraudulent report;
- must not use or rely on unsupported conclusions relating to characteristics such as race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, familial status, age, receipt of public assistance income, handicap, or an unsupported conclusion that homogeneity of such characteristics is necessary to maximize value;
- must not engage in criminal conduct;
- must not willfully or knowingly violate the requirements of the RECORD KEEPING RULE; and must not perform an assignment in a grossly negligent manner.

If known prior to accepting an assignment, and/or if discovered at any time during the assignment, an appraiser must disclose to the client, and in each subsequent report certification:

- any current or prospective interest in the subject property or parties involved; and
- any services regarding the subject property performed by the appraiser within the three year period immediately preceding acceptance of the assignment, as an appraiser or in any other capacity.

The appraiser can agree with the client to keep the mere occurrence of a prior appraisal assignment confidential. If an appraiser has agreed with the client not to disclose that he or she has appraised a property, the appraiser must decline all subsequent assignment that fall with the three year period. In assignments in which there is no report, only the initial disclosure to the client is required.

Presumably all parties in ad valorem tax appraisal will be aware of the ongoing yearly nature of the appraisal assignments performed by valuation consulting firms like Pritchard & Abbott, Inc.—i.e., it will not be confidential—so that this particular conduct instruction is more or less a moot point (regarding the three year period discussed) if the prior service is in fact the ad valorem tax appraisals performed in previous tax years.

## MANAGEMENT

The payment of a fee, commission, or a thing of value by the appraiser in connection with the procurement of an assignment must be disclosed. This disclosure must appear in the certification and in any transmittal letter in which conclusions of value are stated; however, the disclosure of the amount paid is not required. Intra-company payments to employees of groups or organizations involved in appraisal practice for business development do not require disclosure.

It is unethical for an appraiser to accept compensation for performing an assignment when it is contingent upon the reporting of a ***predetermined result, a direction in assignment results that favors the cause of the client, the amount of a value opinion, the attainment of a stipulated result,*** or the occurrence of a subsequent event directly related to the appraiser's opinions and specific to the assignment's purpose.

Advertising for or ***soliciting assignments in a manner that is false, misleading, or exaggerated*** is unethical. Decisions regarding finder or referral fees, contingent compensation, and advertising may not be the responsibility of an individual appraiser, but for a particular assignment it is the responsibility of the individual appraiser to ascertain that there has been no breach of ethics, that the assignment consulting assignment has been prepared in accordance with USPAP Standards, and that the report can be properly certified when required by USPAP Standards 2-3, 4-3, 6-3, 8-3, or 10-3.

An appraiser must affix, or authorize the use of, his or her signature to certify recognition and acceptance of his or her USPAP responsibilities in an appraisal or appraisal review assignment. An appraiser may authorize the use of his or her signature only on an assignment-by-assignment basis.

In addition, an appraiser must not affix the signature of another appraiser without his or her consent. An appraiser must exercise due care to prevent unauthorized use of his or her signature. However, an appraiser exercising such care is not responsible for unauthorized use of his or her signature.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

An appraiser must protect the confidential nature of the appraiser-property owner relationship.

An appraiser must act in good faith with regard to the legitimate interests of the client in the use of confidential information and in the communication of assignment results.

An appraiser must be aware of, and comply with, all confidentiality and privacy laws and regulations applicable in an assignment.

An appraiser must not disclose confidential factual data obtained from a property owner to anyone other than:

1. The client;
2. Parties specifically authorized by the client;
3. State appraiser regulatory agencies;
4. Third parties as may be authorized by due process of law; or
5. A duly authorized professional peer review committee except when such disclosure to a committee would violate applicable law or regulation.

An appraiser must take reasonable steps to safeguard access to confidential information and assignment results by unauthorized individuals, whether such information or results are in physical or electronic form. In addition, an appraiser must ensure that employees, coworkers, subcontractors, or others who may have access to confidential information or assignments results, are aware of the prohibitions on disclosure of such information or results.

It is unethical for a member of a duly authorized professional peer review committee to disclose confidential information presented to the committee.

When all confidential elements of confidential information are removed through redaction or the process of aggregation, client authorization is not required for the disclosure of the remaining information, as modified.

## RECORD KEEPING RULE

An appraiser must prepare a workfile for each appraisal or appraisal review assignment. A workfile must be in existence prior to the issuance of any report or other communication of assignment results. A written summary of an oral report must be added to the workfile within a reasonable time after the issuance of the oral report.

The workfile must include the name of the client and the identity, by name or type, of any other intended users, and true copies of all written reports, documented on any type of media. (A true copy is a replica of the report transmitted to the client. A photocopy or an electronic copy of the entire report transmitted to the client satisfies the requirement of a true copy.) A workfile must contain summaries of all oral reports or testimony, or a transcript of testimony, including the appraiser's signed and dated certification; and all other data, information, and documentation necessary to support the appraiser's opinions and conclusions and to show compliance with USPAP, or references to the location(s) of such other data, information, and documentation.

A workfile in support of a Restricted Appraisal Report or an oral appraisal report must be sufficient for the appraiser to produce an Appraisal Report. A workfile in support of an oral appraisal review report must be sufficient for the appraiser to produce an Appraisal Review Report.

An appraiser must retain the workfile for a period of at least ***five years after preparation*** or at least two years after final disposition of any judicial proceeding in which the appraiser provided testimony related to the assignment, whichever period expires last.

An appraiser must have custody of the workfile, or make appropriate workfile retention, access, and retrieval arrangements with the party having custody of the workfile. This includes ensuring that a workfile is stored in a medium that is retrievable by the appraiser throughout the prescribed record retention period. An appraiser having custody of a workfile must allow other appraisers with workfile obligations related to an assignment appropriate access and retrieval for the purpose of:

- submission to state appraiser regulatory agencies;
- compliance with due process of law;
- submission to a duly authorized professional peer review committee; or
- compliance with retrieval arrangements.

A workfile must be made available by the appraiser when required by a state appraiser regulatory agency or due process of law.

An appraiser who willfully or knowingly fails to comply with the obligations of this Record Keeping Rule is in violation of the Ethics Rule.

## COMPETENCY RULE

An appraiser must: (1) be competent to perform the assignment; (2) acquire the necessary competency to perform the assignment; or (3) decline or withdraw from the assignment. In all cases, the appraiser must perform competently when completing the assignment.

### BEING COMPETENT

The appraiser must determine, prior to agreeing to perform an assignment, that he or she can perform the assignment competently. Competency requires:

- the ability to properly identify the problem to be addressed;
- the knowledge and experience to complete the assignment competently; and
- the recognition and compliance with all laws and regulations that apply to the appraiser or the assignment.

Competency applies to factors such as, but not limited to, an appraiser's familiarity with a specific type of property, a market, a geographic area, or an analytical method. The background and experience of appraisers varies widely, and a lack of knowledge or experience can lead to inaccurate or inappropriate appraisal practice. ***The Competency Rule requires an appraiser to have both the knowledge and the experience required to perform a specific appraisal service competently.*** If an appraiser has been deemed to not have the required competency, the following steps must be taken in acquiring competency in order for that appraiser to perform the assignment under USPAP requirements.

For assignments with retrospective opinions and conclusions (which are allowed under certain prescribed circumstances in property tax work), the appraiser must meet the requirements of this Competency Rule at the time the assignment is performed, rather than the effective date of the appraisal.

### ACQUIRING COMPETENCY

If an appraiser determines he or she is not competent prior to accepting an assignment, the appraiser must:

- disclose the lack of knowledge and/or experience to the client before accepting the assignment;
- take all steps necessary or appropriate to complete the assignment competently; and
- describe, in the report, the lack of knowledge and/or experience and the steps taken to complete the assignment competently.

Competency can be acquired in various ways, including, but not limited to, personal study by the appraiser, association with an appraiser reasonably believed to have the necessary knowledge and/or experience, or retention of others who possess the necessary knowledge and/or experience.

In an assignment where geographic competency is required (certainly useful if not outright necessary in property tax appraisal assignments), an appraiser who is not familiar with the relevant market characteristics must acquire an understanding necessary to produce credible assignment results for the specific property type and market involved. Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., takes great pride in assigning and retaining appraisers who gain and then employ local knowledge and geographic competency in their appraisal assignments.

When an appraiser determines in the course of the assignment that he or she lacks the required knowledge and/or experience to complete the assignment competently, the appraiser must:

- notify the client;
- take all steps necessary or appropriate under the circumstances to complete the assignment competently;  
and
- describe, in the report, the lack of knowledge and/or experience and the steps taken to complete the assignment competently.

#### LACK OF COMPETENCY

If the appraiser cannot complete the assignment competently, the appraiser must decline or withdraw from the assignment.

## SCOPE OF WORK RULE

For each appraisal or appraisal review assignment, an appraiser must:

1. Identify the problem to be solved;
2. Determine and perform the scope of work necessary to develop credible assignment results; and
3. Disclose the scope of work in the report.

An appraiser must properly identify the problem to be solved in order to determine the appropriate scope of work. The appraiser must be prepared to demonstrate that the scope of work is sufficient to produce credible assignment results.

Scope of work includes, but is not limited to:

- the extent to which the property is identified;
- the extent to which tangible property is inspected;
- the type and extent of data researched; and
- the type and extent of analyses applied to arrive at opinions or conclusions.

Appraisers have broad flexibility and significant responsibility in determining the appropriate scope of work for an appraisal or appraisal review assignment. Credible assignment results require support by relevant evidence and logic. ***The credibility of assignment results is always measured in the context of the intended use.***

## PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

An appraiser must gather and analyze information about those assignment elements that are necessary to properly identify the appraisal, appraisal review or appraisal consulting problem to be solved. The assignment elements necessary for problem identification are addressed in the Standard 6-2:

- client and any other intended users;
- intended use of the appraiser's opinions and conclusions;
- type and definition of value;
- effective date of the appraiser's opinions and conclusions;
- subject of the assignment and its relevant characteristics; and
- assignment conditions.

This information provides the appraiser with the basis for determining the type and extent of research and analyses to include in the development of an appraisal. Similar information is necessary for problem identification in appraisal review and appraisal consulting assignments. Assignment conditions include:

- assumptions;
- extraordinary assumptions;
- hypothetical conditions;
- laws and regulations;
- jurisdictional exceptions; and
- other conditions that affect the scope of work.

## SCOPE OF WORK ACCEPTABILITY

The scope of work must include the research and analyses that are necessary to develop credible assignment results. The scope of work is acceptable when it meets or exceeds:

- the expectations of parties who are regularly intended users for similar assignments; and
- what an appraiser's peers' actions would be in performing the same or a similar assignment.

Determining the scope of work is an ongoing process in an assignment. Information or conditions discovered during the course of an assignment might cause the appraiser to reconsider the scope of work. An appraiser must be prepared to support the decision to exclude any investigation, information, method, or technique that would appear relevant to the client, another intended user, or the appraiser's peers.

An appraiser must not allow assignment conditions to limit the scope of work to such a degree that the assignment results are not credible in the context of the intended use. In addition, the appraiser must not allow the intended use of an assignment or a client's objectives to cause the assignment results to be biased.

## DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS

The report must contain sufficient information to allow intended the client and other intended users to understand the scope of work performed. Proper disclosure is required because clients and other intended users may rely on the assignment results. Sufficient information includes disclosure of research and analyses performed or not performed. ***The information disclosed must be appropriate for the intended use of the assignment results.***

Sufficient information includes disclosure of research and analyses performed and might also include disclosure of research and analyses not performed. ***The appraiser has broad flexibility and significant responsibility in the level of detail and manner of disclosing the scope of work in the appraisal report or appraisal review report.*** The appraiser may, but is not required to, consolidate the disclosure in a specific section or sections of the report, or use a particular label, heading or subheading. An appraiser may choose to disclose the scope of work as necessary throughout the report.

## JURISDICTIONAL EXCEPTION RULE

If any applicable law or regulation precludes compliance with any part of USPAP, only that part of USPAP becomes void for that assignment. When compliance with USPAP is required by federal law or regulation, no part of USPAP can be voided by a law or regulation of a state or local jurisdiction. ***When an appraiser properly follows this Rule in disregarding a part of USPAP, there is no violation of USPAP.***

In an assignment involving a jurisdictional exception, an appraiser must:

- identify the law or regulation that precludes compliance with USPAP;
- comply with that law or regulation;
- clearly and conspicuously disclose in the report the part of USPAP that is voided by that law or regulation; and
- cite in the report the law or regulation requiring this exception to USPAP compliance.

The purpose of the Jurisdictional Exception Rule is strictly limited to providing a saving or severability clause intended to preserve the balance of USPAP if one or more of its parts are determined as contrary to law or public policy of a jurisdiction. By logical extension, there can be no violation of USPAP by an appraiser who disregards, with proper disclosure, only the part or parts of USPAP that are void and of no force and effect in a particular assignment by operation of legal authority.

It is misleading for an appraiser to disregard a part or parts of USPAP as void and of no force and effect in a particular assignment without identifying the part or parts disregarded and the legal authority justifying this action in the appraiser's report.

“Law” includes constitutions, legislative and court-made law, and administrative rules (such as from the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts) and ordinances. “Regulations” include rules or orders having legal force, issued by an administrative agency. ***Instructions from a client or attorney do not establish a jurisdictional exception.***

A jurisdictional exception prevalent in Texas is that appraisers are seeking to establish “fair market value” as defined by the Texas Property Tax Code instead of “market value” as found in the USPAP definitions section.

## USPAP STANDARDS 5 AND 6: MASS APPRAISAL, DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTING (General Discussion)

In developing a mass appraisal, an appraiser must be aware of, understand, and correctly employ those recognized methods and techniques necessary to produce and communicate credible mass appraisals.

Standards 5 and 6 apply to all mass appraisals of real and personal property regardless of the purpose or use of such appraisals. It is directed toward the substantive aspects of developing and communicating competent analyses, opinions, and conclusions in the mass appraisal of properties, whether real property or personal property. Standard 5 is directed toward the substantive aspects of developing credible analyses, opinions, and conclusions in the mass appraisal of properties, while Standard 6 addresses the content and level of information required in a report that communicates the results of a mass appraisal. The reporting and jurisdictional exceptions applicable to public mass appraisals prepared for purposes of ad valorem taxation do not apply to mass appraisals prepared for other purposes.

A mass appraisal includes:

- identifying properties to be appraised;
- defining market areas of consistent behavior that applies to properties;
- identifying characteristics (supply and demand) that affect the creation of value in that market area;
- developing (specifying) a model structure that reflects the relationship among the characteristics affecting value in the market area;
- calibrating the model structure to determine the contribution of the individual characteristics affecting value;
- applying the conclusions reflected in the model to the characteristics of the properties being appraised; and
- reviewing the mass appraisal results.

**The Jurisdictional Exception Rule may apply to several sections of Standards 5 and 6 because ad valorem tax administration is subject to various state, county, and municipal laws.**

As previously stated in the P&A Policy Statement (page 2), it may not be possible or practicable for all the mass appraisal attributes listed above to be rigorously applied to the many types of complex and/or unique properties that P&A typically appraises. Often there are contractual limitations on the scope of work needed or required. More prevalently, these types of properties do not normally provide a reliable database of market transactions (or details of transactions) necessary for statistically supportable calibration of appraisal models and review of appraisal results. Generally these two functions are effectively accomplished through annual extended review meetings with taxpayers (and clients) who provide data, sometimes confidentially, that allows for appraisal models to be adjusted where necessary. Nevertheless, and notwithstanding whether P&A implicitly or explicitly employs or reports all attributes listed above, in all cases P&A at the minimum employs tenants of “generally accepted appraisal methods” which are the genesis of USPAP Standards.

Per USPAP guidelines, P&A will make known all departures and jurisdictional exceptions when invoked (if an appraisal method or specific requirement is applicable but not necessary to attain credible results in a particular assignment).

The various sections of Standard 5 (development of mass appraisal) and Standard 6 (communication of the mass appraisal results) are briefly summarized below:

- **Standard 5-1:** Establishes the appraiser's technical and ethical framework. Specifically, appraisers must recognize and use established principles, methods and techniques of appraisal in a careful manner while not committing substantial errors of fact or negligence that would materially affect the appraisal results and not give a credible estimate of fair market value. To this end appraisers must continuously improve his or her skills to maintain proficiency and keep abreast of any new developments in the real and personal property appraisal profession. This Standards does not imply that competence requires perfection, as perfection is impossible to attain. Instead, it requires appraisers to employ every reasonable effort with regards to due diligence and due care.
- **Standard 5-2:** Defines the introductory framework requirements of developing a mass appraisal, focusing on the identification and/or definition of: client(s), intended users, effective date, appraisal perspective, scope of work, extraordinary assumptions, hypothetical conditions, the type and definition of value being developed (typically "fair market value" for ad valorem tax purposes), characteristics of the property being appraised in relation to the type and definition of value and intended use, the characteristics of the property's market, the property's real or personal attributes, fractional interest applicability, highest and best use analysis along with other land-related considerations, and any other economic considerations relevant to the property.
- **Standard 5-3:** Defines requirements for developing and specifying appropriate mass appraisal data and elements applicable for real and personal property. For real property, the data and elements include: existing land use regulations, reasonably probable modification of such regulations, economic supply and demand, the physical adaptability of the real estate, neighborhood trends, and highest and best use analysis. For personal property, the relevant data and elements include: identification of industry trends, trade level, highest and best use, and recognition of the appropriate market consistent with the type and definition of value.
- **Standard 5-4:** Further defines requirements for developing mass appraisal models, focusing on development of standardized data collection forms, procedures, and training materials that are used uniformly on the universe of properties under consideration. This rule specifies that appraisers employ recognized techniques for specifying and calibrating mass appraisal models. Model specification is the formal development of a model in a statement or mathematical equation, including all due considerations for physical, functional, and external market factors as they may affect the appraisal. These models must accurately represent the relationship between property value and supply and demand factors, as represented by quantitative and qualitative property characteristics. Models must be calibrated using recognized techniques, including, but not limited to, multiple linear regression, nonlinear regression, and adaptive estimation. Models may be specified incorporating the income, market, and/or cost approaches to value and may be tabular, mathematical, linear, nonlinear, or any other structure suitable for representing the observable property characteristics such as adaptive estimation. Model calibration refers to the process of analyzing sets of property and market data to determine the specific parameters of a model.
- **Standard 5-5:** Defines requirements for collection of sufficient factual data, in both qualitative and quantitative terms, necessary to produce credible appraisal results. The property characteristics collected must be contemporaneous with the effective date of the appraisal. The data collection program should incorporate a quality control procedure, including checks and audits of the data to ensure current and consistent records. This rule also calls for calls for an appraiser, in developing income and expense statements and cashflow projections, to weigh historical information and trends, current market factors affecting such trends, and reasonably anticipated events, such as competition from developments either planned or under construction. Terms and conditions of any leases should be analyzed, as well as the need for and extent of any physical inspection of the properties being appraised.

- **Standard 5-6:** Defines requirements for application of a calibrated model to the property being appraised. This rule calls for: the appraiser to recognize methods or techniques based on the cost, market, and income approaches for improved parcels; the appraiser to value sites by recognized methods or techniques such as allocation method, abstraction method, capitalization of ground rent, and land residual; the appraiser to develop value of leased fee or leasehold estates with consideration for terms and conditions of existing leases, and, when applicable by law, as if held in fee simple whereas market rents are substituted for actual contract rents; the appraiser to analyze the effect on value, if any, of the assemblage of the various parcels, divided interests, or component parts of a property; the appraiser to analyze anticipated public or private improvements located on or off the site, and analyze the effect on value, if any, of such anticipated improvements to the extent they are reflected in market actions.
- **Standard 5-7:** Defines the reconciliation process of a mass appraisal. Specifically, appraisers must analyze the results and/or applicability of the various approaches used while ensuring that, on an overall basis, standards of reasonableness and accuracy are maintained with the appraisal model selected (underline added for emphasis). It is implicit in mass appraisal that, even when properly specified and calibrated models are used, some individual value conclusions will not meet standards of reasonableness, consistency, and accuracy. Appraisers have a professional responsibility to ensure that, on an overall basis, models produce value conclusions that meet attainable standards of accuracy.
- **Standard 6-1:** Defines general requirements of a mass appraisal written report by addressing the level of information required that will allow the report to be non-misleading, clearly understood, and sufficiently qualified with any assumptions and conditions (elements of which are further detailed in the next three sections of this report that discuss P&A appraisal procedures with regards to specific categories of property).
- **Standard 6-2:** Defines specific content required to be included in a mass appraisal written report.
- **Standard 6-3:** Defines the certification of the mass appraisal written report.

The following sections of this report discuss in more detail the various elements of the development of P&A's mass appraisals and associated written reports as required by USPAP Standards 5 and 6, with regards to P&A appraisal of Mineral Interests, Industrial, Utility, Related Personal Property, and Real Estate.

## USPAP STANDARDS 5, 6-1, 6-2: MASS APPRAISAL OF MINERAL INTERESTS

*Note: This section, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated appraisal reports specific to the subject property or properties, constitutes the “mass appraisal written report” as required by USPAP Standards 6-1 and 6-2. For mass appraisal, a written report is not provided for each individual property. An individual property record or worksheet may describe the valuation of a specific property after the application of the mass appraisal model. USPAP Standards 6-3 (certification) can be found at the end of this report. USPAP Standards 5-1 through 5-7 (instructions and explanations regarding the development, application, and reconciliation of mass appraisal values), as they apply to P&A mass appraisal procedures, are discussed below. USPAP DOES NOT DICTATE THE FORM, FORMAT, OR STYLE OF APPRAISAL REPORTS, WHICH ARE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEEDS OF USERS AND PROVIDERS OF APPRAISAL SERVICES. USPAP ALSO DOES NOT MANDATE THAT EACH APPRAISAL REPORT BE LENGTHY AND FULL OF DISCLAIMERS. Readers should note that all P&A reports, unless stated otherwise, are of a “restricted” nature whereas additional documentation and detail may be available per certain Texas Property Tax Code provisions.*

## INTRODUCTION

Definition of Appraisal Responsibility (Scope of Effort): The Mineral Valuation Department of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. (“P&A” hereinafter), is responsible for developing credible values for mineral interests (full or fractional percentage ownership of oil and gas leasehold interest, the amount and type of which are legally and/or contractually created and specified through deeds and leases, et.al.) associated with producing (or capable of producing) leases. Mineral interests are typically considered real property because of their derivation from the bundle of rights associated with original fee simple ownership of land. Typically all the mineral interests that apply to a single producing lease are consolidated by type (working vs. royalty) with each type then appraised for full value which is then distributed to the various fractional decimal interest owners prorata to their individual type and percentage amount.

P&A’s typical client is a governmental entity charged with appraisal responsibility for ad valorem tax purposes, although other types of clients (private businesses, individuals, etc.) occasionally contract for appraisal services which are strictly for various non-ad valorem tax purposes so that no conflicts of interest are created with P&A’s core ad valorem tax work.

P&A hereby makes the **assumption** that, in all appraisal assignments performed for governmental entities in satisfaction of contractual obligations related to ad valorem tax, the client does not wish to or cannot legally request the appraisal report not identify the client.

Intended users of our reports are typically the client(s) for which we are under direct contract. Although taxpayers or their agents who own and/or represent the subject property being appraised often receive these reports either by law or as a courtesy of the client or P&A, this receipt does not mean these parties automatically become Intended Users as defined by USPAP. **A party receiving a copy of a report in order to satisfy disclosure requirements does not become an intended user of the appraisal or mass appraisal unless the appraiser specifically identifies such party as an intended user.** Potential other users include parties involved in adjudication of valuation disputes (review board members, lawyers, judges, etc.), governmental agencies which periodically review our appraisals for various statutory purposes (such as the Texas Comptroller’s Office) and private parties who may obtain copies of our appraisals through Open Records Requests made to governmental agencies.

*This section of P&A's USPAP report is not applicable to any mineral or mineral interest property that an appraisal district appraises outside of P&A's appraisal services, in which case the appraisal district's overall USPAP report should be referenced.*

P&A makes the **Extraordinary Assumption** that all properties appraised for ad valorem tax purposes are marketable whereas ownership and title to property are free of encumbrances and other restrictions that would affect fair market value to an extent not obvious to the general marketplace. If and/or when we are made aware of any encumbrances, etc., these would be taken into account in our appraisal in which case the extraordinary assumption stated above would be revoked.

P&A is typically under contract to determine current market value or "fair market value" of said mineral interests. Fair market value is typically described as the price at which a property would sell for if:

- exposed in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the buyer and seller know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is, or can be, adapted and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- both the buyer and seller seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other. [Exigencies are pressing or urgent conditions that leave one party at a disadvantage to the other.]

For ad valorem tax purposes the effective date is usually legislatively specified by the particular State in which we are working - for example, in Texas the lien date is January 1 per the Texas Property Tax Code. For ad valorem tax purposes, the date of the appraisals and reports are typically several months past the effective date, thereby leaving open the possibility that a retrospective approach is appropriate under limited and prescribed circumstances (information after the effective date being applicable only if it confirms a trend or other appraisal condition that existed and was generally known as of the effective date).

P&A believes this section of this report, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated report(s), meets the USPAP definition of "typical practice"; i.e., it satisfies a level of work that is consistent with:

- the expectations of participants in the market for the same or similar appraisal services; and
- what P&A's peers' actions would be in performing the same or similar appraisal services in compliance with USPAP.

**Legal and Statutory Requirements:** In Texas, the provisions of the Texas Property Tax Code and other relevant legislative measures involving appraisal administration and procedures control the work of P&A as an extension of the Appraisal District. Other states in which P&A is employed will have similar controlling legislation, regulatory agencies, and governmental entities. P&A is responsible for appraising property on the basis of its fair market value as of the stated effective date (January 1 in Texas) for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit that imposes ad valorem taxes on property in the contracted Appraisal District. All mineral properties (interests) are reappraised annually. The definition of Fair Market Value is provided and promulgated for use in ad valorem tax work in Texas by the Texas Property Tax Code, and therefore as a **Jurisdictional Exception** supercedes the definition of "market value" as found in USPAP definitions.

NOTE: IN TEXAS, P&A BELIEVES THE PROPERTY BEING APPRAISED AND PLACED ON THE TAX ROLL IS THE INTEREST AND NOT THE OIL OR GAS MINERAL ITSELF, PER PROPERTY TAX CODE SECTION 1.04(2)(F). WHILE OIL AND GAS RESERVES CERTAINLY HAVE VALUE, THE FACT IS THAT IT IS THE INTERESTS IN THESE MINERALS THAT ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD, NOT THE MINERALS THEMSELVES. THE SALE OF MINERALS AS THEY ARE EXTRACTED FROM THE SUBSURFACE OF THE LAND WHERE THEY RESIDE AS MINERALS IN PLACE "MONETIZES" THE INTEREST AND THUS GIVES THE INTEREST ITS VALUE. WHENEVER P&A REFERS TO

“MINERAL PROPERTIES” IN THIS REPORT OR IN ANY OTHER SETTING, IT IS THE MINERAL INTEREST, AND NOT THE MINERAL ITSELF, THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE REFERENCE.

Administrative Requirements: P&A follows generally accepted and/or recognized appraisal practices and when applicable, the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) regarding its appraisal practices and procedures. P&A, when applicable, also subscribes to the standards promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation known as the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). In all cases where IAAO and/or USPAP requirements cannot be satisfied for reasons of practicality or irrelevancy, P&A subscribes to “generally accepted appraisal methods and techniques” so that its value conclusions are credible and defensible. P&A submits annual or biannual contract bids to the Office of the Chief Appraiser and is bound to produce appraisal estimates on industrial, utility and personal properties within the cost constraints of said bid. Any appraisal practices and procedures followed by P&A not explicitly defined through IAAO or USPAP requirements are specified by the Texas Property Tax Code and/or at the specific request or direction of the Office of the Chief Appraiser.

### **Appraisal Resources**

Personnel: The Mineral Valuation Division staff consists of competent Petroleum Engineers, Geologists, and Appraisers. All personnel are Registered Professional Appraisers with the State of Texas, or are progressing towards this designation within the allowable time frames prescribed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and/or other licensing and regulatory agencies as applicable.

Data: For each mineral property a common set of data characteristics (i.e. historical production, price and expense data) is collected from various sources and entered into P&A's mainframe computer system. Historical production data and price data is available through state agencies (Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Comptroller, et al.) or private firms who gather, format and repackage such data for sale commercially. Each property's characteristic data drives the computer-assisted mass appraisal approach to valuation.

Information Systems: The mainframe systems are augmented by the databases that serve the various in-house and 3<sup>rd</sup>-party applications on desktop personal computers. In addition, communication and dissemination of appraisals and other information is available to the taxpayer and client through electronic means including internet and other phone-line connectivity. The appraiser supervising any given contract fields many of the public's questions or redirects them to the proper department personnel.

### **VALUATION APPROACH (MODEL SPECIFICATION)**

Concepts of Value: The valuation of oil and gas properties is not an exact science, and exact accuracy is not attainable due to many factors. Nevertheless, standards of reasonable performance do exist, and there are usually reliable means of measuring and applying these standards.

Petroleum properties are subject to depletion, and capital investment must be returned before economic exhaustion of the resource (mineral reserves). The examination of petroleum properties involves understanding the geology of the resource (producing and non-producing), type of reservoir energy, the methods of secondary and enhanced recovery (if applicable), and the surface treatment and marketability of the produced petroleum product(s).

Evaluation of mineral properties is a continuous process; the value as of the lien date merely represents a “snapshot” in time. The potential value of mineral interests derived from sale of minerals to be extracted from the ground change with mineral price fluctuation in the open market, changes in extraction technology, costs of extraction, and other variables such as the value of money.

## Approaches to Value for Petroleum Property

**Cost Approach:** The use of cost data in an appraisal for market value is based upon the economic principle of substitution. The cost approach typically derives value by a model that begins with replacement cost new (RCN) and then applies depreciation in all its forms (physical depreciation, functional and economic obsolescence). This method is difficult to apply to oil and gas properties since lease acquisition and development may bear no relation to present worth. Though very useful in the appraisal of many other types of properties, the cost approach is not readily applicable to mineral properties. [Keep in mind that the property actually being appraised is the mineral interest and not the oil and gas reserves themselves. Trying to apply the cost approach to evaluation of mineral interests is like trying to apply the cost approach to land; it is a moot point because both are real properties that are inherently non-replaceable.] **As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., does not employ the cost approach in the appraisal of mineral interests.**

**Market Approach:** This approach may be defined as one which uses data available from actual transactions recorded in the market place itself; i.e., sales of comparable properties from which a comparison to the subject property can be made. Ideally, this approach's main advantage involves not only an opinion but an opinion supported by the actual spending of money. Although at first glance this approach seems to more closely incorporate the aspects of fair market value per its classical definition, there are two factors that severely limit the usefulness of the market approach for appraising oil and gas properties. First, oil and gas property sales data is seldom disclosed (in non-disclosure states such as Texas); consequently there is usually a severe lack of market data sufficient for meaningful statistical analysis. Second, all conditions of each sale must be known and carefully investigated to be sure one does have a comparative indicator of value per fair market value prerequisites.

Many times when these properties do change hands, it is generally through company mergers and acquisitions where other assets in addition to oil and gas reserves are involved; this further complicates the analysis whereby a total purchase price must be allocated to the individual components - a speculative and somewhat arbitrary task at best. In the case of oil and gas properties, a scarcity of sales requires that every evidence of market data be investigated and analyzed. Factors relative to the sale of oil and gas properties are:

- current production and estimated declines forecast by the buyer;
- estimated probable and potential reserves;
- general lease and legal information which defines privileges or limitation of the equity sold;
- undeveloped potential such as secondary recovery prospects;
- proximity to other production already operated by the purchaser;
- contingencies and other cash equivalents; and
- other factors such as size of property, gravity of oil, etc.

In the event that all these factors are available for analysis, the consensus effort would be tantamount to performing an income approach to value (or trying to duplicate the buyer's income approach to value), thereby making the market approach somewhat moot in its applicability. **As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., rarely employs a rigorous application of the market approach in the appraisal of mineral interests.**

**Income Approach:** This approach to value most readily yields itself to the appraisal of mineral interests. Data is readily available whereby a model can be created that reasonably estimates a future income stream to the property. This future income may then be converted (discounted) into an estimate of current value. Many refer to this as a capitalization method, because capitalization is the process of converting an income stream into a capital sum (value). As with any method, the final value is no better than the reliability of the input data. The underlying assumption is that people purchase the property for the future income the property will yield. If the land or improvements are of any residual value after the cessation of oil and gas production, that value should also be included (if those components are also being appraised).

The relevant income that should be used is the expected future net income. Assumptions of this method are:

- Past income and expenses are not a consideration, except insofar as they may be a guide to estimating future net income.
- That the producing life as well as the reserves (quantity of the minerals) are estimated for the property.
- Future income is less valuable than current income, and so future net income must be discounted to make it equivalent to the present income. This discount factor reflects the premium of present money over future money, i.e., interest rate, liquidity, investment management, and risk.

**As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., relies predominantly on the income approach to value in the appraisal of mineral interests.**

## **DATA COLLECTION/VALIDATION**

Sources of Data: The main source of P&A's property data is data from the Railroad Commission of Texas as reported by operators. As a monthly activity, the data processing department receives data tapes or electronic files which have updated and new well and production data. Other discovery tools are fieldwork by appraisers, financial data from operators, information from chief appraisers, tax assessors, trade publications and city and local newspapers. Other members of the public often provide P&A information regarding new wells and other useful facts related to property valuation.

Another crucial set of data to obtain is the ownership of these mineral interests. Typically a mineral lease is fractionated and executed with several if not many owners. This information is typically requested (under a promise of confidentiality concerning owners' personal information) from pipeline purchasers and/or other entities (such as operators) who have the responsibility of disbursing the income to the mineral interest owners. Another source of ownership information is through the taxpayers themselves who file deeds of ownership transfer and/or correspond with P&A or the appraisal district directly.

Data Collection Procedures: Electronic and field data collection requires organization, planning and supervision of the appraisal staff. Data collection procedures for mineral properties are generally accomplished globally by the company; i.e., production and price data for the entire state is downloaded at one time into the computer system. Appraisers also individually gather and record specific and particular information to the appraisal file records, which serves as the basis for the valuation of mineral properties. P&A is divided into four district offices covering different geographic areas. Each office has a district manager, appraisal and ownership maintenance staff, and clerical staff as appropriate. While overall standards of performance are established and upheld for the various district offices, quality of data is emphasized as the goal and responsibility of each appraiser.

## **VALUATION ANALYSIS (MODEL CALIBRATION)**

Appropriate revisions and/or enhancements of schedules or discounted cash flow software are annually made and then tested prior to the appraisals being performed. Calibration typically involves performing multiple discounted cash flow tests for leases with varying parameter input to check the correlation and relationship of such indicators as: Dollars of Value Per Barrel of Reserves; Dollars of Value Per Daily Average Barrel Produced; Dollars of Expense Per Daily Average Barrel Produced; Years Payout of Purchase Price (Fair Market Value). In a more classical calibration procedure, the validity of values by P&A's income approach to value is tested against actual market transactions, if and when these transactions and verifiable details of these transactions are disclosed to P&A. Of course these transactions must be analyzed for meeting all requisites of fair market value definition. Any conclusions of this analysis are then compared to industry benchmarks for reasonableness before being incorporated into the calibration procedure.

## **INDIVIDUAL VALUE REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Individual property values are reviewed several times in the appraisal process. P&A's discounted cashflow software dynamically generates various benchmark indicators that the appraiser reviews concurrent with the value being generated. These benchmarks often prompt the appraiser to reevaluate some or all of the parameters of data entry so as to arrive at a value more indicative of industry standards. Examples of indicators are dollars of value per barrel of oil reserve, years payout, etc. In addition to appraiser review, taxpayers are afforded the opportunity to review the appraised values, either before or after Notices of Appraised Value are prepared. Operators routinely meet with P&A's appraisers to review parameters and to provide data not readily available to P&A through public or commercial sources, such as individual lease operating expense and reserve figures. And of course, all property values are subject to review through normal protest and Appraisal Review Board procedures, with P&A acting as an extension of the Office of the Chief Appraiser.

## **PERFORMANCE TESTS**

An independent test of the appraisal performance of properties appraised by P&A is conducted by the State of Texas Comptroller's Office through the annual Property Value Study for school funding purposes. This study determines the degree of uniformity and the median level of appraisal for mineral properties. School jurisdictions are given an opportunity to appeal any preliminary findings. After the appeal process is resolved, the Comptroller publishes a report of the findings of the study, including in the report the median level of appraisal, the coefficient of dispersion around the median level of appraisal and any other standard statistical measures that the Comptroller considers appropriate.

## USPAP STANDARDS 5, 6-1, 6-2: MASS APPRAISAL OF INDUSTRIAL, UTILITY AND RELATED PERSONAL PROPERTY

*Note: This section, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated appraisal reports specific to the subject property or properties, constitutes the “mass appraisal written report” as required by USPAP Standards 6-1 and 6-2. For mass appraisal, a written report is not provided for each individual property. An individual property record or worksheet may describe the valuation of a specific property after the application of the mass appraisal model. USPAP Standard 6-3 (certification) can be found at the end of this report. USPAP Standards 5-1 through 5-7 (instructions and explanations regarding the development, application, and reconciliation of mass appraisal values), as they apply to P&A mass appraisal procedures, are discussed below. USPAP DOES NOT DICTATE THE FORM, FORMAT, OR STYLE OF APPRAISAL REPORTS, WHICH ARE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEEDS OF USERS AND PROVIDERS OF APPRAISAL SERVICES. USPAP ALSO DOES NOT MANDATE THAT EACH APPRAISAL REPORT BE LENGTHY AND FULL OF DISCLAIMERS. Readers should note that all P&A reports, unless stated otherwise, are of a “restricted” nature whereas additional documentation and detail may be available per certain Texas Property Tax Code provisions.*

### INTRODUCTION

Definition of Appraisal Responsibility (Scope of Effort): The Engineering Services Department of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. (P&A) is responsible for developing fair and uniform market values for industrial, utility and personal properties.

P&A’s typical client is a governmental entity charged with appraisal responsibility for ad valorem tax purposes, although other types of clients (private businesses, individuals, etc.) occasionally contract for appraisal services which are strictly for various non-ad valorem tax purposes so that no conflicts of interest are created with P&A’s core ad valorem tax work.

P&A hereby makes the **assumption** that, in all appraisal assignments performed for governmental entities in satisfaction of contractual obligations related to ad valorem tax , the client does not wish to or cannot legally request the appraisal report not identify the client.

Intended users of our reports are typically the client(s) for which we are under direct contract. Although taxpayers or their agents who own and/or represent the subject property being appraised often receive these reports either by law or as a courtesy of the client or P&A, this receipt does not mean these parties automatically become Intended Users as defined by USPAP. **A party receiving a copy of a report in order to satisfy disclosure requirements does not become an intended user of the appraisal or mass appraisal unless the appraiser specifically identifies such party as an intended user.** Potential other users include parties involved in adjudication of valuation disputes (review board members, lawyers, judges, etc.), governmental agencies which periodically review our appraisals for various statutory purposes (such as the Texas Comptroller’s Office) and private parties who may obtain copies of our appraisals through Open Records Requests made to governmental agencies.

***This section of P&A’s USPAP report is not applicable to any Industrial, Utility, or related Personal Property that an appraisal district appraises outside of P&A’s appraisal services, in which case the appraisal district’s overall USPAP report should be referenced.***

P&A makes the **Extraordinary Assumption** that all properties appraised for ad valorem tax purposes are marketable whereas ownership and title to property are free of encumbrances and other restrictions that would affect fair market value to an extent not obvious to the general marketplace. If and/or when we are made aware of any encumbrances, etc., these would be taken into account in our appraisal in which case the extraordinary assumption stated above would be revoked.

P&A is typically under contract to determine current market value or “fair market value” of said industrial, utility, and related personal property. Fair market value is typically described as the price at which a property would sell for if:

- exposed in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the buyer and seller know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is, or can be, adapted and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- both the buyer and seller seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other. [Exigencies are pressing or urgent conditions that leave one party at a disadvantage to the other.]

For ad valorem tax purposes the effective date is usually legislatively specified by the particular State in which we are working - for example, in Texas the lien date is January 1 per the Texas Property Tax Code. For ad valorem tax purposes, the date of the appraisals and reports are typically several months past the effective date, thereby leaving open the possibility that a retrospective approach is appropriate under limited and prescribed circumstances (information after the effective date being applicable only if it confirms a trend or other appraisal condition that existed and was generally known as of the effective date).

P&A believes this section of this report, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated report(s), meets the USPAP definition of “typical practice”; i.e., it satisfies a level of work that is consistent with:

- the expectations of participants in the market for the same or similar appraisal services; and
- what P&A’s peers’ actions would be in performing the same or similar appraisal services in compliance with USPAP.

Legal and Statutory Requirements: The provisions of the Texas Property Tax Code and relevant legislative measures involving appraisal administration and procedures control the work of P&A as a subcontractor to the Appraisal District. P&A is responsible for appraising property on the basis of its market value as of January 1 for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit that imposes ad valorem taxes on property in the contracted Appraisal District. All industrial, utility and personal properties are reappraised annually. The definition of Fair Market Value is provided and promulgated for use in ad valorem tax work in Texas by the Texas Property Tax Code, and therefore as a **Jurisdictional Exception** supercedes the definition of “market value” as found in USPAP definitions.

Administrative Requirements: P&A follows generally accepted and/or recognized appraisal practices and when applicable, the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) regarding its appraisal practices and procedures. P&A, when applicable, also subscribes to the standards promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation known as the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). In all cases where IAAO and/or USPAP requirements cannot be satisfied for reasons of practicality or irrelevancy, P&A subscribes to “generally accepted appraisal methods and techniques” so that its value conclusions are credible and defensible. P&A submits annual or biannual contract bids to the Office of the Chief Appraiser and is bound to produce appraisal estimates on industrial, utility and personal properties within the cost constraints of said bid. Any appraisal practices and procedures followed by P&A not explicitly defined through IAAO or USPAP

requirements are specified by the Texas Property Tax Code and/or at the specific request or direction of the Office of the Chief Appraiser.

## **Appraisal Resources**

Personnel: The Engineering Services Department and P&A's appraisal staff consists of appraisers with degrees in engineering, business and accounting. All personnel are Registered Professional Appraisers with the State of Texas, or are progressing towards this designation as prescribed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

Data: A set of data characteristics (i.e. original cost, year of acquisition, quantities, capacities, net operating income, property description, etc.) for each industrial, utility and personal property is collected from various sources. This data is maintained in either hard copy or computer files. Each property's characteristic data drives the appropriate computer-assisted appraisal approach to valuation.

Information Systems: P&A's mainframe computer system is composed of in-house custom software augmented by schedules and databases that reside as various applications on personal computers (PC). P&A offers a variety of systems for providing property owners and public entities with information services.

## **VALUATION APPROACH (MODEL SPECIFICATION)**

Concepts of Value: The valuation of industrial, utility and personal properties is not an exact science, and exact accuracy is not attainable due to many factors. These are considered complex properties and some are considered Special Purpose properties. Nevertheless, standards of reasonable performance do exist, and there are reliable means of measuring and applying these standards.

The evaluation and appraisal of industrial, utility and personal property relies heavily on the discovery of the property followed by the application of recognized appraisal techniques. The property is subject to inflation and depreciation in all forms. The appraisal of industrial and personal property involves understanding petroleum, chemical, steel, electrical power, lumber and paper industry processes along with a myriad of other industrial processes. Economic potential for this property usually follows either the specific industry or the general business economy. The appraisal of utility properties involves understanding telecommunications, electrical transmission and distribution, petroleum pipelines and the railroad industry. Utility properties are subject to regulation and economic obsolescence. The examination of utility property involves the understanding of the present value of future income in a regulated environment.

The goal for valuation of industrial, utility and personal properties is to appraise all taxable property at "fair market value". The Texas Property Tax Code defines Fair Market value as the price at which a property would transfer for cash or its equivalent under prevailing market conditions if:

- exposed for sale in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the seller and the purchaser know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is adapted and for which it is capable of being used and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- both the seller and purchaser seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other.

## **Approaches to Value for Industrial, Utility, and Personal Property**

**Cost Approach:** The use of cost data in an appraisal for market value is based upon the economic principle of substitution. This method is most readily applicable to the appraisal of industrial and personal property and some utility property. Under this method, the market value of property equals the value of the land plus the current cost of improvements less accrued depreciation. An inventory of the plant improvements and machinery and equipment is maintained by personally inspecting each facility every year. **As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., relies predominantly on the cost approach to value in the appraisal of industrial, utility, and personal property.**

**Market Approach:** This approach is characterized as one that uses sales data available from actual transactions in the market place. There are two factors that severely limit the usefulness of the market approach for appraising industrial, utility and personal properties. First, the property sales data is seldom disclosed; consequently there is insufficient market data for these properties available for meaningful statistical analysis. Second, all conditions of sale must be known and carefully investigated to be sure one does have a comparative indicator of value. Many times when these properties do change hands, it is generally through company mergers and acquisitions where other assets and intangibles in addition to the industrial, utility and personal property are involved. The complexity of these sales presents unique challenges and hindrances to the process of allocation of value to the individual components of the transaction.

In the case of industrial, utility and personal properties, a scarcity of sales requires that all evidence of market data be investigated and analyzed. Factors relative to the sale of these properties are:

- plant capacity and current production; terms of sale, cash or equivalent;
- complexity of property;
- age of property;
- proximity to other industry already operated by the purchaser; and
- other factors such as capital investment in the property.

**As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., rarely employs a rigorous application of the market approach in the appraisal of industrial, utility, and personal property.**

**Income Approach:** This approach to value most readily yields itself to all income generating assets, especially utility properties. Data for utility properties is available from annual reports submitted to regulatory agencies whereby future income may be estimated, and then this future income may be converted into an estimate of value. The valuation of an entire company by this method is sometimes referred to as a Unit Value. Many refer to this as a capitalization method, because capitalization is the process of converting an income stream into a capital sum (value). As with any method, the final value estimate is no better than the reliability of the input data. The underlying assumption is that people purchase the property for the future income the property will yield.

The relevant income that should be used in the valuation model is the expected future net operating income after depreciation but before interest expense (adjustments for Federal Income Taxes may or may not be required). Assumptions of this method are:

- Past income and expenses are a consideration, insofar as they may be a guide to future income, subject to regulation and competition.
- The economic life of the property can be estimated.
- The future production, revenues and expenses can be accurately forecasted. Future income is less valuable than current income, and so future net income must be discounted to make it equivalent to the present income. This discount factor reflects the premium of present money over future money, i.e., interest rate, liquidity, investment management, and risk.

**As a general rule, and for the reasons stated above, Pritchard & Abbott, Inc., employs the income approach in the appraisal of industrial and utility property only when quantifiable levels of income are able to be reliably determined and/or projected for the subject property. P&A does not employ the income approach in the appraisal of personal property.**

## **DATA COLLECTION/VALIDATION**

Sources of Data: The main source of P&A's property data for industrial and personal property is through fieldwork by the appraisers and commercially/publicly available schedules developed on current costs. Data for performing utility appraisals is typically provided by the taxpayer or is otherwise available at various regulatory agencies (Texas Railroad Commission, Public Utilities Commission, FERC, et. al.). Other discovery tools are financial data from annual reports, information from chief appraisers, renditions, tax assessors, trade publications and city and local newspapers. Other members of the public often provide P&A information regarding new industry and other useful facts related to property valuation.

Data Collection Procedures: Electronic and field data collection requires organization, planning and supervision of the appraisal staff. Data collection procedures have been established for industrial and personal properties. Appraisers gather and record information in the mainframe system, where customized programs serve as the basis for the valuation of industrial, utility and personal properties. P&A is divided into multiple district offices covering different geographic zones. Each office has a district manager and field staff. While overall standards of performance are established and upheld for the various district offices, quality of data is emphasized as the goal and responsibility of each appraiser. Additionally, P&A's Engineering Services Department provides supervision and guidance to all district offices to assist in maintaining uniform and consistent appraisal practices throughout the company.

## **VALUATION ANALYSIS (MODEL CALIBRATION)**

The validity of the values by P&A's income and cost approaches to value is tested against actual market transactions, if and when these transactions and verifiable details of the transactions are disclosed to P&A. These transactions are checked for meeting all requisites of fair market value definition. Any conclusions from this analysis are also compared to industry benchmarks before being incorporated in the calibration procedure. Appropriate revisions of cost schedules and appraisal software are annually made and then tested for reasonableness prior to the appraisals being performed.

## **INDIVIDUAL VALUE REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Individual property values are reviewed several times in the appraisal process. P&A's industrial, utility, personal property programs and appraisal spreadsheets afford the appraiser the opportunity to review the value being generated. Often the appraiser is prompted to reevaluate some or all of the parameters of data entry so as to arrive at a value more indicative of industry standards. Examples of indicators are original cost, replacement cost, service life, age, net operating income, capitalization rate, etc. In addition to appraiser review, taxpayers are afforded the opportunity to review the appraised values either before or after Notices of Appraised Value are prepared. Taxpayers, agents and representatives routinely meet with P&A's appraisers to review parameters and to provide data not readily available to P&A through public or commercial sources, such as investment costs and capitalization rate studies. And of course, all property values are subject to review through normal protest and Appraisal Review Board procedures, with P&A acting as a representative of the Office of the Chief Appraiser.

## **PERFORMANCE TESTS**

An independent test of the appraisal performance of properties appraised by P&A is conducted by the State of Texas Comptroller's Office through the annual Property Value Study for school funding purposes. This study determines the degree of uniformity and the median level of appraisal for utility properties. School jurisdictions are given an opportunity to appeal any preliminary findings. After the appeal process is resolved, the Comptroller publishes a report of the findings of the study, including in the report the median level of appraisal, the coefficient of dispersion around the median level of appraisal and any other standard statistical measures that the Comptroller considers appropriate.

## USPAP STANDARDS 5, 6-1, 6-2: MASS APPRAISAL OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

*Note: This section, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated appraisal reports specific to the subject property or properties, constitutes the “mass appraisal written report” as required by USPAP Standards 6-1 and 6-2. For mass appraisal, a written report is not provided for each individual property. An individual property record or worksheet may describe the valuation of a specific property after the application of the mass appraisal model. USPAP Standard 6-3 (certification) can be found at the end of this report. USPAP Standards 5-1 through 5-7 (instructions and explanations regarding the development, application, and reconciliation of mass appraisal values), as they apply to P&A mass appraisal procedures, are discussed below. USPAP DOES NOT DICTATE THE FORM, FORMAT, OR STYLE OF APPRAISAL REPORTS, WHICH ARE FUNCTIONS OF THE NEEDS OF USERS AND PROVIDERS OF APPRAISAL SERVICES. USPAP ALSO DOES NOT MANDATE THAT EACH APPRAISAL REPORT BE LENGTHY AND FULL OF DISCLAIMERS. Readers should note that all P&A reports, unless stated otherwise, are of a “restricted” nature whereas additional documentation and detail may be available per certain Texas Property Tax Code provisions.*

### INTRODUCTION

Definition of Appraisal Responsibility (Scope of Effort): The Residential Division of Pritchard & Abbott, Inc. (“P&A” hereinafter), is responsible for developing fair and uniform market values for real estate parcels within certain Appraisal Districts. P&A contractually provides a wide degree of professional services depending upon each contract requirement.

P&A’s typical client is a governmental entity charged with appraisal responsibility for ad valorem tax purposes, although other types of clients (private businesses, individuals, etc.) occasionally contract for appraisal services which are strictly for various non-ad valorem tax purposes so that no conflicts of interest are created with P&A’s core ad valorem tax work.

P&A hereby makes the assumption that, in all appraisal assignments performed for governmental entities in satisfaction of contractual obligations related to ad valorem tax, the client does not wish to or cannot legally request the appraisal report not identify the client.

Intended users of our reports are typically the client(s) for which we are under direct contract. Although taxpayers or their agents who own and/or represent the subject property being appraised often receive these reports either by law or as a courtesy of the client or P&A, this receipt does not mean these parties automatically become Intended Users as defined by USPAP. **A party receiving a copy of a report in order to satisfy disclosure requirements does not become an intended user of the appraisal or mass appraisal unless the appraiser specifically identifies such party as an intended user.** Potential other users include parties involved in adjudication of valuation disputes (review board members, lawyers, judges, etc.), governmental agencies which periodically review our appraisals for various statutory purposes (such as the Texas Comptroller’s Office) and private parties who may obtain copies of our appraisals through Open Records Requests made to governmental agencies.

***This section of P&A’s USPAP report is not applicable to any real estate property that an appraisal district appraises outside of P&A’s appraisal services, in which case the appraisal district’s overall USPAP report should be referenced.***

P&A makes the **Extraordinary Assumption** that all properties appraised for ad valorem tax purposes are marketable whereas ownership and title to property are free of encumbrances and other restrictions that would affect fair market value to an extent not obvious to the general marketplace. If and/or when we are made aware of any encumbrances, etc., these would be taken into account in our appraisal in which case the extraordinary assumption stated above would be revoked.

P&A is typically under contract to determine current market value or “fair market value” of residential real estate. Fair market value is typically described as the price at which a property would sell for if:

- exposed in the open market with a reasonable time for the seller to find a purchaser;
- both the buyer and seller know of all the uses and purposes to which the property is, or can be, adapted and of the enforceable restrictions on its use; and
- both the buyer and seller seek to maximize their gains and neither is in a position to take advantage of the exigencies of the other. [Exigencies are pressing or urgent conditions that leave one party at a disadvantage to the other.]

For ad valorem tax purposes the effective date is usually legislatively specified by the particular State in which we are working - for example, in Texas the lien date is January 1 per the Texas Property Tax Code. For ad valorem tax purposes, the date of the appraisals and reports are typically several months past the effective date, thereby leaving open the possibility that a retrospective approach is appropriate under limited and prescribed circumstances (information after the effective date being applicable only if it confirms a trend or other appraisal condition that existed and was generally known as of the effective date).

P&A believes this section of this report, in conjunction with any attached or separately provided P&A-generated report(s), meets the USPAP definition of “typical practice”; i.e., it satisfies a level of work that is consistent with:

- the expectations of participants in the market for the same or similar appraisal services; and
- what P&A’s peers’ actions would be in performing the same or similar appraisal services in compliance with USPAP.

Legal and Statutory Requirements: The provisions of the Texas Property Tax Code and relevant legislative measures involving appraisal administration and procedures control the work of P&A as an extension of the Appraisal District. P&A is responsible for appraising property on the basis of its market value as of January 1 for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit that imposes ad valorem taxes on property in the contracted Appraisal District. The definition of Fair Market Value is provided and promulgated for use in ad valorem tax work in Texas by the Texas Property Tax Code, and therefore as a **Jurisdictional Exception** supercedes the definition of “market value” as found in USPAP definitions.

Administrative Requirements: P&A follows the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) regarding its appraisal practices and procedures. P&A also subscribes to the standards promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation known as the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP). P&A submits annual or biannual contract proposals to the Office of the Chief Appraiser and is bound to produce mass appraisal estimates on real estate properties within the cost constraints of said proposals. Any appraisal practices and procedures followed by P&A not explicitly defined through IAAO or USPAP requirements are specified by the Texas Property Tax Code or at the specific request or direction of the Office of the Chief Appraiser.

## Appraisal Resources

Personnel: The Real Estate staff consists of licensed Registered Professional Appraisers through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), and are qualified to provide the complete range of professional appraisal services required.

Data: Common data characteristics (within each county) for each property are collected in the field and entered into each respective district's computer data base. This property data drives the computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) approach to valuation.

Information Systems: The mainframe systems are augmented by the databases that reside as various applications on personal computers (PC). P&A offers a variety of systems for providing property owners and public entities with information services. The appraiser supervising any given contract fields many of the public's questions or redirects them to the proper division.

## VALUATION APPROACH (MODEL SPECIFICATION)

Area Analysis: Data involving economic forces such as demographic, patterns, employment and income patterns, trends in real estate property prices and rents, interest rates, availability of property, economic and climatic factors that may affect production of rural lands, are collected from various sources. Any information particular to a given region or appraisal district helps the appraisal staff determine market conditions or trends that may affect market value.

Neighborhood and Market Analysis: Neighborhood analysis involves the examination of how physical, economic, governmental and social forces and other influences affect property values. The effect of these forces are also used to identify, classify, and organize comparable properties into smaller, manageable subsets of the universe of properties known as neighborhoods. A neighborhood is defined by natural, man-made, or political boundaries and is established by a commonality based on land users, types and age of buildings or population, the desire for homogeneity, or similar factors.

Each neighborhood may be characterized as being in a stage of growth, stability, or decline. The growth period is a time of development and construction. In the period of stability, or equilibrium, the forces of supply and demand are about equal. The period of decline reflects diminishing demand or desirability. During decline general property use may change. Declining neighborhoods may become economically desirable again and experience renewal, reorganization, rebuilding, or restoration, marked by modernization and increasing demand. The appraisal staff must analyze whether a particular neighborhood is in a period of growth, stability, or decline and predict changes that will affect future use and value. In mass appraisal applications the information can be useful for comparing or combining neighborhoods or for developing neighborhood ratings, which are introduced as adjustments in mass appraisal models.

Site descriptions and analysis provide a description of the subject property and an analysis of factors that affect the market value of the site. Site analysis also provides a basis for allocating values to land and improvements, for analyzing comparable sales to determine the highest and best use of the site, and for estimating locational obsolescence. A description of the subject building and other improvements provides a basis for analysis of comparable sales and rents; for the development of capitalization rates or multipliers; for highest and best use analysis of the site as improved; and for estimation of reproduction or replacement cost new and physical and functional depreciation. The analysis should show how the factors relate to the utility and marketability of the subject property, and, ultimately, its market value. The improvement analysis and the neighborhood analysis

focus on similar considerations; for example, whether the improvements represent highest and best use and conform to the neighborhood.

The improvement analysis describes relationships among items and compares them to those in competing properties and to neighborhood standards. Items that will be treated as functional obsolescence in the cost approach need through analysis. The condition of building components is particularly important because it provides the basis for estimates of effective age and remaining economic life.

Currently P&A provides most of its real estate appraisal services in primarily rural areas. The ability to perform detailed neighborhood and market analysis is somewhat limited in these areas where the necessary data is sometimes nonexistent.

Highest and Best Use Analysis: Highest and best use analysis is the culmination of regional, neighborhood, and site analysis. All three are used to help the appraisal staff understand the factors affecting property values in the market being analyzed and the most probable use of the site in long-run economic equilibrium. Highest and best use is the reasonable and probable use that supports the highest present value as of the date of the appraisal. The highest and best use must be physically possible, legal, financially feasible, and productive to the maximum, that is, highest and best use. The analysis should be done as of the date of appraisal. Just as real estate values change, the highest and best use of a property may change over time.

## **DATA COLLECTION/VALIDATION**

Data Collection Manuals: Appraisal manuals are developed and distributed to all appraisers involved in the appraisal and valuation of real estate properties. The appraisal manual is reviewed and revised to meet the changing requirements of field data collection.

Sources of Data: Each District's appraisal manual and schedules are adopted and maintained by the P&A appraisal staff. Data used to perform appraisals are generally collected with a joint effort among appraisers and Appraisal District staff. Physical inspections are performed by the appraisers for various situations whether it be a normal reappraisal, a reinspection requested by the District, working building permits, etc.

Data Collection Procedures: Field data collection is coordinated and organized by the field appraisers to insure uniformity in appraisal technique. The staff conducts field inspections and record information on a particular property field worksheet. This data is entered into the respective computer database and serves as the basis for the valuation.

## **VALUATION ANALYSIS**

Cost Schedules: P&A generally adopts existing cost schedules within each Appraisal District in which we provide appraisal services. These schedules are maintained and adjusted as needed to reflect the current market value conditions that are present in each respective district.

Sales Information: Sales are generally collected by the Appraisal District staff and provided to P&A appraisal personnel for sales ratio analysis.

Statistical Analysis: Appraisers perform statistical analysis annually to evaluate whether values are equitable and consistent with market conditions. Appraisal statistics, central tendency and dispersion generated from sales are available for each class of property. These summary statistics include mean and median ratios, standard deviation,

and coefficient of dispersion. They provide the analysis information to determine both the level and uniformity of the appraised values involved in the study.

Market Adjustment: Depending upon the data provided by the sales ratio analysis, market value tables may be adjusted accordingly to reflect accurate market values within a particular class of property.

## **INDIVIDUAL VALUE REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Field Review: P&A provides field inspections depending upon the contractual arrangement with the appraisal district. In most cases field inspections are done within the outline of the respective Appraisal District's Reappraisal Plan.

## **PERFORMANCE TESTS**

An independent test of the appraisal performance of properties appraised by P&A is conducted by the State of Texas Comptroller's Office through the annual Property Value Study for school funding purposes. This study determines the degree of uniformity and the median level of appraisal for real estate properties. School jurisdictions are given an opportunity to appeal any preliminary findings. After the appeal process is resolved, the Comptroller publishes a report of the findings of the study, including in the report the median level of appraisal, the coefficient of dispersion around the median level of appraisal and any other standard statistical measures the Comptroller considers appropriate.

USPAP STANDARD 6-3: CERTIFICATION

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- The statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.
- The reported analyses, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions, and are my personal, impartial, and unbiased professional analyses, opinions, and conclusions.
- I have no (or the specified below) present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of this report, and I have no (or the specified below) personal interest with respect to the parties involved.
- I have performed no (or the specified below) services, as an appraiser or in any other capacity, regarding the property that is the subject of this report within the three-year period immediately preceding acceptance of this assignment.
- I have no bias with respect to any property that is the subject of this report or the parties involved with this assignment.
- My engagement in this assignment was not contingent upon developing or reporting predetermined results.
- My compensation for completing this assignment is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined value or direction in value that favors the cause of the client, the amount of the value opinion, the attainment of a stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event directly related to the intended use of this appraisal.
- My analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice*.
- I have (or have not, if specified below) made a personal inspection of the properties that are the subject of this report. (Any other signatories to this report have either made or not made a personal inspection of the properties as noted below.)
- No one provided significant mass appraisal assistance to the person signing this certification. (The name of each individual providing significant mass appraisal assistance, if any, is stated below.)

	Inspected Property?	Provided Significant Appraisal Assistance?
<u>Mary Allen</u> <u>08/29/23</u> <small>Appraiser (a) Date</small>	<u>No</u> <small>Yes / No</small>	<u>yes</u> <small>Yes / No</small>
<u>[Signature]</u> <u>8/30/2023</u> <small>Appraiser (b) Date</small>	<u>yes</u> <small>Yes / No</small>	<u>yes</u> <small>Yes / No</small>
<hr/> <small>Supervising Appraiser / Dept. Manager</small>	<hr/> <small>Yes / No</small>	<hr/> <small>Yes / No</small>
<u>Rodman B. L.</u> <u>8.29.23</u> <small>District Manager Date</small>	<u>No</u> <small>Yes / No</small>	<u>yes</u> <small>Yes / No</small>

List of other individuals who provided significant mass appraisal assistance and/or personal inspection statement of any signatories:

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A signed certification is an integral component of the appraisal report.

- When a signing appraiser has relied on work done by appraisers and others who do not sign the certification, the signing appraiser is responsible for the decision to rely on their work. The signing appraiser is required to have a reasonable basis for believing that those individuals performing the work are competent and that the work of those individuals is credible.
- An appraiser who signs any part of the mass appraisal report, including a letter of transmittal, must also sign this certification. This certification applies to all assignment results and well as all contents of the appraisal report(s).
- The names of individuals providing significant mass appraisal assistance who do not sign a certification must be stated in the certification. It is not required that the description of this assistance be contained in the certification, but disclosure of their assistance is required in accordance with Standards 6-2(g).
- The above certification is not intended to disturb an elected or appointed assessor's work plans or oaths of office.