# Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation

## CHARGE FOR MEETING #7

*August 31, 2016*

## CHARGE QUESTIONS

1.  Many other ecosystem restoration projects have adopted an adaptive management approach and Panel has frequently referenced the importance of this approach to sediment diversions. Operational decisions will need to be made to respond to changing conditions while maximizing achievement of restoration goals. Does the Panel have recommendations on approaches to decision making in this context that can be nimble and responsive while still ensuring sediment delivery to the estuary, land loss prevention and land building? Are there any key lessons that can be learned from operational management of ecosystem restoration projects in other systems regarding decision-making?

2.  Research on wetland plant response to flooding has frequently focused on understanding the effects of sea-level rise rather than seasonal or shorter-term inundation of various depths. Sediment diversions are expected to increase water levels within the receiving wetlands when operating at high capacity for periods of weeks to months depending on operations and basin hydrology. In some wetland types this change in water level may also be associated with changes in salinity, e.g., brackish wetlands may be subject to periodic freshening. Given that specific studies on wetland plant response, in term of productivity/mortality or root:shoot allocations will take several years to provide specific information, what types of assumptions would the Panel suggest be used in estimating the influence of increased inundation on wetland plants? Does the approach currently adopted seem reasonable?

3.  As the sediment diversions move into the engineering and design phase many technical challenges will need to be confronted. Given the experience of this Panel and Panel member's knowledge of other external technical advisory/review processes, can you make any recommendations to CPRA on how they should ensure appropriate and timely input is provided from those outside the teams as the work proceeds?