



THE WATER INSTITUTE  
OF THE GULF

# **EXPERT PANEL ON DIVERSION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION: CHARGE**

**JANUARY 8, 2014  
CHIP GROAT, PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**INTEGRATING APPLIED RESEARCH.  
LINKING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION.  
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS.**



# ABOUT THE WATER INSTITUTE

- ◆ The Water Institute of the Gulf is a **not-for-profit, independent research institute** dedicated to advancing the understanding of coastal, deltaic, river and water resource systems, both within the **Gulf Coast and around the world**.
- ◆ Our mission supports the **practical application** of innovative science and engineering, providing solutions that **benefit society**.





# ABOUT THE EXPERT PANEL

- ◆ Nominations solicited in August 2013
  - 60+ experts nominated
- ◆ Selections made by The Water Institute
- ◆ Expertise from the natural and social sciences as well as engineering
- ◆ Mississippi River and Louisiana relevance
- ◆ Inaugural meeting January 8, 2014





# PANEL CHARGE

- ◆ Provide technical input, review and guidance as plans are refined on diverting freshwater and sediment from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers into adjacent estuarine basins to build, maintain and sustain coastal wetlands
- ◆ Issues for the Panel include:
  - Critical scientific and technical uncertainties
  - Identification of research to reduce uncertainty
  - Review and comment on technical reports, model outputs, and other aspects of project development
- ◆ Specific topics for consideration by the Panel will vary from meeting to meeting



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

## 💧 Why aren't any of the members from Louisiana?

- Experts from Louisiana are currently engaged and leading much of this work
- This group was established to review and advise the CPRA and the teams that are engaged in these efforts

## 💧 What authority does the panel have?

- They are not a decision making panel
- They will provide expert advice and recommendations for consideration

## 💧 Are they reviewing the decisions made in the Master Plan?

- No, this group is advising on science and research needs related to advancing and further developing/designing sediment diversion projects that were in the Master Plan



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**THANK YOU**