Request for Idea (RFI) Submission Evaluation Guideline

I. Completeness Review

All RFI submissions will be reviewed for completeness by the technical staff of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Personally identifiable information will be removed during this initial review process to prevent any potential biases during the RFI evaluation. Proposed research must primarily focus on methane emissions from dairy and livestock sector in California in accordance to SB 1383. This process will remove any unqualified submissions that do not satisfy the requirements as listed in the RFI Submission Guideline Document (see Dairy and Livestock Working Group webpage). Any responses submitted past the due date (May 31, 2018) may not be reviewed.

II. RFI Evaluation Strategy

The Subgroup #3 committee members will be grouped in accordance to one of the three options provided in the table below. This strategy will promote thorough review of each RFI submission in a timely manner. The assignment of the Subgroup #3 committee members will be determined upon receiving the final count of the RFI submissions that passed the Completeness Review. The committee members will be distributed to reflect similar composition of experts in each group. Subgroup #3 committee members are responsible for evaluating all of the RFI submissions that are assigned to their respective group.

	Option 1	**Option 2**	**Option 3**
# of RFI Submissions	< 20	>= 20 and < 40	>= 40
# of Group(s)	1	2	3
# of Members in each group	12	6	4

III. RFI Evaluation Criteria

To maintain a consistent review of individual RFI submissions, the Subgroup #3 committee members will use the RFI Survey which is designed based on the draft RFI Evaluation Criteria as shown below. By answering the questions on the RFI Survey, each committee member will score individual RFI submissions effectively and efficiently. Each committee member must be cognizant of the category that the RFI submissions are identified under during the evaluation process. The four categories include:

1. **Environmental Justice** (assessing local and regional air quality)
2. **Air Monitoring Programs** (quantifying on-farm air emissions and tracking reduction progresses)
3. **Emission Inventory** (improvement using California-specific data)
4. **Air Pollution Mitigation Strategies** (evaluation of short- and long-term air quality benefits)

The results from this exercise will provide guidance for identifying balanced and progressive dairy and livestock research based on expert assessment of the RFI submissions. The members of the reviewing committees will not be allowed to evaluate their own submissions (if any).

RFI Evaluation Criteria
Category: Environmental Impacts • **Methane emissions:** Clearly communicates methane centric research need for the proposed research, including but not limited to reduction and mitigation strategies, inventory, and air monitoring • **Air quality assessment:** Considers and explores potential air quality benefits and dis-benefits of dairy methane emissions reduction and mitigation • **Water quality assessment:** Considers potential water quality impacts in the region • **Variability:** Evaluates the potential variability and uncertainties of dairy air emissions and their impacts • **Environmental justice:** Addresses potential environmental justice concerns
Category: Industry Impacts • **Dairy co-benefit and economics:** Carefully considers the productivity, operational cost, and capital cost for dairy operations in the context of this submission • **Information sharing and engagement:** Ensures effective communication, transparency, and collaboration amongst industry, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations • **Reasonable solutions:** Considers solutions for dairy methane emissions reduction that are accessible and cost/time-effective • **Practical considerations:** Considers non-disruptive options or alternatives for research and evaluation of dairy operations
Category: Policies/Regulations/Programs • **SB 1383:** Ensures that the methane emissions reduction objectives are well aligned with the legislative mandate • **Existing rules/regulations/programs:** Considers dairy related local/district/state rules, regulations, and programs that have implications for climate change and air quality (e.g., incentive programs) • **Methane emissions reduction and mitigation:** Considers effective dairy methane emissions reduction and mitigation in the context of both air quality and dairy productivity, including proven and or new/innovative strategies that holds demonstrated promise
Category: Feasibility • **Methodology:** Clear and concise description of research methods with consideration for its accessibility, affordability, and scientific acceptance • **Cost and Time:** Reasonable and justified investments • **Overcoming problems:** Fall back strategies are considered to ensure that the objective(s) of the research is/are satisfied despite any potential shortfalls • **Overall impact:** Holistically considers all of the evaluation criteria and its general feasibility for achieving the goals of SB 1383, air quality improvements, etc.

IV. RFI Ranking

Using the final RFI Survey scores as references, the individual RFI submissions will be ranked under each of the four categories identified above.