CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Karen Ross, Secretary

December 7, 2018

James McGarry
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. McGarry:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit informal comments on the Staff's Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) Program Review and Staff Proposal, October 30, 2018.

The staff proposal mentions the need for close coordination between programs and agencies and specifically cites the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP).

CDFA supports the extension of the BioMAT as well as actions to simplify procurement and expand program participation. The BioMAT is an important procurement mechanism for California dairy digester projects. While most of CDFA's recent DDRDP grants have been awarded to renewable natural gas projects, CDFA supports the availability and option for dairy electricity projects because not all dairies are sited close enough to the pipeline.

Having an alternate mechanism is particularly important for the California dairy industry to meet the State's goals of reducing dairy manure methane by 40% below 2013 levels by 2030 as called for in SB 1383 (Lara, 2016).

We look forward to close collaboration on the BioMAT.

Sincerely,

Amrith Gunasekara, PhD
Science Advisor to the Secretary