

Finding of No Significant Impact
Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California
Revised Environmental Assessment
November, 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating isolated populations of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) (LBAM) in California. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Emergency Management
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The revised EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) maintaining the Federal quarantine order without further action by APHIS (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal quarantine order along with eradication of isolated populations of LBAM in California with the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or LBAM-specific pheromone (treatment alternative). The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts from eradication treatments of small, isolated populations and determined that any potential impacts would be limited. Since the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site will be considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM of multiple sites within a defined eradication area in Vallejo, Solano County (see attachment 1).

Treatment in the Vallejo Eradication Area

In August 2007, three 200 meter radius sites were treated using pheromone dispensers that are attached to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre. Since the initial treatment of these areas four additional male moths were found in the near vicinity. While not anticipated, it is possible that additional moths may be found in the vicinity. An eradication boundary has been defined (see attachment 1) and can be found on the CDFA website (www.cdfa.ca.gov) The eradication area consists mostly of commercial and residential areas. The area has several high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, pre-schools and private schools. There are numerous recreational parks and areas in the eradication area. A marina is located on the Napa River just off the North Bay where there is a ferry service to and from San Francisco throughout the day. The treatment regime to be employed within the eradication area is similar to the previous treatments in the area, i.e., pheromone twist ties will be used, but Btk will not be used.

When an LBAM is found, a 200-meter radius around the find will be defined and pheromone-impregnated twist ties will be attached to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures within the area at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre. These dispensers allow for the continual release of pheromone over the course of 90 days. The dispensers will be removed at the end of their useful lives. In some cases they may be replaced for a second treatment. When treatments are completed, all dispensers will be removed.

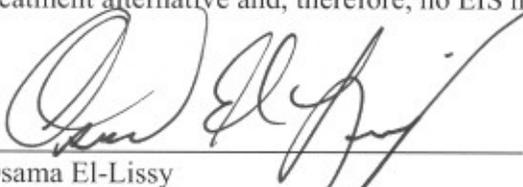
The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small, isolated populations like the ones in Vallejo. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be no impacts to the human environment including nontarget species because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. In addition, there will be no negative cumulative effects from this action in combination with any other actions because there are no impacts to the human environment including nontarget species. The most likely impact will be the reduction of the LBAM population due to disruption of mating; eventually leading to the eradication of LBAM within the eradication area, and ultimately, within the State of California.

APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) previously discussed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) treatments with LBAM-specific pheromone at various locations. There are three federally threatened or endangered species within the eradication zone: salt marsh harvest mouse, California clapper rail and soft bird's beak. In addition, the Napa River which separates Mare Island and the rest of Vallejo, California is listed as critical habitat for the steelhead trout. A marsh area that lies mostly between Interstate Route 780 and Dillon Point Road, just to the north of Southampton Bay (see attachment 2) has been designated as critical habitat for the soft bird's beak, a federally listed plant. The soft bird's beak is normally pollinated by bees and tortricid moths are not known to be pollinators. A no effect determination for listed species and critical habitat has been made for all the species and critical habitat because the pheromones will not affect species other than the LBAM, and the dispensers will be tied to trees and other fixtures that will remain in the treatment areas until removal after 3 months. In addition, there are two monarch butterfly overwintering sites on Mare Island. However, the pheromone is specific to LBAM mating disruption and will not harm or disturb the mating of the monarch butterfly.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for these three treatment areas is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there

would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.



Osama El-Lissy
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

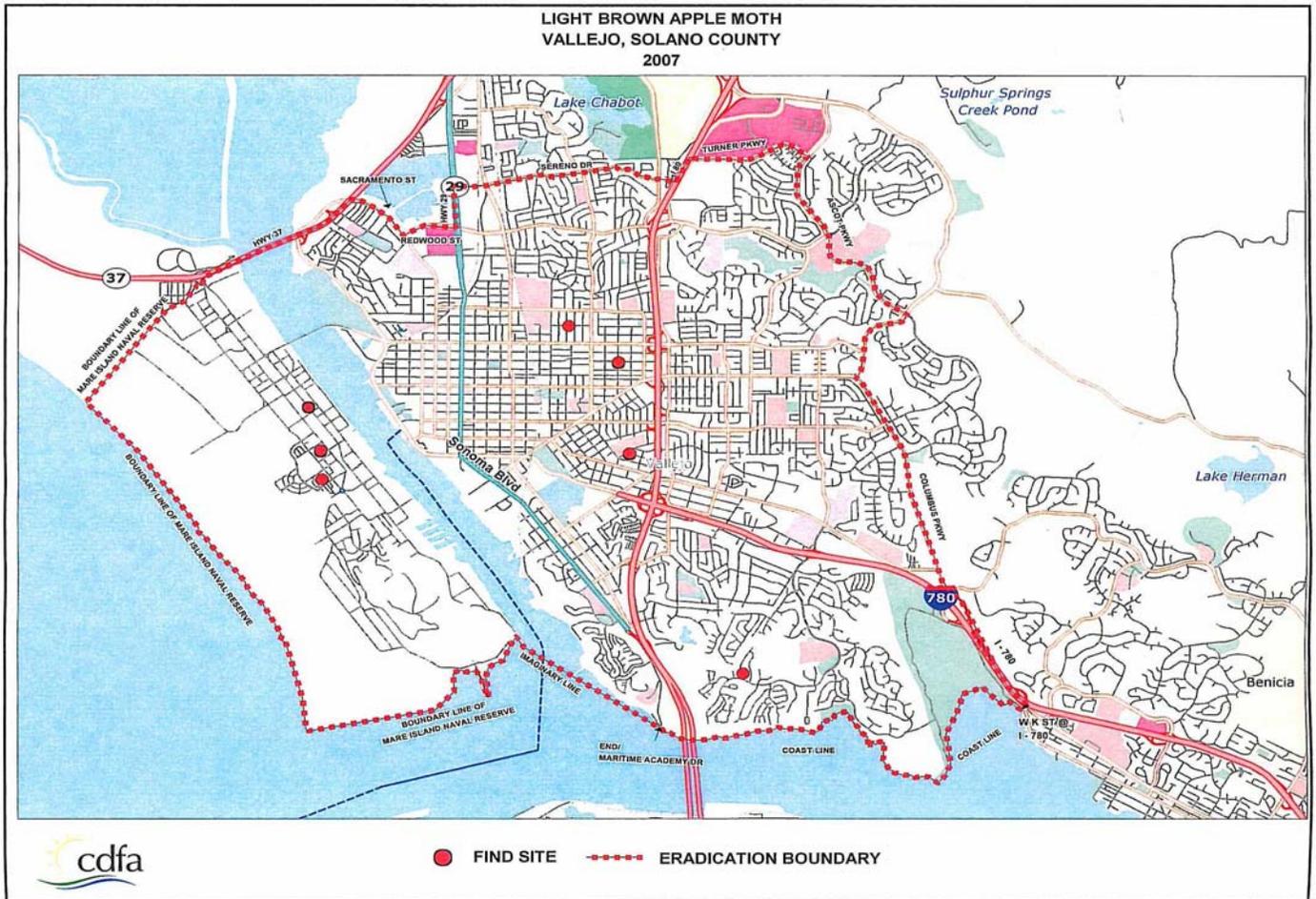
Nov. 19, 2007

Date

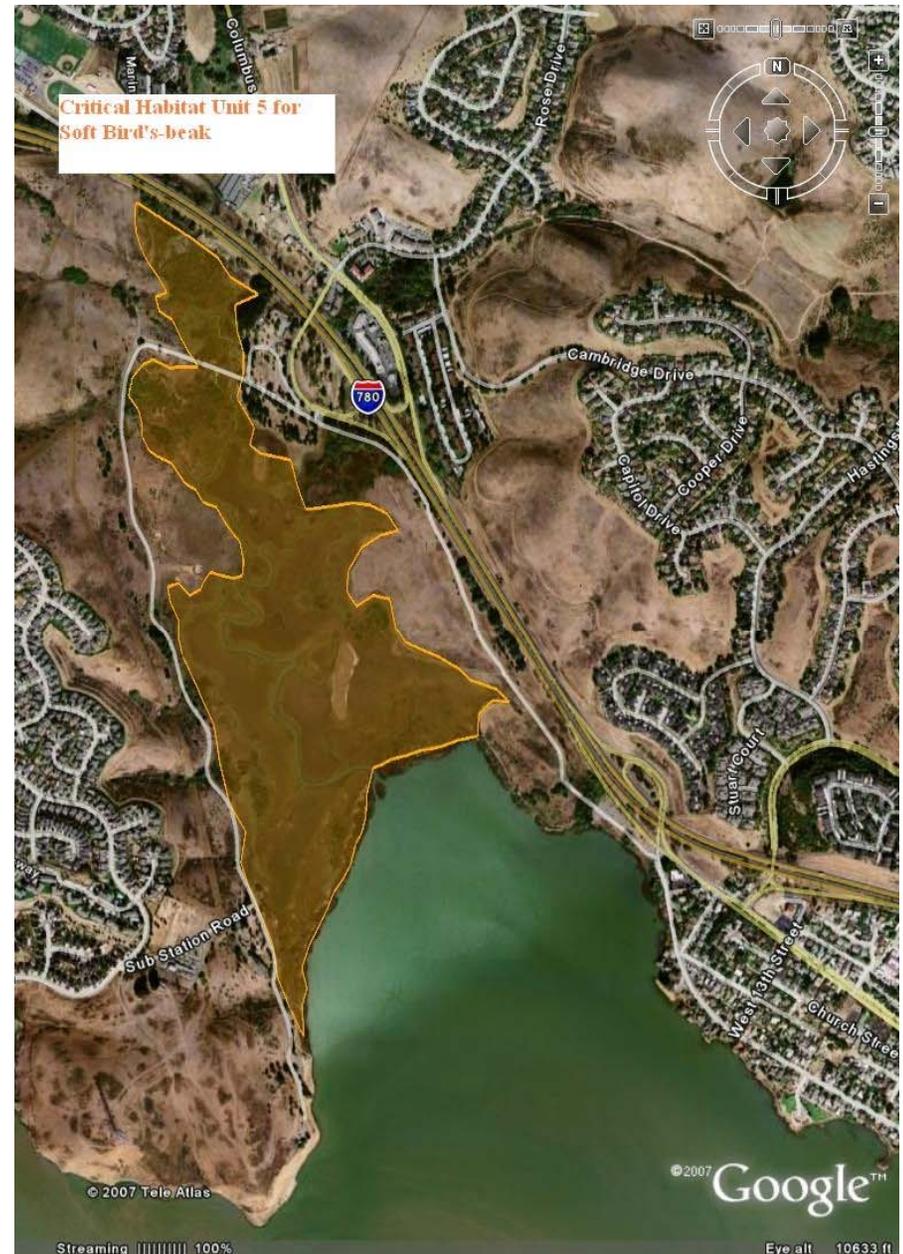
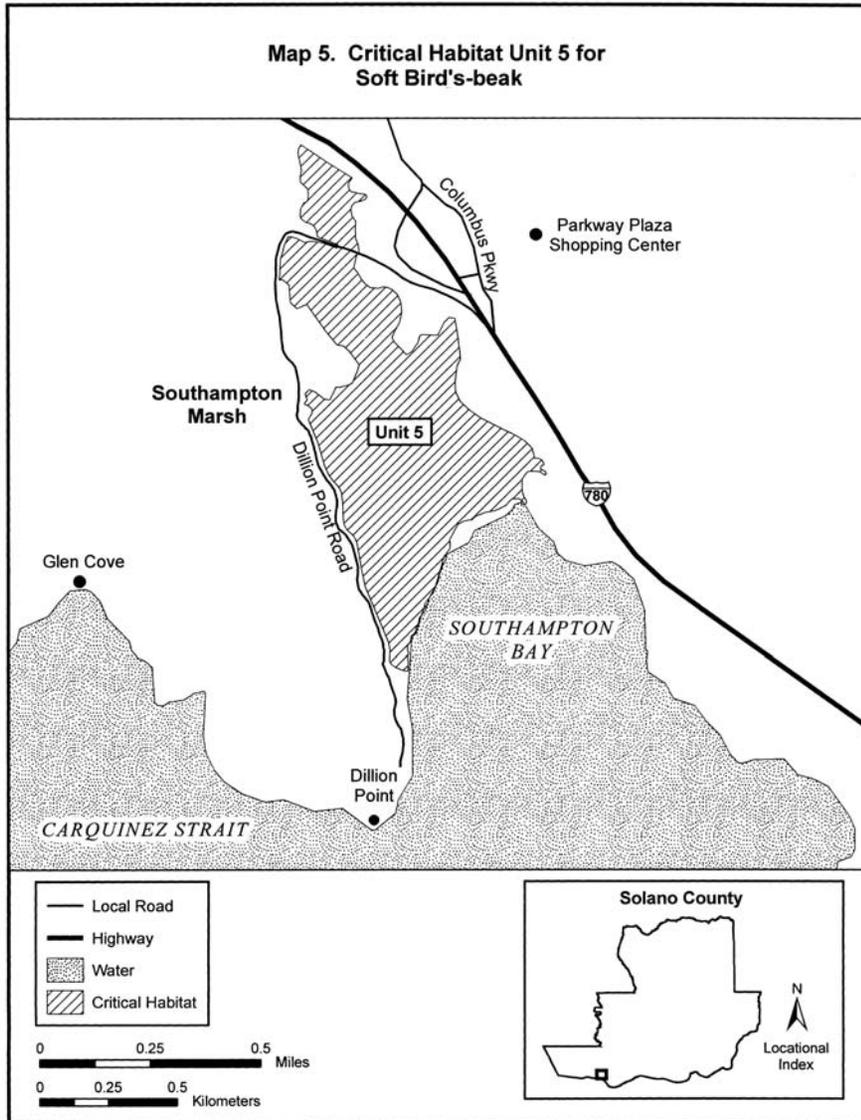
Attachment 1 – Map of Eradication Area

Attachment 2 – Critical Habitat Unit 5 for Soft Bird's Beak

Attachment 1 Map of Eradication Area



Attachment 2 Critical Habitat Unit 5 for Soft Bird's Beak



* * * * *

Dated: March 27, 2007.
 David M. Verhey,
 Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and
 Wildlife and Parks.
 [FR Doc. 07-1777 Filed 4-11-07; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310-55-C