

**Finding of No Significant Impact for
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
San Perlita, Willacy County, Texas
Environmental Assessment
May 2013**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for control of the Mexican fruit fly, *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), an exotic agricultural pest that has been found in the San Perlita area of Willacy County, Texas. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
State Plant Health Director
903 San Jacinto Boulevard, Suite 270
Austin, TX 78701

or USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Center for Plant Health Science & Technology
1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 400
Raleigh, NC 27606

The EA for this program analyzed alternatives of (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) eradication. Each of those alternatives was determined to have potential environmental consequences. APHIS selected eradication using an integrated pest management approach for the proposed program because of its capability to achieve eradication in a way that also reduces the magnitude of those potential environmental consequences.

APHIS determined that this program will have no effect on threatened or endangered species and critical habitat in the program area, based upon review of the proposed program operations, and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

I find that implementation of the proposed program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. I have considered and based my finding of no significant impact on the quantitative and qualitative risk assessments of the proposed pesticides, and on my review of the program's operational characteristics. In addition, I find that the environmental process undertaken for this program is entirely consistent with the principles of environmental justice, as expressed in Executive Order 12898, and the protection of children, as expressed in Executive Order 13045. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this proposed program, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the program may proceed.



Stuart W. Kuehn
State Plant Health Director
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

May 3, 2013
Date