

**Finding of No Significant Impact for
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
Lower Rio Grande Valley, 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 areas of Willacy, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties, Texas. The EAs, incorporated by reference in this document, are available from:

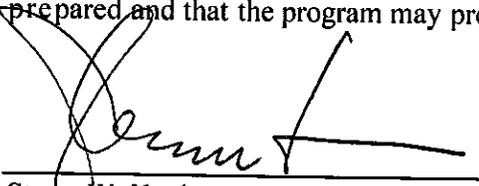
USDA-APHIS-PPQ
State Plant Health Director
903 San Jacinto Boulevard, Suite 270
Austin, TX 78701

or USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Center for Plant Health Science & Technology
1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 400
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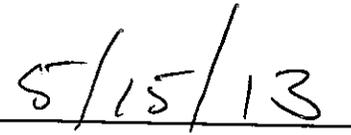
The EA for this program analyzed the alternatives of (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) eradication. Each of these alternatives was determined to have potential environmental consequences. APHIS selected (3) eradication using an integrated pest management approach for the proposed program because of its capability to achieve eradication in a way that also reduces the magnitude of those potential environmental consequences.

APHIS completed a programmatic consultation for the Mexfly program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Corpus Christi, Texas. APHIS ensures that the program is not likely to adversely affect listed species or their designated critical habitat in the program area by coordinating with FWS before conducting Mexfly program activities, and implementing protection measures, as necessary.

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 impacts 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



Date