Finding of No Significant Impact
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
Hidalgo County, Texas
Environmental Assessment
February 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing alternatives for control of an outbreak of the Mexican fruit fly, *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), an exotic agricultural pest detected in the area of Weslaco, 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

and

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

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, the analysis in the referenced EA, and on my review of the program's operational characteristics. In addition, I find the impacts to the human environment (including low-income and minority populations, children, and tribal, cultural, and historical resources) meet applicable consultation requirements. 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 the program may proceed.

February 6, 2014
Date

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