

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program**  
**Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**April 2015**

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 (Mexfly), *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), an exotic agricultural pest that has been found in several areas in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from—

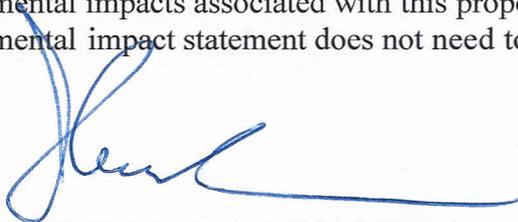
USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
State Plant Health Director  
903 San Jacinto Boulevard, Suite 270  
Austin, TX 78701

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

The EA for this program analyzed the alternatives of (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) the preferred alternative, 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, Texas  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

April 15, 2015  
Date