

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas
Environmental Assessment
March 2016**

U.S. Department of Agriculture's 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) (Mexfly), an exotic agricultural pest detected at actionable levels in areas of Willacy, Hidalgo County, and Cameron Counties, Texas. APHIS' involvement in a Mexfly cooperative eradication program with Texas was triggered on February 8, 2016 with the detection of one mated female Mexfly in the Granjeño area of Hidalgo County. The EA is incorporated by reference in this document, and is available from:

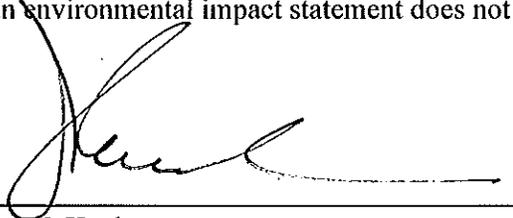
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Austin, TX 78701

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Center for Plant Health Science & Technology
1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 400
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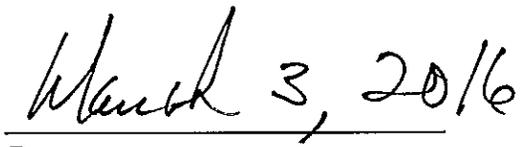
The EA for this program analyzed three alternatives: (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) eradication. Each of these alternatives is associated with potential environmental consequences. APHIS selected the eradication program using an integrated pest management approach because of its capability to achieve eradication in a way that reduces the overall magnitude of potential environmental consequences.

APHIS reviewed the program area and determined the proposed action will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat because these do not occur within the program area. Should the program area expand, or a new species or critical habitat be listed that may occur in the program area, APHIS will revisit this determination and consult with the appropriate agency, as necessary. In addition, implementation of the preferred alternative is not expected to have any adverse effect on migratory birds or their flight corridors, or other nontarget species in the program area.

I find 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 program has fulfilled consultation requirements associated with the human environment (including low-income and minority populations, children, and tribal, cultural, and historical resources). Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impacts associated with this proposed program, I find an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and the program may proceed.



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



Date