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 an outbreak of the Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly), *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), an exotic agricultural pest often detected at actionable levels in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas. APHIS' involvement in a new Mexfly cooperative eradication program with the State of Texas was triggered on March 10, 2017, with the detection of 1 mated female Mexfly in the Palmview region of Hidalgo County, Texas. The EA is incorporated by reference in this document, and 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 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 submitted a map of the program area to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS indicated that there were no listed species or critical habitat in the treatment 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 the 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

[Signature]

April 5, 2017
Date