

Finding of No Significant Impact
Mediterranean Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
San Bernardino County, California
Environmental Assessment
October 2019

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for control of an outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann), an exotic agricultural pest detected at actionable levels in the Devore region of San Bernardino County, California. USDA APHIS’ involvement in a Medfly cooperative eradication program with California was triggered on October 8, 2019, after the identification of 1 male adult wild Medfly and 1 female adult wild Medfly collected from a McPhail trap in an apple tree. The EA is incorporated in this document by reference, and is available from:

USDA–APHIS–PPQ
State Plant Health Director
650 Capital Mall, Suite 6400
Sacramento, CA 95814

or

USDA–APHIS–PPQ
Fruit Fly National Policy Manager
4700 River Road, Unit 26
Riverdale, MD 20737

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. USDA 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.

USDA APHIS reviewed the program area and determined that the program may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect listed species in the program area. Should the program area expand, or a new species or critical habitat be listed which may occur in the program area, USDA APHIS will reinitiate consultation 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, essential fish habitat, 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 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.

Helene Wright
State Plant Health Director, California
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

November 7, 2019

Date