

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program**  
**Rio Grande Valley, Texas**  
**Supplemental Environmental Assessment**  
**March 2020**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) which 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. USDA APHIS' involvement in a new Mexfly cooperative eradication program with the State of Texas was triggered by the January 14, 2020 laboratory confirmation of a gravid wild Mexfly collected from a trap in Harlingen, Cameron County. Subsequent detection of numerous Mexfly populations in the region necessitated unusually rapid expansion of program area activities, and led to the request that USDA APHIS add a soil drench option for certain locations inside Mexfly quarantine boundaries. A supplemental EA analyzing the soil treatment proposed for the 2020 program, and tiered to the January 2020 EA of a Mexfly program for 7 counties of the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas, is incorporated in this document by reference. Both EAs are available from:

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

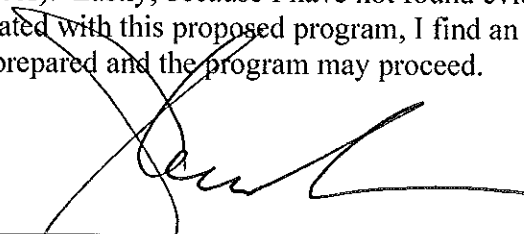
or

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

The EA for this program analyzed two alternatives: (1) no action, i.e. continuing the 2020 RGV Mexfly cooperative eradication program without adding a soil treatment option, and (2) eradication with the option for a lambda cyhalothrin soil treatment. Each of these alternatives is associated with potential environmental consequences. USDA 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 completed a programmatic section 7 consultation for adding lambda cyhalothrin to the seven-county Mexfly program area, and determined that program activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, federally listed species or critical habitat with the implementation of protection measures. USDA APHIS will reinitiate consultation with FWS and other appropriate agencies, as necessary, if the program area expands, program activities change, additional species are listed, or critical habitat is designated in the program area, to ensure that federally listed species and critical habitat are protected. 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 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 is fulfilling 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.



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Stuart W. Kuehn  
State Plant Health Director, Texas  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

March 30, 2020  
Date