

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program  
Hidalgo County, Texas  
Environmental Assessment  
March 2012**

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, *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew), an exotic agricultural pest that has been found in the McAllen area of Hidalgo County, Texas. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from:

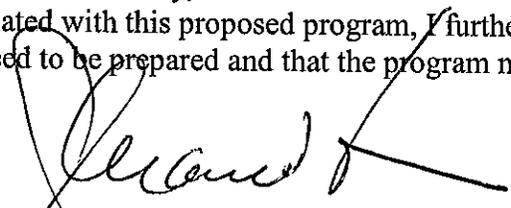
USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
State Plant Health Director  
903 San Jacinto Boulevard, Suite 270  
Austin, TX 78701

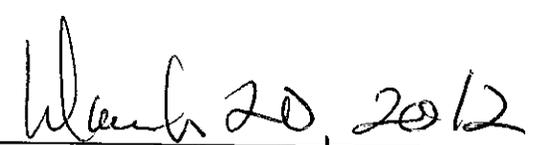
or USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Program  
4700 River Road, Unit 137  
Riverdale, MD 20737

The EA for this program analyzed alternatives of (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) eradication. Each of those alternatives was determined to have potential environmental consequences. APHIS selected 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 has determined that this program is not likely to have adverse effects on endangered or threatened species and critical habitat, based upon review of the proposed program operations, and upon review of consultations with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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 impact 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.

  
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Stuart W. Kuehn  
State Plant Health Director  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

  
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Date