Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Mexican Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
Cameron 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 San Benito area of Cameron 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.

March 16, 2012

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

Date