

**Finding of No Significant Impact for
Asian Gypsy Moth Cooperative Eradication Program
Willowbrook, CA
Environmental Assessment
February 2008**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for its participation in the eradication of the gypsy moth population in Willowbrook, CA. The EA, incorporated by reference into this document, is tiered to the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach." This EA is available online at www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/gm.shtml and from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Program Support
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737

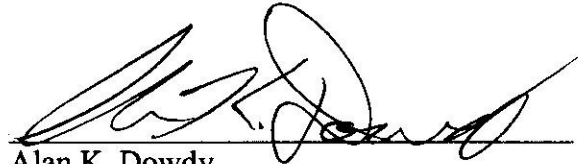
or U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-400
Sacramento, CA 95814

The EA analyzed the following alternatives: no action and the proposed action which uses a combination of the pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* and survey trapping. The proposed action was preferred because of its ability to achieve the eradication objective in a way that minimizes potential environmental consequences and provides the most opportunity for successful eradication.

APHIS has determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the proposed program. APHIS' Finding of No Significant Impact for this program was based upon its analysis of the program's characteristics and its anticipated environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. There are no threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in the treatment area and therefore APHIS has made a no effect determination.

The notice of availability for the EA was published in a local newspaper on February 16, 2008. A public meeting was held in the area on March 6, 2008. Approximately, fifteen individuals attended the public informational meeting and asked some informational and educational questions which were addressed during the meeting. Initially a 30-day public comment period was proposed, but due to the advanced biological development of the gypsy moths to be treated, in order to be effective treatment must begin earlier than originally anticipated. The biological stage of gypsy moth larva in the area dictates that treatment should begin no later than March 10, 2008. No written comments have been received to date, however, we will continue to accept written comments until March 17, 2008.

Any comments that are received will be reviewed and if changes are made to the program environmental documentation will be modified as appropriate. I find that the proposed program will pose no disproportionate adverse effects to minority and low-income populations and the actions undertaken for this program are 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 a significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the proposed program may be implemented.



Alan K. Dowdy
Director of Invertebrate and Biocontrol Programs
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

3.7.08

Date