

Finding of No Significant Impact

European Grapevine Moth in California Programmatic Environmental Assessment March 2011

In March 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared a programmatic environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of eliminating the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) (*Lobesia botrana*) infestation in California. Grapes are the primary host of EGVM and may be the most economically vulnerable commodity within California agriculture. California is the top grape-producing State in the United States with a total market value of over \$3.9 billion. Currently APHIS is working cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and stakeholders, to implement an effective program. The EA which analyzes the potential impacts of this program is incorporated by reference in this document, and is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Emergency Management
4700 River Road, Unit 160
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) voluntary control of the pest in commercial vineyards made by producers; and limited quarantine and survey efforts that would be supported primarily by CDFA (no action alternative), and (2) APHIS providing regulatory and funding support to CDFA for quarantine and survey efforts, as well as control efforts in residential and riparian areas (preferred alternative).

The EA analyzed the impacts of the quarantine, survey, and control in non-commercial areas including the preferred method of host plant/fruit removal, or in some cases ground applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk), spinosad or methoxyfenozide. Controls in non-commercial areas would include working with land owners in residential and open areas, such as wilderness areas and rights of way, to conduct the most appropriate control application, where host material is present. Eliminating the pest within the quarantine area will include the use of the above listed materials as well as chlorantraniliprole.

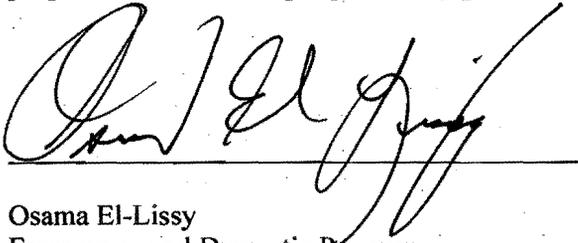
APHIS is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to ensure that any actions taken under the preferred alternative does not affect threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat. If there is a possibility for program activities to take place where listed species occur, or in their critical habitat, the proposed action will not occur until APHIS has completed its work with FWS and NMFS and has reached a no effect determination, or received concurrence on a may affect but not likely to adversely affect determination from submitted biological assessments.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of

Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.” Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act there are no expected adverse impacts to cultural or historical properties.

This EA was made available for a 30-day public comment period that ended on April 15, 2011. No comments regarding the EA have been received to date.

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 analysis contained within the EA and my review of the program’s operational characteristics. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.



Osama El-Lissy
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

April 25, 2011

Date