

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California**  
**Revised Environmental Assessment**  
**July, 2007**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating isolated populations of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) (LBAM) in California. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available online at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ea/downloads/lbam-ea-07-18-07.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/lbam-ea-07-18-07.pdf) and from—

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Emergency and Domestic Programs  
Invertebrate and Biocontrol Programs  
4700 River Road, Unit 26  
Riverdale, MD 20737

The revised EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) maintaining the Federal quarantine order without further action by APHIS (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal quarantine order along with eradication of isolated populations of LBAM in California with the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or LBAM-specific pheromone (treatment alternative). The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts from eradication treatments of small, isolated populations and determined that any potential impacts would be limited and not cumulative. Because the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site is considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM in the Bromela area of San Luis Obispo County, California.

### **Treatment in Bromela, California**

Bromela is a small, unincorporated community that lies 4 miles north of Guadalupe (Santa Barbara County), and 7 miles south of the City of Arroyo Grande (San Luis Obispo County). There is no specific population information in the U.S. Census for Bromela. A 2008 estimate of the number of people living within a 5-mile concentric circle around Bromela recorded a population of 6,593. A 15-mile area around Bromela was estimated to hold 131,833 residents.

Two male adult LBAMs were found in traps about half a mile apart in a small rural residential area that contains a railroad line, three golf courses, two schools, agricultural acreage, and some undeveloped land (see attachment 1 for map of each find and treatment area). An eradication zone, also defined as the State interior quarantine, has been identified around the treatment areas so that future finds within this zone can also be treated (see attachment 2). Within 5 miles of the eradication zone are various lakes, creeks, the Pacific Ocean, Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Guadalupe/Nipomo Dunes Preserve, and parkland, such as the coastal Oceano Dunes Vehicular Recreation Area and the inland Nippomo Regional Park.

This FONSI addresses not only treatments for the two finds, but also any additional future finds within the eradication zone. Maps for future treatment sites within the eradication zone will be posted online at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ea/lbam.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/lbam.shtml). When an LBAM is found within the

eradication zone, a 200-meter radius treatment area is created. Within each treatment area, Isomate-LBAM plus (pheromone-impregnated twist ties) will be used at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre by attaching the twist ties to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures. The twist ties allow for the continual release of pheromone over the course of 120 days. The twist ties will be removed after two LBAM life cycles (a life cycle could be up to 6 months in certain areas). In some cases, the twist ties may be replaced for additional treatments. When all treatments are completed, the twist ties will be removed.

The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small isolated populations like the ones in this FONSI. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be no effects to human health and limited, if any, effects to nontarget species because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. The pheromone itself has been shown to attract several native tortricids, as well as a pyralid, based on trap catches that are baited with LBAM pheromone. However, each of these species has a widespread distribution and, therefore, any effects on these nontargets will be minimal and localized. In addition, there will be no negative cumulative effects from this action in combination with any other actions because the treatments in isolated population areas will not be combined with other LBAM eradication tools. The use of twist ties in these areas is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to humans, fish, or wildlife that exists in the area.

APHIS has reviewed the eradication boundary and the potential for co-occurrence of listed species, their habitat, and any critical habitat. APHIS, in consultation with the Ventura Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has determined that the proposed eradication of this isolated population of the LBAM will not affect any listed species or critical habitat. A full administrative record of this determination is available upon request.

This FONSI was made available for a 30-day public comment period which closed on November 9, 2009. No comments were received.

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."

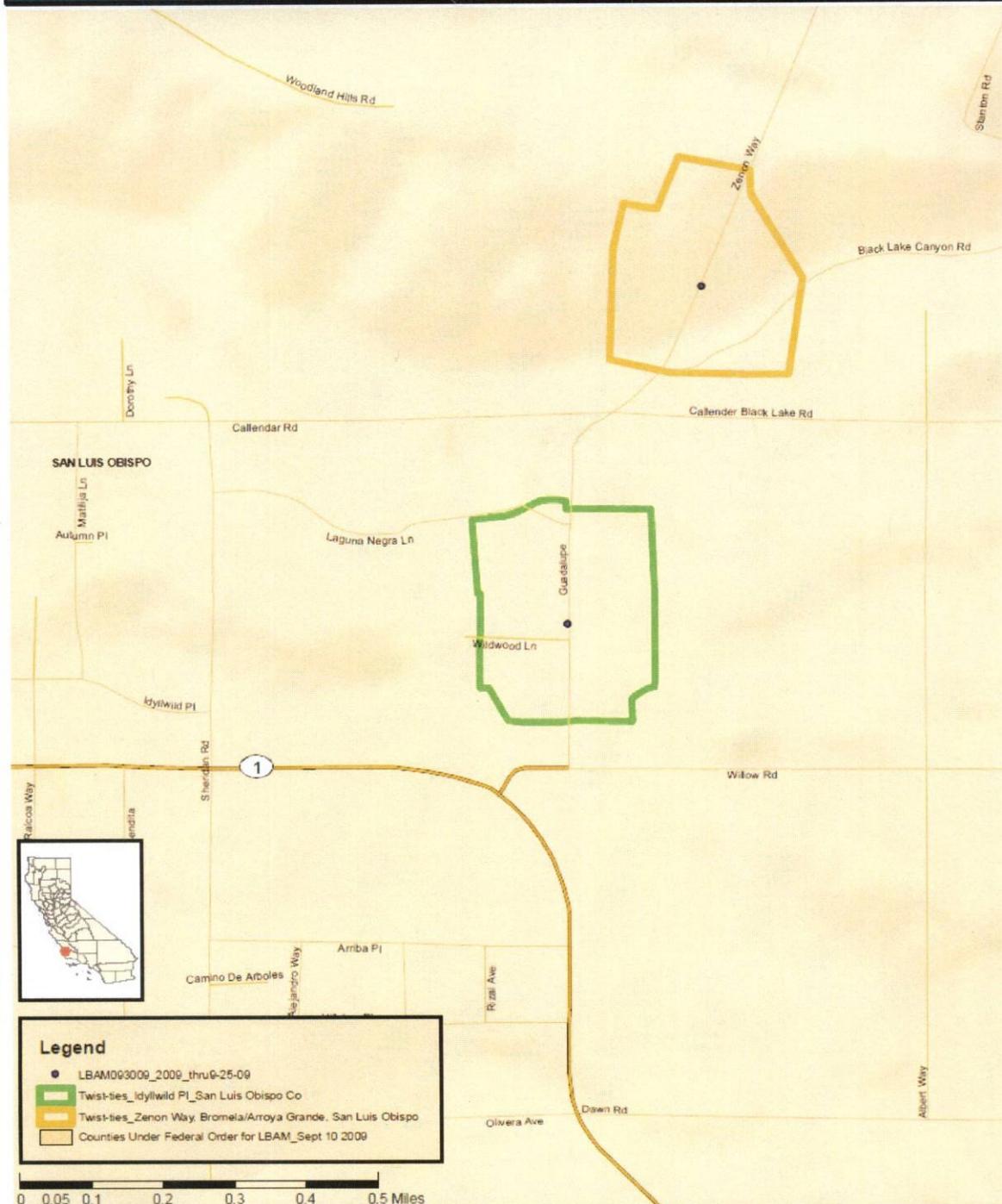
APHIS' finding of no significant impact for the treatments within the eradication zone is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the July 2007 revised EA. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.



Andrea B. Simao  
Emergency and Domestic Programs  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

November 12, 2009

Date



USDA, APHIS, PPO  
Western Region GIS Specialist  
850 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Coordinate System:  
CA Teale Albers, NAD 83  
Date Created: September 30, 2009

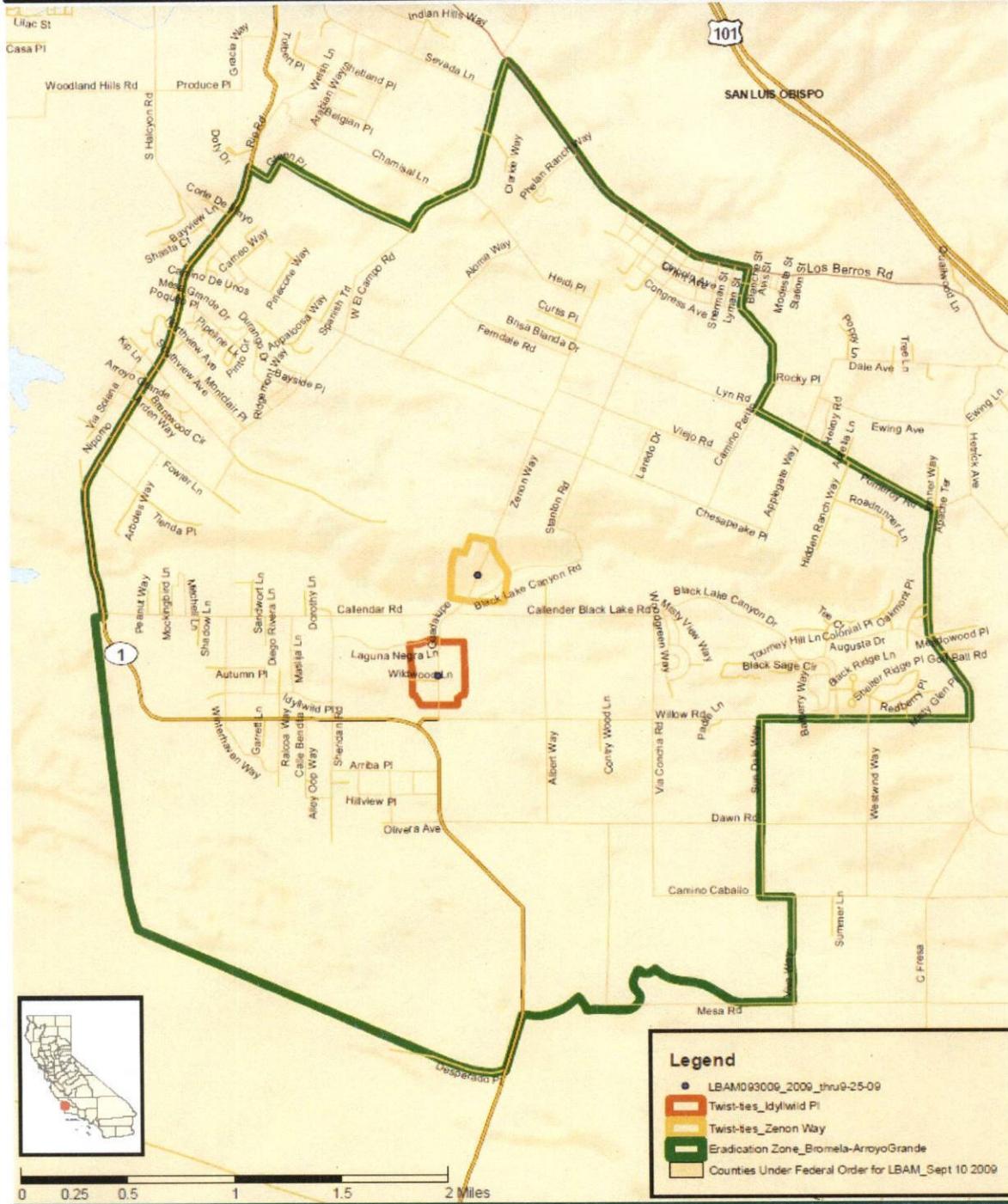
Data Source:  
CA Dept of Food and Agriculture  
USDA, APHIS, PPO  
TeleAtlas Dynamap



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service collected the data displayed for internal agency purposes only. These data may be used by others, however, they must be used for their original intended purpose.

Attachment 1.

## Ground-based Mating Disruption for Light Brown Apple Moth Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County, California



USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Western Region GIS Specialist  
850 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Coordinate System:  
CA Teale Albers, NAD 83  
Date Created: October 1, 2009

Data Source:  
CA Dept of Food and Agriculture  
USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
TeleAtlas Dynamap



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Attachment 2.