

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 and 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 134
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

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. Since 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 Los Osos, California.

Treatment in Los Osos, California

Los Osos is a small town in the western part of San Luis Obispo County in California. The town is mostly residential with commuters traveling to San Luis Obispo (10 miles to the east) or to Morro Bay (2.3 miles to the north). Los Osos has two main roads that connect it with other communities. South Bay Boulevard which connects Los Osos to Morro Bay via Highway 1, and Los Osos Valley Road leading to San Luis Obispo. The Montana de Oro State Park is located to the South of the city.

Three male LBAMs have been found within a quarter mile of each other in the southwestern part of Los Osos (see Attachment 1). The finds are within a residential area that has some undeveloped land between individual developments. An eradication zone, also defined as the state interior quarantine, has been identified around the three treatment areas so that future finds within this zone can be treated (see Attachment 2). This FONSI addresses not only treatments for the three 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.

When an LBAM is found within the eradication zone, a 200 meter radius treatment area is created. Currently there are three treatment areas within the eradication zone. 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 lifecycle could be up to six 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.

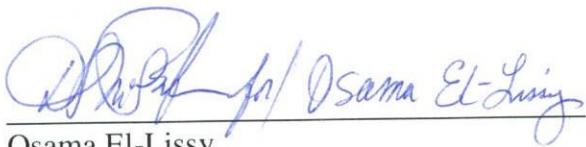
The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small isolated populations like the ones in this FONSI. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be no effects to human health and limited, if any, effects to nontarget species because the product 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 non-targets 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 exist in the area.

APHIS conducted an online query of the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office's species lists available at http://www.fws.gov/ventura/speciesinfo/spplists/sl_sanluisobispo_co.cfm. APHIS has reviewed the eradication boundary and the potential for co-occurrence of listed species and critical habitat. Based on our review of the eradication zone we have determined that the treatment area co-occurs within designated critical habitat for the Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat. Based on our review of the twist tie deployment methodology, the nature of the site, an established residential neighborhood, we have determined that the action will not affect any primary, constituent elements of Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat critical habitat or any other listed species or critical habitat in the eradication area. No species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service will be affected by this treatment. A complete administrative record of this consultation is available upon request.

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."

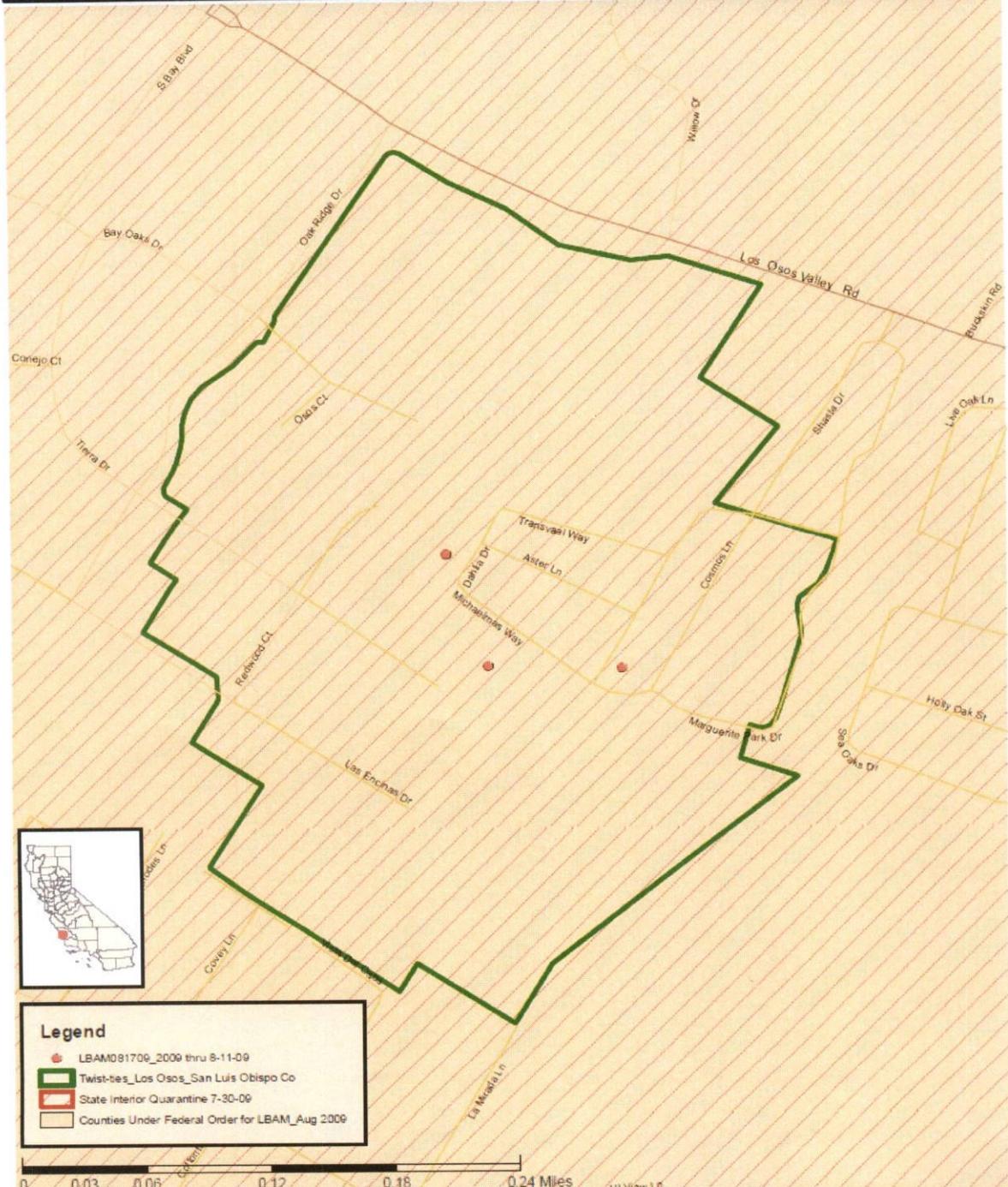
APHIS' finding of no significant impact for the treatments within the eradication zone is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the July 2007, revised EA. In addition, this finding was made available for a 30 day public comment period. No comments were received during that time. 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.

for Osama El-Lissy

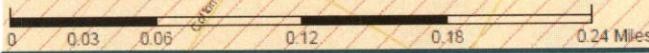
Osama El-Lissy
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

10/06/09
Date



Legend

- LBAM081709_2009 thru 8-11-09
- Twist-bes_Los Osos_San Luis Obispo Co
- State Interior Quarantine 7-30-09
- Counties Under Federal Order for LBAM_Aug 2009



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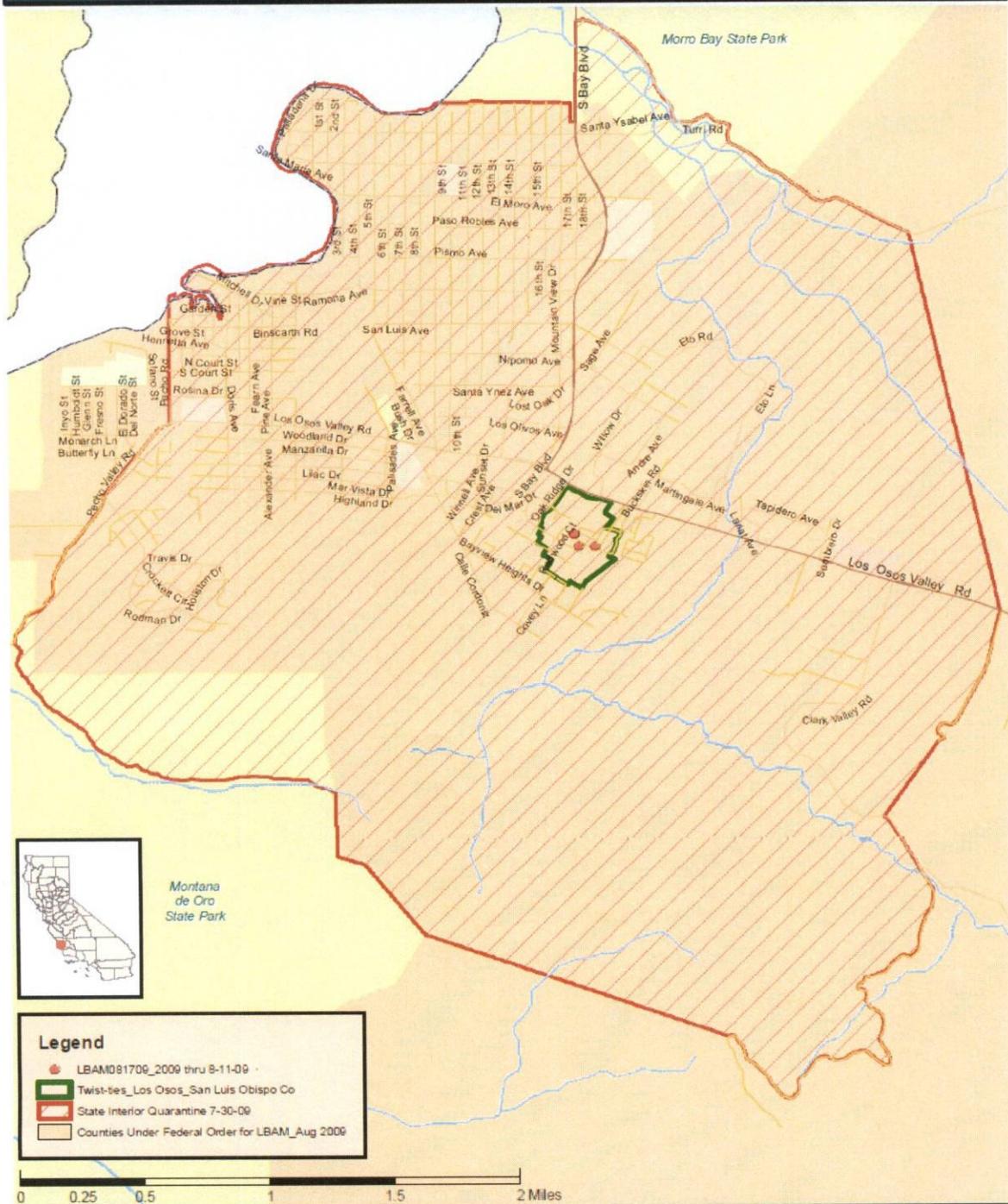
Coordinate System:
 CA Teale Albers, NAD 83
 Date Created: August 19, 2009

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



USDA, APHIS, PPQ
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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