

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 Manteca, California.

Treatment in Manteca, California

The city of Manteca is located in San Joaquin County, California in the central valley of California. It is about 80 miles east of San Francisco and is centrally located east of San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento. Manteca is centrally located and is at the crossroads of three major highways. Interstate 5 which spans Mexico to Canada, Highway 120 linking San Francisco Bay Area and the Sierra Nevada and Highway 99 running the entire length of the great Central Valley.

Manteca is a prosperous agricultural center. However, over the past 30 years the city has grown as commuters to the Bay Area and Silicon Valley have settled in and around Manteca. Manteca, California has a total population of approximately 64,670 in 2008 with population growth about 31% during 2000 to 2008.

Two male LBAMs have been found within the city of Manteca, California (see attachment 1). One of the finds is just North of E Yosemite Avenue to the East of North Powers Avenue. The other find is just south of Wawona Street and West of Ebbets Avenue. An eradication zone has been defined around the two treatment areas so that future finds within this zone can be treated (see attachment 1). 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.

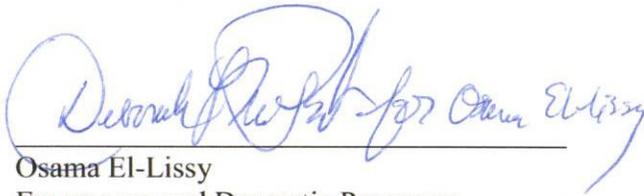
When an LBAM is found within the eradication zone, a 200 meter radius treatment area is created. Currently there are only two treatments within the eradication zone. Within each treatment area Isomate-LBAM plus (pheromone-impregnated twist ties) will be used at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre by attaching 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 Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office's species lists (available at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/spp_lists/QuickList.cfm?ID=461C and http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/spp_lists/QuickList.cfm?ID=462D) for the proposed twist tie eradication area to assess the potential for the co-occurrence of listed species or critical habitat in the eradication area. APHIS has determined that the program activities will have no effect to listed species or their critical habitat.

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

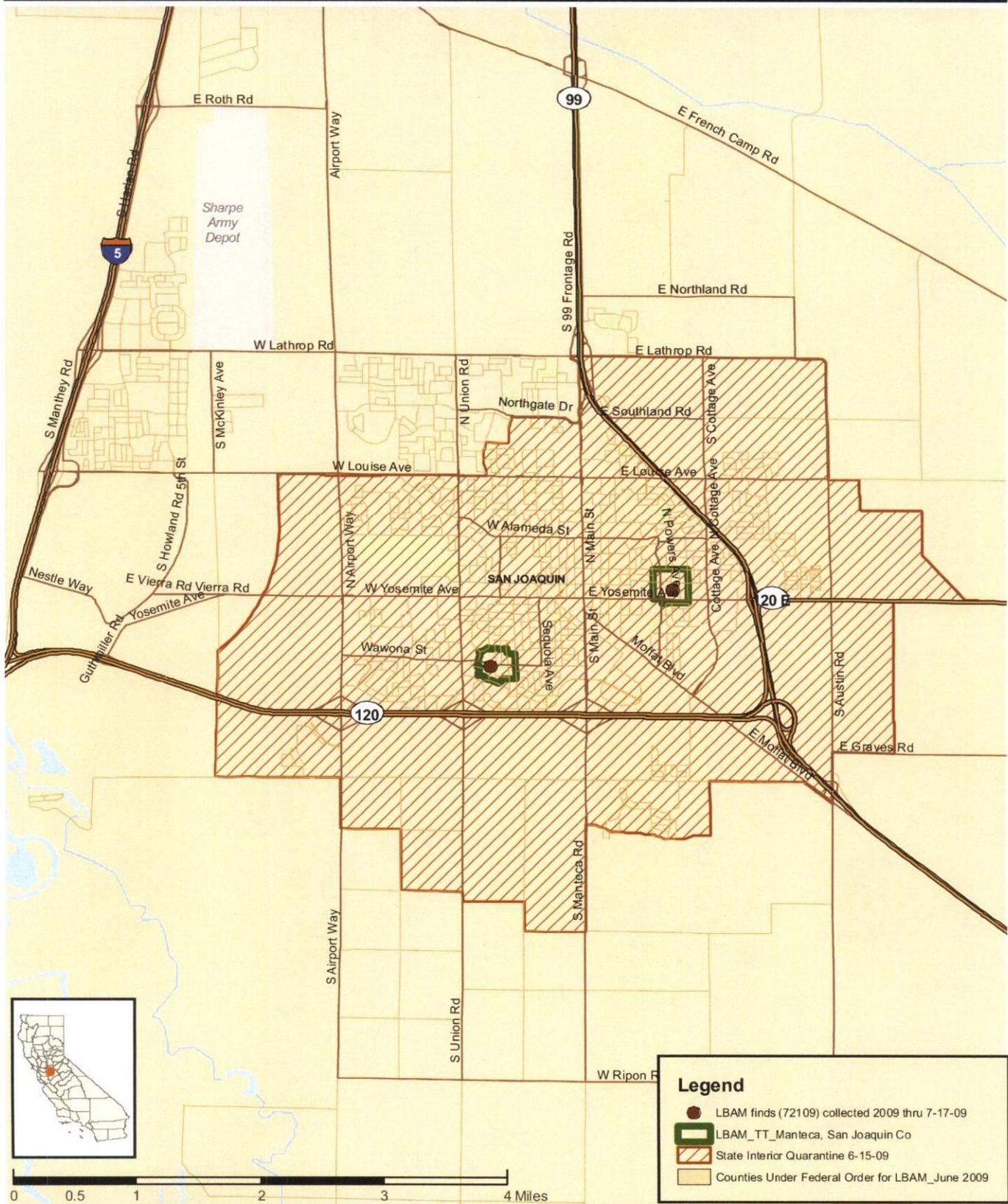
determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.



Osama El-Lissy

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

09/17/09
Date



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

Coordinate System:
CA Teale Albers, NAD 83
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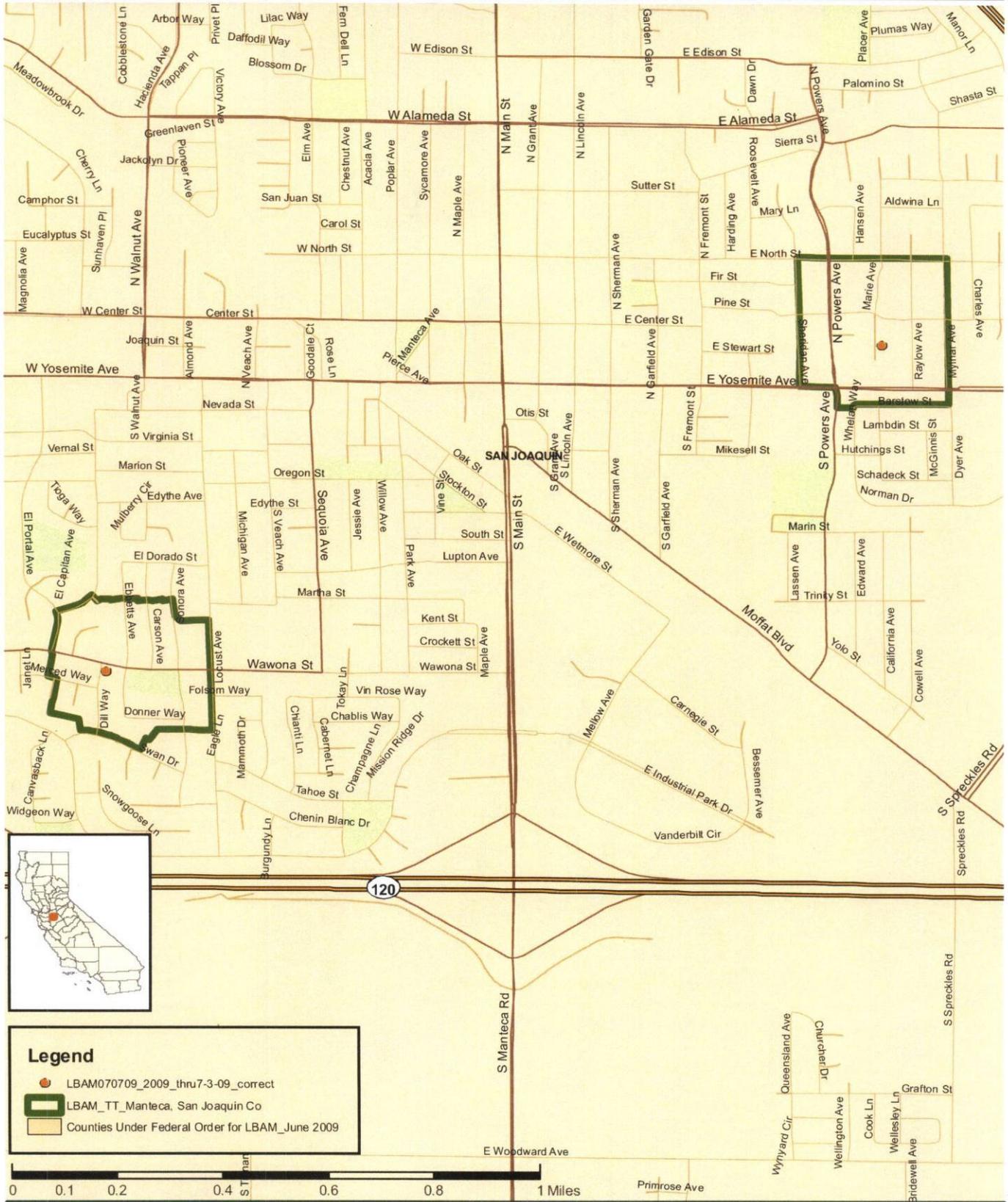


United States
Department of Agriculture

Ground-based Mating Disruption Treatment Sites for Light Brown Apple Moth Manteca, San Joaquin County, California

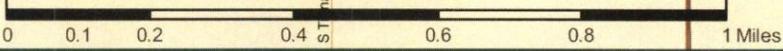


Animal and Plant
Health Inspection Service



Legend

- LBAM070709_2009_thru7-3-09_correct
- LBAM_TT_Manteca, San Joaquin Co
- Counties Under Federal Order for LBAM_June 2009



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Western Region GIS Specialist
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-400
Sacramento, CA 95814

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