

Finding of No Significant Impact
Use of LBAM Mating Disruption Pheromone Dispensers
in the Light Brown Apple Moth Program in California
September 2010.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of using LBAM mating disruption pheromone dispensers in California. The EA is available online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/lbam.shtml and from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
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The EA analyzed two alternatives consisting of (1) using the current isolated population process with no control efforts within the State interior quarantined areas (no action alternative) and (2) establishment of a new procedure to use LBAM pheromone dispensers to treat small populations, as well as, the distribution of LBAM pheromone dispensers to industry for use in agricultural areas. Under both alternatives, the environmental impacts from the use of pheromone dispensers are similar and only involve minor impacts to similar tortricids that may be attracted to the LBAM pheromone. Under the no action alternative it is expected that the LBAM population would continue to increase and expand its range to surrounding counties. The preferred alternative would allow use of pheromone dispensers throughout the state interior quarantined areas helping to suppress populations in these areas where their effects are most noticeable.

The EA was made available for a 30 day public comment period in early October 2010. To date, no comments have been received; however, APHIS will continue to accept comments through November 4, 2010. Any comments received during the public comment period will be fully considered and may aid decisions on the future use of pheromone dispensers in the LBAM program.

APHIS has determined that the use of LBAM pheromone dispensers in agricultural areas of California will have no effect on federally listed species or designated critical habitat. This is based on the fact that dispensers themselves do not pose risks to listed species and physical disturbance through deployment and replacement of dispensers would be in lands that are already highly disturbed by agricultural activities. For treatment of small LBAM populations, outside the state interior quarantined areas, APHIS will continue to work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to ensure that treatment activities do not adversely affect listed species or their designated habitat. No treatments will occur in such an area until APHIS has completed a determination of effects on listed species and their habitats in the potential treatment area, and if necessary, a section 7 consultation with FWS and/or NMFS has been concluded.

APHIS also evaluated impacts to minority population and low income populations in accordance with Executive Order 12898 and determined the proposed action would not have disproportionate adverse effects to any minority or low-income populations. In addition, there is a low potential for exposure and low toxicity of LBAM pheromone dispensers which minimizes any potential risk to children in accordance with executive order 13045 "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment, I have determined that the preferred alternative will not result in any significant impacts and therefore, an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared.



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October 29, 2010
Date