

Finding of No Significant Impact
Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California
Revised Environmental Assessment
March, 2008

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 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. Since the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site will be considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California (see attachment 1).

Treatment in Carpinteria Eradication Area

Carpinteria is a small oceanside city located in the southeastern extremity of Santa Barbara County, California, east of Santa Barbara and northwest of Ventura. Two male adult LBAMs were found in Carpinteria just north of Highway 192. A potential treatment area encompassing 1.5 mile radius around these finds is covered by this FONSI (see attachment 1). The potential treatment area includes mostly a residential area, Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, and parts of Los Padres National Forest.

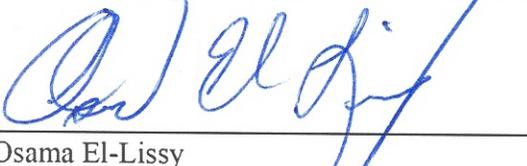
Within this potential treatment area, a 200 meter radius area will be treated with Isomate-LBAM plus (twist ties) at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre by attaching them to trees, shrubs and other fixtures for each LBAM detection. The dispensers will be removed after approximately 60 days. In some cases the dispensers may be replaced for additional treatments. When it is determined that treatment is completed, the dispensers will be removed from the area.

The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small, isolated populations like the ones in Carpinteria. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, no impacts to the human environment are anticipated, including nontarget species, because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. In addition, no negative cumulative effects are anticipated from this action in combination with any other actions because no impacts to the human environment are anticipated. The most likely impact will be the reduction of the LBAM population due to disruption of mating; eventually leading to the eradication of LBAM within the eradication area, and ultimately, within the State of California.

APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) previously discussed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) treatments with LBAM-specific pheromone at various locations. A no effect determination for listed species and critical habitat has been determined because the pheromones will not affect species other than the LBAM, and the dispensers will be tied to trees and other fixtures that will remain in the treatment areas until removal after 3 months.

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 these three treatment areas is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the 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.



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Emergency and Domestic Programs
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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



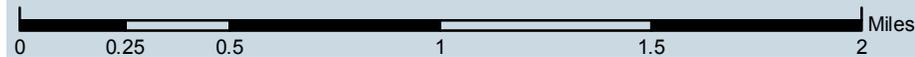
Date

Light Brown Apple Moth Finds Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, CA - 2008

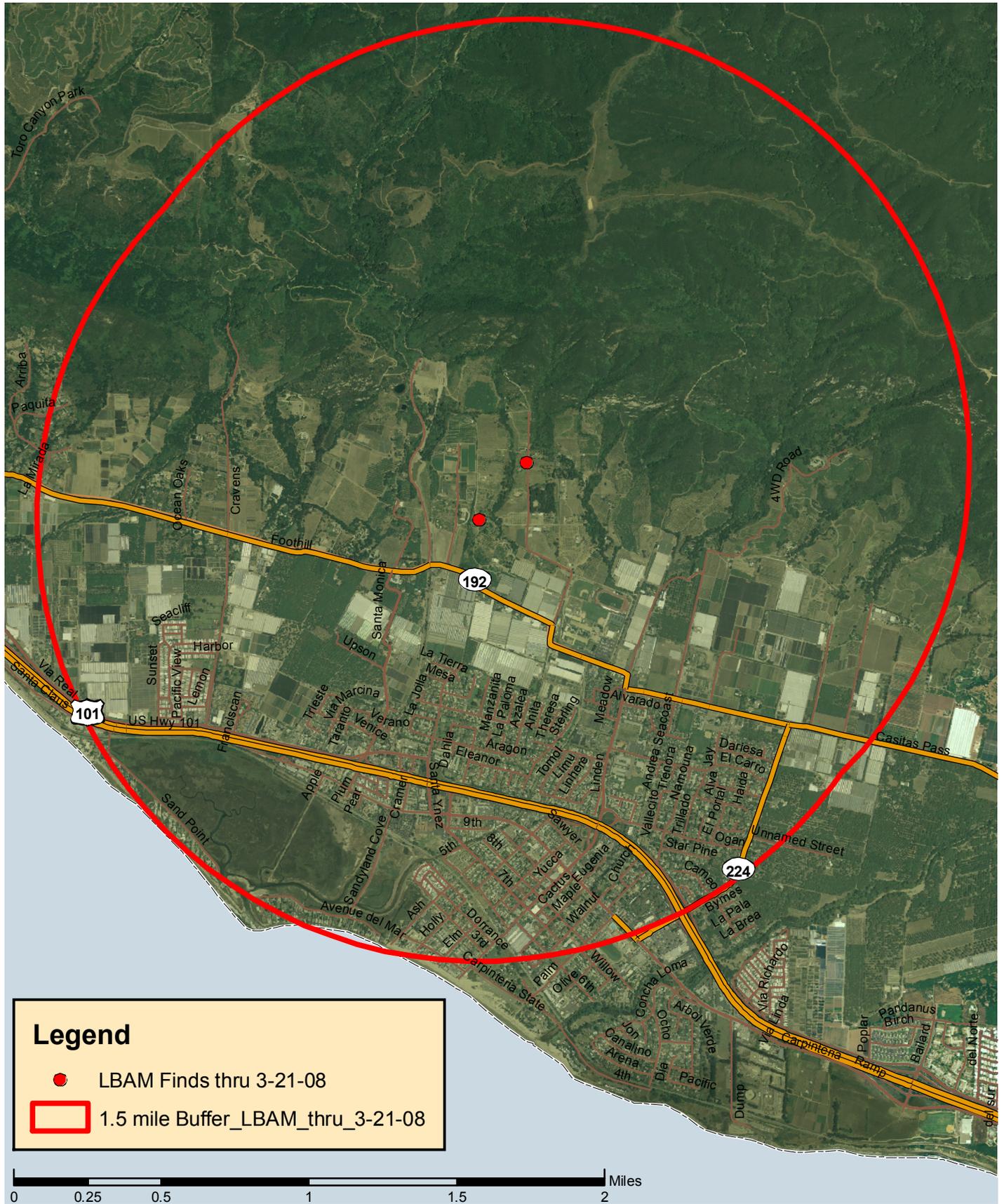


Legend

- LBAM Finds thru 3-21-08
- 1.5 mile Buffer_LBAM_thru_3-21-08



Light Brown Apple Moth Finds Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, CA - 2008



Legend

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