

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**For**  
**Light Brown Apple Moth Sterile Insect**  
**Field Evaluation Projects in Long Beach and San Diego, California**  
**Environmental Analysis**  
**February 2011**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes an evaluation project on sterile light brown apple moth releases. The objectives of the project are to evaluate the interaction of sterile moths with other sterile moths and with wild LBAM, and to determine the release techniques that will maximize the success of sterile insect technique (SIT) in LBAM suppression projects. The results of these studies will provide useful information for the LBAM Program in California by providing a better understanding of the potential for using SIT as an eradication tool.

The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available online at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ea/lbam](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/lbam) or from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Emergency and Domestic Programs  
4700 River Road, Unit 26  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

The EA evaluated a no action alternative and the proposed evaluation project alternative. The environmental impacts under each alternative were evaluated. APHIS selected the proposed evaluation project alternative because of the insight it can provide in determining the potential for use of SIT in the Light Brown Apple Moth Program in California. The analysis provided in the EA indicates the proposed evaluation project will have minimal impacts to the environment.

APHIS has determined that the proposed evaluation project will have no effects on threatened and endangered species or critical habitat based upon our review of the program, the species within and surrounding the area, and the minimal environmental effects associated with this program.

The EA was made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period that closed February 8, 2011. APHIS received two comment letters that were in support of the SIT evaluation project.

I find that implementation of the proposed program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. I have considered and based my finding of no significant impact on the analysis contained within the EA and my review of the program's operational characteristics. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that no

additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.



Andrea B. Simao  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

February 18, 2011

Date