

Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Mediterranean Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program
Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida
Environmental Assessment
June 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for control of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann), an exotic agricultural pest that has been found in areas of Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from—

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
State Plant Health Director
8100 NW 15th Place
Gainesville, FL 32606

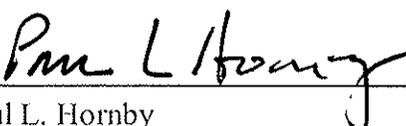
or

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Program
4700 River Road, Unit 137
Riverdale, MD 20737

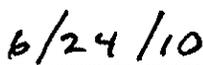
The EA for this program analyzed alternatives of (1) no action, (2) quarantine and commodity certification, and (3) eradication. Each of those alternatives was determined to have potential environmental consequences. APHIS selected eradication using an integrated pest management approach for the proposed program because of its capability to achieve eradication in a way that also reduces the magnitude of those potential environmental consequences.

APHIS initiated emergency consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Vero Beach, Florida (South Florida Ecological Services Office) regarding the proposed eradication program. FWS reviewed the proposed program for Medfly control within Palm Beach County and, based on their review of the information provided, determined that no candidate or federally listed endangered or threatened species are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed eradication program. In the event that the eradication zone has to be expanded, APHIS, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will reinitiate consultation with FWS, as necessary.

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 quantitative and qualitative risk assessments of the proposed pesticides, and on my review of the program's operational characteristics. In addition, I find that the environmental process undertaken for this program is entirely consistent with the principles of environmental justice, as expressed in Executive Order 12898, and the protection of children, as expressed in Executive Order 13045. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this proposed program, I further find that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared and that the program may proceed.



Paul L. Hornby
State Plant Health Director
USDA-APHIS-PPQ



Date