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APHIS Removes the *Zeugodacus tau* Quarantine in Los Angeles County, California

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FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2024-23

July 5, 2024

Subject: APHIS Removes the *Zeugodacus tau* Quarantine in Los Angeles County, California

To: State, Territory, and Tribal Agricultural Regulatory Officials

On June 28, 2024, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) removed the *Zeugodacus tau* quarantine in Los Angeles County, California, after three generations elapsed with no additional detections in this area. This action releases the 128 square miles of the Stevenson Ranch quarantine, which contained no commercial agriculture.

APHIS and CDFA established the quarantine on July 11, 2023, following the confirmed detections of nine adult male *Z. tau* from various sites in Stevenson Ranch between June 7 and July 6, 2023, and expanded the quarantine on August 15, September 14, October 3, and November 15, following detections of additional flies.

APHIS and CDFA selected the quarantine release date based on a degree-day model from the date of the last detection, which was December 8, 2023. APHIS restricted the interstate movement of regulated articles from this area to prevent the spread of *Z. tau* to non-infested areas of the United States. APHIS has worked cooperatively with CDFA and the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner to eradicate this transient *Z. tau* population through various control actions per program protocols.

The removal of this quarantine area is reflected on the [APHIS exotic fruit flies website](#), which contains a description of all current federal fruit fly quarantine areas. APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register.

For additional information on the *Z. tau* quarantine area, please contact:

Richard Johnson
National Policy Manager
301-851-2109
richard.n.johnson@usda.gov

Avraham Eitam
Assistant National Policy Manager
614-205-4565
avraham.eitam@usda.gov

/s/

Samantha J. Simon
Acting Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine