

PROCLAMATION OF AN ERADICATION PROJECT
REGARDING THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

On July 26, 2006, two female Oriental fruit flies (OFF) were trapped in the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County. These flies were both found in the same McPhail trap. Subsequently, on July 27, 2006, a single male OFF was trapped in proximity to the initial find site. Based on the evidence presented to me by my staff, outside experts familiar with the fly, and the trapping data, I have determined that an established infestation of OFF exists.

The Oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera (=Dacus) dorsalis* Hendel, is an exotic insect which has a long history of being a serious pest of tropical and subtropical fruits in Southwest Asia and most of the Pacific Islands. Following introduction into the Hawaiian Islands in the 1940's, this fly multiplied rapidly, and currently is known to infest more than 125 different host fruits in the State of Hawaii. Worldwide, over 250 different kinds of fruits and vegetables are attacked. The Oriental fruit fly is one of the most serious pests of agriculture in Hawaii, India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indochina, the Philippines, Taiwan, Ryukyu Islands, and Micronesia. Important California crops which would be infested include pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, and certain vegetables; particularly tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs in the fruit. These eggs hatch into larvae, or maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. First found in California in 1960, the Oriental fruit fly has been detected every year in California since 1966. The first California outbreak occurred in San Diego in 1974, and since that time, numerous major infestations have been delimited and successfully eradicated.

As Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), I have decided, based upon the possible environmental and economic damage which could be inflicted by an established infestation of the Oriental fruit fly, that under my statutory authority, it is incumbent on me to attempt to eradicate the Oriental fruit fly and its life stages from California.

This decision to proceed with an eradication program is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to eradicate the Oriental fruit fly using currently available technology in the same manner as has been successfully used to eliminate previous infestations.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Section 3591.2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 403, 5000 et seq., and especially 5761-5763 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

Following is a listing of the options that I have considered for eradication of this Oriental fruit fly infestation: 1) male annihilation using bait stations; 2) supplemental ground spray; 3) soil drenches; 4) aerial bait spray; and 5) mass trapping. There are also control options that I have considered; they are biological control and host removal.

Based upon input from outside experts familiar with the fly and my professional staff, I am ordering that male annihilation treatments consisting of methyl eugenol, Naled, and a thickener be applied to the eradication area to eliminate this infestation. A description of the options chosen is contained in the attached work plan. In issuing this decision, I have considered pesticidal and non-pesticidal options. I find that non-pesticidal options do not exist to effectively eradicate or control the Oriental fruit fly. I have determined that these actions are necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(4)]. Emergency actions are exempt from CEQA. Consequently, I have determined that it is not necessary to prepare Environmental Documents for these emergency actions.

Notwithstanding the above, and without waiving that provision of law, as a matter of policy in order to afford maximum protection to the environment and to allow all interested parties to participate, the CDFA has prepared and certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) entitled "The Exotic Fruit Fly Eradication Program Utilizing Male Annihilation and Allied Methods", although these actions are exempt from CEQA as stated above. This FEIR addresses the eradication of exotic fruit fly pests at the program level and provides guidance for the conduct of future emergency actions against these pests; it identifies feasible alternatives and feasible mitigation measures to be implemented in individual exotic fruit fly pest eradication emergencies. I have, to the extent feasible, incorporated the mitigation measures recommended. In accordance with Section 21105 of the Public Resources Code, this FEIR has been filed with the appropriate local planning agency of all affected cities, counties, or city and county. I find no local condition which would justify or necessitate preparation of a site specific plan.

Eradication Plan

The eradication area includes those portions of Santa Barbara County which fall within an approximate nine square mile area around each property on which an adult fly has been trapped or on which another life stage of the insect is found to be present. A map of the find site with eradication boundaries and the proposed eradication work plan are attached. In summary form, the work plan will contain the following elements:

- a. Delimitation. Two types of traps will be placed throughout the project area to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment fly populations. Jackson traps and McPhail traps will each be placed at a density of 25 per square mile in the core area(s), and Jackson traps at five per square mile in the remaining delimitation area. Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to determine the efficacy of treatments. Both trap types will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to three fly generations beyond the date of the last fly find.
- b. Treatment. Any finds within the original and/or expanded eradication area(s) will be treated according to the following protocol. The male annihilation technique will be the primary eradication tool. A minimum of 600 evenly spaced bait stations of Naled/methyl eugenol mixture will be applied to utility poles, street trees, etc., in each square mile within eradication project boundaries. Based on the Oriental fruit fly treatment protocol (nine square miles around each find site), a total of 8 square miles will be treated. Treatments will be repeated at two-week intervals for two life cycles beyond the last fly find (as determined by a life-cycle model driven by accumulated day degrees; minimum of four applications). If larvae or mated females are found on a property, the foliage of host plants on the infested and adjacent properties will be treated with protein bait sprays. Foliar sprays may be extended up to a 200-meter radius if trap catches warrant it. Fruit stripping will also occur on all known larval infested and adjacent properties.

Valerie Brown, Deputy Secretary

Date

If you have specific questions related to this program, please contact Cliff Ramos, Program Supervisor at (916) 654-1211.

Oriental Fruit Fly Proclamation
July 27, 2006
Page 3

Attachments