



FARM BUREAU SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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November 19, 2015

Osama A. El-Lissy
Associate Deputy Administrator
USDA APHIS PPQ
4700 River Road Unit 134
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Dear Mr. El-Lissy:

On behalf of the San Diego County Farm Bureau Light Brown Apple Moth Task Force I would like to offer our appreciation for the United States Department of Agriculture's willingness to work with the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) in developing workable programs to keep the light brown apple moth (LBAM) from creating undue shipping restrictions on producers. Also, we want to register our support for the letter to you dated October 28, 2015, from CDFA Director Nick Condos and the several requests of USDA contained in that letter.

Of particular concern to us is the fact that there are insufficient funds and personnel available should San Diego County's nursery and floral producers fall under the restrictions of an LBAM quarantine. As the national leader in the production of nursery and floral crops, San Diego County and its producers stand at great risk. While other commodities have been granted quarantine exemptions for product shipping, nursery and floral producers would find it difficult, if not impossible, to move their products to market under the current quarantine restrictions. As long as LBAM remains a pest of concern we implore USDA to stay engaged in the effort to protect the non-exempt commodities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Silva Kister
Chair
San Diego County Farm Bureau Light Brown Apple Moth Task Force

Cc: Nick Condos, CDFA