



JACK MILLER  
Director

# County of San Diego

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May 21, 2010

Mr. Alan Bornt  
Bornt Family Farms  
2307 East Highway 98  
Holtville, CA 92250

Dear Mr. Bornt:

The University of California Cooperative Extension consultant, James Bethke, has suggested changes to the Eye Gnat Nuisance Prevention Plan (Plan) dated February 4, 2010, for Bornt Farm in Jacumba, California. The changes are based on field observations and trap counts at the farm.

The changes are:

- Relocate the eye gnat traps off the black erosion screened fence and place them further into the farm in the trap crop and there should be a double row of traps.
- Abandon the trap crop planting plan in the area where the creek's sandy soil area is not irrigated, P3-block J, marked as "area of concern" on the attached plot map. This change is recommended by Mr. Bethke as the existing traps at the curve are not catching many gnats and since there is no irrigation in the area an alfalfa crop would not be successful. Instead place a double row of traps in that area to act as a barrier. Keep in place the single row of traps on the fence line.

There are some areas of non-compliance to the Plan that have been identified by Vector Control staff and Mr. Bethke. Your return to compliance is requested:

- South of Old Highway 80 plant the trap crop of alfalfa and corn as originally agreed upon in the Plan, where the collard is currently planted. The square block of alfalfa at the southern end near the Mexican Border was not recommended in the Plan. The plot map (red box on the map entitled "South of 80") indicates the area in question.
- Fresh green crop residue was observed being plowed under at the area identified as P1, Block A and Block C. This crop residue should be dried until it flakes when crushed or by burning the crop residue before plowing under per the agreed upon Plan.

The trap crop is now high enough to immediately begin spraying. I understand Mr. Bethke has already communicated this to you and you are preparing for treatment. He also indicates in his letter (attached) that the traps are proving to be effective in trapping the gnats and that this will have a significant impact on the eye gnat population.

Please be advised the Vector Control is receiving daily complaints from the residents of Jacumba about the increasing number of eye gnats and particularly from the elementary school. The teachers at the school report a significant impact the eye gnats are having on the children during recess and in the classroom. Mr. Bethke will be increasing the trapping and monitoring of the eye gnat population at the school for his study on the effectiveness of the Plan.

We would like to continue to work with you to alleviate this problem; however, the lack of compliance with the Plan, or failure to improve conditions by implementing the changes identified in this correspondence may result in the necessity for enforcement actions.

Sincerely,



JACK MILLER, Director

- cc: Ellen Pilsecker, Senior Deputy County Counsel
- James Bethke, Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Rebecca Lafreniere, Chief, Community Health Division
- Department of Environmental Health

**North Most  
Farm Edge  
North of Old  
Hwy 80**

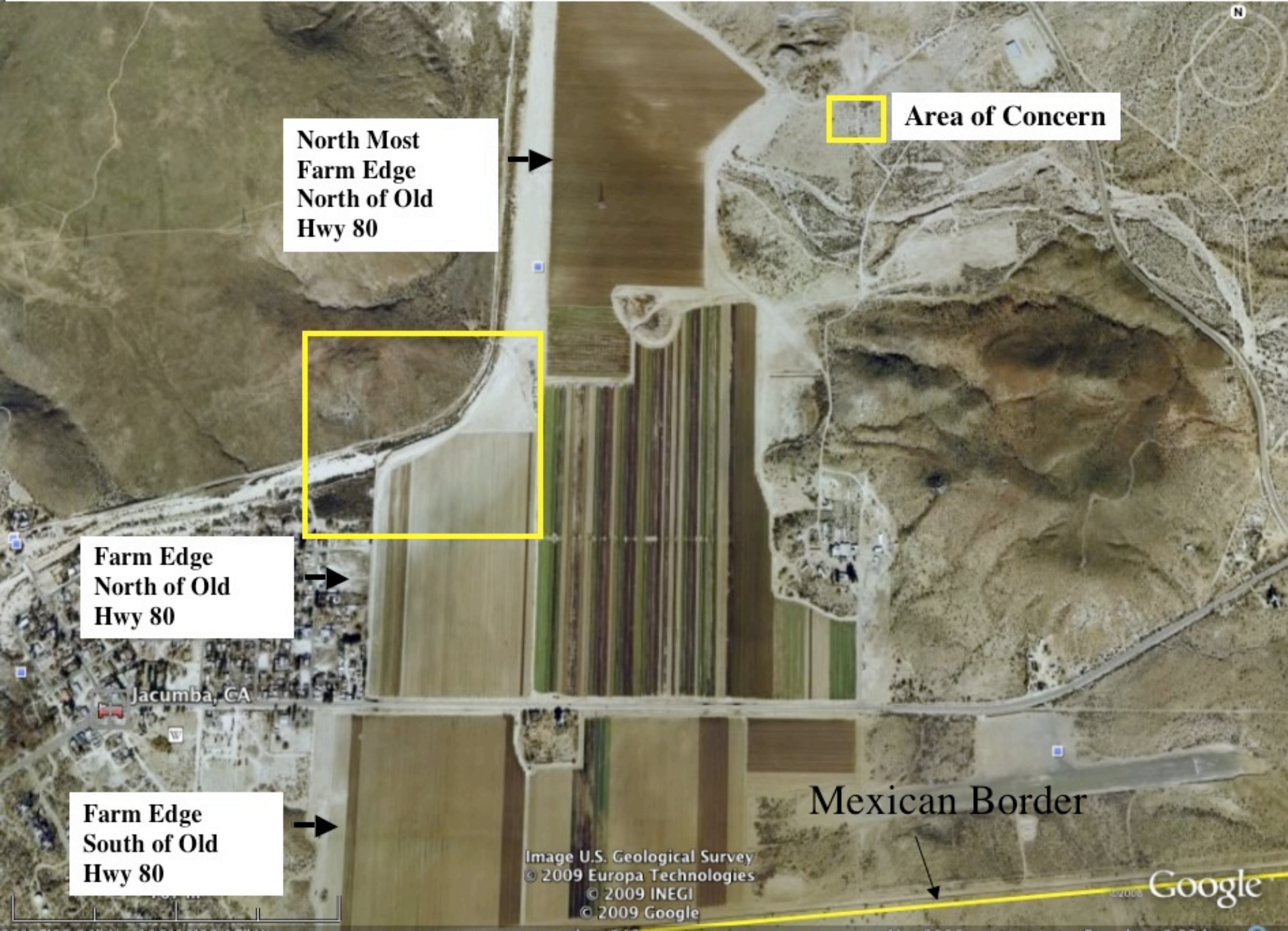
**Area of Concern**



**Farm Edge  
North of Old  
Hwy 80**

**Farm Edge  
South of Old  
Hwy 80**

**Mexican Border**



**Farm Edge  
South of Old  
Hwy 80**

Mexican Border

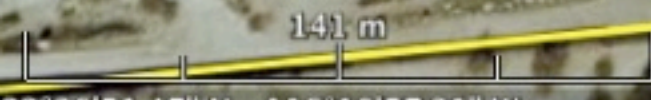


Image U.S. Geological Survey  
© 2009 Europa Technologies  
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elev. 858 m

Mar 2008

Eye alt. 1.38 km

Google



# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA – COUNTY of SAN DIEGO

4-H YOUTH & FAMILY – AGRICULTURE – HORTICULTURE – NATURAL RESOURCES – NUTRITION & CONSUMER SCIENCE

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May 18, 2010

Kerry McNeil, Program Manager  
Vector Control  
Department of Environmental Health, San Diego County  
PO Box 129261  
San Diego, CA 92112

Dear Kerry,

We visited Bornt Farms in Jacumba on May 4, 2010. The following are notes and recommendations concerning the progress that the Farm has made in compliance with the Eye Gnat Nuisance Prevention Plan.

Bornt Farms has placed the adult collar traps along the fence line and 20 feet from the fence toward the crop throughout the length of the farm. Unfortunately, in our assessment of the number of eye gnats in the traps, traps along the black erosion screened fence are catching very few flies, about 20 or so; whereas, the traps that are set in (about 20 feet) into the farm are catching an average of 230 eye gnats per trap. Therefore, we need to have the traps moved off of the black erosion screened fence and place them further into the farm in the trap crop. There should still be a double row of traps just like there is now.

Traps at the curve ('Area of Concern' on the attached plot map) are not catching many flies, probably due to the fact that they are not in close proximity to the crop and there is no irrigation in the area. Since the area is not irrigated, it would be a lot of work to put an alfalfa crop there. However, I think that if we place a double row of traps in that area just to act as a barrier, that it will be sufficient. So in addition to the single row of traps on the fence line, there should be a double row of traps in the 'Area of Concern' as noted on the plot map.

There are linear rows of collard along the whole length of the block to highway 80. However, there is a square block of alfalfa at the southern end near the Mexican border. That structure is not what was recommended in the plan. I have included a plot map (red box on the map entitled 'South of 80') of the area and where the alfalfa and corn are supposed to be planted.

I still see fresh green crop residue being plowed under at this end of the farm. I think it's producing a lot of flies. That crop residue needs to be dried out.

The trap crop is high enough now, and it needs spraying immediately. Bornt Farms is aware of this and is preparing for treatment.

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The large numbers of flies being caught in the traps means that the farm is producing great numbers of eye gnats, but it also means that the trapping will have a significant impact on eye gnat populations and it demonstrates that the farm can have a significant impact on the eye gnat populations due to its efforts.

James A. Bethke

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