DATE: August 28, 2006
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for August 28, 2006

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer to the Board of Supervisors. This report provides information on issues affecting the County and the progress of County activities.

Library

The County Library is currently working with the Redevelopment Agency to complete construction of the new Castroville Library in preparation for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to be held at the new Plaza at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 29. A large part of the work for the County Library will involve shutting down the former leased branch space and moving the book collection to the new building. During the two to three week period of this move, the County Library will be putting the North County Bookmobile at the site of the new Castroville Library on a fixed schedule each week. Members of the staff of the Castroville Library will be providing service to the public from the bookmobile while their colleagues are inside the new building preparing the book collection, furnishings and technology for the use of the public.

The Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries, which since its creation in 1991 has historically raised about $150,000 annually to support enhanced library programs, will hold its annual Author’s Dinner on Thursday evening, September 21st at the Embassy Suites in Seaside. The evening’s author will be Sharon Randall, formerly a columnist with the Monterey County Herald. The evening will also honor Fran McFadden, a beloved philanthropist in Monterey County and Board Member Emeritus of the Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries. More information about the evening can be obtained from the County Library or by calling the Foundation Office at 424-3564.
Natividad Medical Center

Central Scheduling Pilot: The hospital has embarked on a pilot initiative to centralize the scheduling process for hospital outpatients. This initiative came as a result of a collaborative meeting held on August 15, 2006 between NMC and Clinica De Salud. Various front line staff from both organizations attended as well as management. The purpose of the meeting was to openly discuss outpatient scheduling/registration issues and collectively determine the best way to handle such issues. The main issue of concern related to the amount of time Clinica De Salud scheduling staff had to spend on the telephone with NMC. After much discussion, NMC suggested to pilot a dedicated central scheduling process for outpatient radiology and cardiopulmonary patients. This process began this past Monday, August 21, 2006. The hospital reassigned two staff to perform this function. NMC will continue to monitor the success of this pilot initiative and have scheduled a follow up meeting with Clinica De Salud for September 12, 2006.

NICU Level III status: Natividad’s NICU received its official Level III status from California Children’s Services (CCS) earlier this month. Natividad is the only NICU in the County of Monterey to have this designation.

Elections

Last week, Monterey County Elections completed the candidate filing period for the November 7, 2006 Consolidated Gubernatorial General Election. This is the first phase on the election calendar. The complete list of local candidates and measures can be found on the Elections Department website at: http://www.montereycountyelections.us/a_candidates.htm

During the next phase, the Elections Department personnel will be setting up and programming the November election. Some of the tasks performed during this phase includes: proofing of all materials, including content of ballot and sample ballot, translation of ballot and sample ballot content, design and layout of ballot and sample ballot, recruitment of poll workers, polling place confirmation, Department of Justice pre-clearance request, set up of poll worker training, editing of poll worker’s manual and training materials, and final contracts with vendors.

The Election Department is currently operating with three vacancies out of seven permanent positions. Recruiting for two of these positions started August 21st with the expectation of having the positions filled by the middle of October.

Parks

The 33rd Annual Historic Car Races were held at Laguna Seca last weekend, approximately 40,000 people attended the three-day event.

John Pinio, Parks Director, participated in the "Forum 2020" hosted by the City of Gonzales on Friday, August 25th. John gave a brief summary of the current situation of County Parks with a preview into the future. Sheriff Mike Kanalakis and Health Director Len Foster also gave informative presentations regarding their agencies and their areas of expertise.

This concludes the CAO report.