MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 20, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for November 20, 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.

Sheriff’s Department

The New Laws 2006 Summary Report developed by the California State Sheriff’s Association is now available on the CSSA Services website at www.calsheriff.org. The report can be accessed by clicking on CSSA Services website, then clicking on the Legislative Reports link.

The Sheriff’s Department welcomed three new Deputy Sheriff hires, as Deputy Sheriff-Recruit Jorge Lopez, Deputy Sheriff Matthew Morrow and Deputy Sheriff Michael Vowinkel were sworn in on November 13th. Recruit Lopez has actually been with the Sheriff’s Office for over 10 years. He started his career as an Explorer, later volunteering in the Work Alternative Program. After he completed his volunteer services, Recruit Lopez was hired as a Correctional Specialist in 2003.

Monterey County Competitive Clusters

The Education Cluster met on November 15th and continues to make great strides in implementing their initiatives. The Education Cluster praised the Business Council for holding the President’s Dinner in October 2006 because it opened the lines of communication among their institutions. Clara Yu, President of Monterey Institute or International Studies, has taken
the lead to continue the meetings and will hold the second meeting of the Presidents in December. A Higher Education / Research Summit is planned for March 2007.

Since the inception of Competitive Clusters in 2003, there has been a contingent that has pushed for the development of a Technology Cluster. After many months of discussion, on November 16th the Overall Economic Development Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they consider allocation of economic development dollars for the establishment of a Technology Cluster.

**Economic Development**

One of the Monterey County Business Council’s three areas of focus is Workforce Development. In support of this goal, the Monterey County Business Council has endorsed the Governor’s “California Edge Campaign”, which is a non-partisan coalition of groups with diverse and even divergent outlooks but united in the belief that: 1) California’s future economic growth rests in large measure on the skill base of its workers; 2) The state and its industrial leadership are now at serious risk of losing the competitive advantage of a highly trained workforce and lag other states in responding to this challenge; 3) The Governor and Legislature must lead a strategic effort to forge the state’s impressive education and training infrastructure into an integral system of talent development that addresses the needs of all California workers and employers; and 4) that in the absence of this kind of leadership, California’s future is uncertain. Both employers and workers face the threat of economic decline. The objective is to garner a large group of support so that changes can ultimately be enacted.


**Health Department**

Subsequent to an October 20th declaration of a formal breach of contract, the EMS Agency has continued to work with Westmed Ambulance, Inc. and other Emergency Medical Services stakeholders to resolve a number of contractual issues. Westmed Ambulance, Inc. has formally proposed several changes to either the franchise agreement or its operations that are intended to reestablish compliance. The proposed changes include: 1) modification of the performance security; 2) zone boundaries; 3) the manner in which the Big Sur area is served; 4) modification of Critical Care Transport response times; and 5) a partnership with Salinas Rural Fire Protection District to increase the number of engine companies manned by firefighter-paramedics.

The EMS Council has called a Special Meeting on Monday, November 20th, to review the proposals. County Counsel will also participate in the meeting to ensure that both the process and eventual recommendations made to the Board of Supervisors are consistent with the law. It is anticipated that the EMS Agency will bring specific proposals, together with the recommendations of the EMS Council, to the Board for consideration early in January.

This concludes the CAO report.