MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 11, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for December 11, 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.

CAO - Human Resources Department

In order to maintain and improve the health of our workforce, the County Administrative Office Human Resources staff organized a successful series of ten flu shot clinics between November 13th and December 1st.

Clinics were held at nine different locations from King City to Seaside and Salinas. The very popular program enjoyed the support of many departments who provided administrative support as well as physical accommodations for the 960 county employees who participated in the clinics. Personnel from the Superior Courts were vaccinated as well. Many thanks to all that participated and Gerta McClay who spearheaded the program.

Cooperative Extension

Farm Advisor Appointed to National Scientific Board:
In August, Plant Pathology Farm Advisor Steven Koike attended his first meeting as a member of the American Phytopathological Society’s book publishing division, APS Press. Because of Koike’s expertise in diagnosing and researching diseases of vegetables and strawberries, he was appointed as a Senior Editor for this publication group. Koike will have input on book projects and types of educational materials published by APS Press. Many of these books are practical
field guides that are used by farmers and pest control advisors in California. The American Phytopathological Society is the national scientific professional group that organizes plant pathologists and other scientists who work on plant diseases.

New Disease Issues for Salinas Valley Lettuce:
Lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley will be facing two new plant disease issues in the coming years. Verticillium wilt is a problem that has caused significant problems on lettuce in Santa Cruz County, but until recently was only found in a few locations in the Salinas Valley. Fusarium wilt was previously known as a serious lettuce disease in Huron, California and Yuma, Arizona, but not in the coastal region of California. Verticillium and Fusarium wilts are caused by two different pathogenic fungi that live in the soil and can persist in the field for years. This summer the University of California Cooperative Extension Diagnostic Laboratory has confirmed that both diseases are now in the Salinas Valley, and their incidence is increasing. Both diseases can potentially result in significant crop loss. Farm Advisor Steve Koike is working with growers to identify which wilt disease they might have and to help them develop management strategies. Koike is also collaborating with UC Davis researchers so that more can be learned about these two lettuce problems.

New Resource for Vegetable Industry:
Two plant pathologists with the University of California, Farm Advisor Steven Koike (UC Cooperative Extension, Monterey County) and retired Specialist Albert Paulus (UC Riverside), have teamed up with a researcher from the United Kingdom to write a new reference book entitled Vegetable Diseases: A Color Handbook. The book emphasizes disease diagnosis, field biology, and other practical aspects of the diseases that affect vegetables. The book cites current research that has been published for each disease. This 448-page book includes over 600 high quality color photographs. Because the book thoroughly covers lettuce, celery, spinach, cole crops, and specialty vegetables, this new work should be particularly useful to Salinas Valley farmers and pest control advisors. The book is available in North America from Academic Press/Elsevier Books (http://books.Elsevier.com).

Farm Advisor Retires:
After twenty years with Monterey County Cooperative Extension, Entomology Farm Advisor Dr. Bill Chaney is retiring. Chaney’s research in insect pests of cool season vegetables has been very important to local growers. His research in invasive pests, alternative pest control measures and non-chemical control measures has been valuable to conventional growers and the local organic industry, which has seen rapid growth. Recruitment will begin soon to hire a University of California funded Staff Research Associate to fill in for approximately a year until a new Entomology Farm Advisor can hired.

Sheriff’s Department

The Sheriff’s department has commenced budget preparation for FY2007-2008. The department’s budget request for fiscal year 2007/2008 will include a request for additional positions, as well as augmentation to fund the NEUCOM, COMMET, and Joint Gang Task Force programs.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors will address the following Sheriff’s Department issues at the Tuesday, December 12th meeting:
o Presentation of Monterey County Sheriff Deputy of the Year Award for 2006 to Sergeant Jose Mendoza
o Adoption of a Resolution commending Commander David J. Allard, Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, upon his retirement from public service.
 o Adoption of a Resolution commending Chief Deputy Michael P. Brassfield, Monterey County Sheriff's Office upon his retirement from public service.

This concludes the CAO report.