MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for March 5, 2007

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.

Cooperative Extension

Dr. Wai-Ki “Frankie” Lam has joined the Monterey County Cooperative Extension staff as a Staff Research Associate (SRA) in Entomology. In his capacity as SRA for Entomology, Dr. Lam will conduct research on agricultural insects and pest management until a permanent entomology farm advisor can be hired. Dr. Lam received his graduate training in Entomology and Integrated Pest Management. Dr. Lam has worked as a Research Associate in Iowa for USDA, and for the past six years he worked as an Extension Entomologist at Purdue University in Indiana.

Michael Cahn, Irrigation Advisor, and Richard Smith, Vegetable Crop Advisor, held an annual Irrigation and Nutrient Conference and Cover Crop/Water Quality Field Day on February 20th, 2007. The conference had approximately 70 attendees representing major farming operations in Monterey County. Topics covered included drip irrigation, pesticide management, fertilizer management and cover crops for vegetable production.

Advisors Cahn and Smith are conducting trials in vineyards, vegetable fields, and strawberry fields, to investigate conservation practices to reduce storm water run-off and impacts on water quality. They have demonstrated that sediment loss in strawberries can be reduced by 80% by planting cover crops between the strawberry beds.
Farm advisors held an Onion Pest Management Update meeting in King City that was attended by 47 growers and pest control advisors. The meeting provided the attendees with an update on three new weed control materials that were recently registered for use on onions, partly due to the efforts of UCCE Weed Science Adviser, Richard Smith's program. In addition, Steve Koike, Plant Pathology Farm Advisor, gave an update on a potential new virus that could adversely affect onion production.

Migrant Education Community Liaisons, Martin Perez and Grace Solorio, have been selected to be presenters at the 28th Annual State Migrant Parent Conference in Los Angeles, to be held in mid-March. There they will extend UCCE Monterey County resources and information to the larger, statewide community of parents. Perez and Solorio were 2003 participants in the UCCE Monterey County's Community Trainers in Nutrition Program and have been providing UC’s research-based nutrition information to the community, through Migrant Education since completing the UCCE program.

CAO-Human Resources

Steve Mauck, County Risk Manager was recently sworn-in as President of the local chapter of the Public Agency Risk Managers Association (PARMA). The Central Coast/South Bay Chapter stretches from Santa Clara County (and adjacent areas) to Monterey County. PARMA membership includes 400 public entity members and 200 associate members (private risk management service providers) and is the largest association of its kind. Mr. Mauck acted as the catalyst in creating the new Chapter, acquiring the needed approvals by the national PARMA Board, and bringing the PARMA Chapter leadership to Monterey County.

Sheriff’s Department

The Monterey County Peace Officers’ Association Annual Peace Officer of the Year Dinner and Awards was held on Friday, February 23, 2007 with approximately four hundred (400) attending. Sgt. Mendoza, along with the other local agencies Peace Officer of the Year Awardees, was honored. Deputy Mitchell was awarded the MCPOA 2006 Peace Officer of the Year Award for a large department. Detective Bryant also presented an Appreciation Plaque from his family to Deputy Mitchell.

Sheriff Kanalakis has announced that William Hardmount will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (located in Washington D.C.), in May 2007, as part of National Police Week. On Sunday, May 13th, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will host their Annual Candlelight Vigil to honor and pay tribute to law enforcement officers who have given their life in the line of duty.

On Sept. 2, 1854, the lone Monterey County constable entered a dance hall to quell several rambunctious and soon to be notorious outlaws, Tiburcio Vasquez and Anastacia Garcia. Gunfire erupted, costing the Constable Hardmount his life. "He should be recognized. He gave the ultimate, his life, for the citizenry of Monterey County," according to the Sheriff's Office. Dennis English, of the Sheriff's Office worked with Dennis Copeland, archivist, historian and coordinator of the California History Room and Archives of the Monterey Public Library for help proving the legends about the brave lawman that stood up to the outlaws. Copeland was
able to find census records that said Hardmount was a farmer born in England who had come to California to fight in the war against Mexico. The monument would include Hardmount and English's four friends.

This concludes the CAO report.