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**

On Friday, March 23rd, University of California President Robert Dynes visited Monterey County to meet with Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors and agricultural industry principles. He came to see first-hand the issues Monterey County farmers are facing and to learn about UC research being conducted by Cooperative Extension Advisors and UC Davis Specialists to address those issues.

President Dynes heard from UC Specialist Trevor Suslow and Farm Advisors Steve Koike and Royce Larsen about their research on the biology, detection and sources of E. coli for the prevention of contamination on produce. He also visited the UC Davis strawberry-breeding program in Watsonville, which is key to local strawberry growers. The tour concluded at a Monterey County bulb farm where UC Cooperative Extension Specialist Husein Ajwa and Farm Advisor Michael Cahn explained their projects on field alternatives to methyl bromide and water quality. Members of his staff, representatives of Sam Farr and Abel Maldonado, the local representative to his Agricultural Advisory Board, Jim Lugg, and the media accompanied President Dynes on the tour.

**Sheriff’s Department**

The Sheriff’s Office, along with other law enforcement agencies, participated in a recent sweep targeting sex offenders in Monterey County that were not in compliance with mandatory registration requirements. The establishment of the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE)
Team Program is funded by a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services. The grant’s goal is to develop a regional solution to the problem of recidivism by sexual offenders. Detective Bryant is the lead on the SAFE grant.

RMA-Public Works

The Office Tenant Improvement project for the County’s Third District Supervisor is scheduled to be completed on or before April 13, 2007 per William Thayer Construction. Thayer's overall project schedule was based on a 6 to 8 week lead-time for new aluminum doorframes via their sub contractor (Del Monte Glass, the Administration Building's original door and glazing sub contractor). Thayer say's the frames will be arriving on or about April 3, 2007 for immediate installation. The final scopes of work from April 3rd to April 13th will include finished electrical, communications, card key installation, touch-up painting, carpet and project area cleaning, furniture installation, entry door and office signage, final cubicle assembly, final building permit sign-off and final punch-list walk with the Supervisor's staff, Thayer Construction, Capital Projects and the County's Equal Opportunity Office.

The new in-pavement lighted pedestrian crosswalk system located at the intersection of West Alisal Street and Cayuga Street is now operational. The City indicated that it is on a test run and the improvements will be accepted after a final inspection, walk-through and City Council acceptance action. This project is joint cooperation between County of Monterey and the City of Salinas. The in-pavement lighted crosswalk has been very effective for warning drivers going through a cross walk and other effective applications are in school crossings. The projected final cost of the project will be about $190,000, which includes the in-pavement lighted system, the repair of curb, gutter, sidewalk, pavement transition, ADA access ramps, and other work as necessary. The cost to the Monterey County is 50% of the total cost (about $95,000).

This concludes the CAO report.