MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 14, 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.

Parks Department

The County Parks Department and Tri-California celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Wildflower Triathlon at Lake San Antonio the weekend of May 4th-6th. The event was created by the Parks Department in 1983 to kick-off the summer season and increase tourism at Lake San Antonio County Park. Back then only 86 participants and a handful of people attended the inaugural event. Since that time the event has grown to nearly 8,000 participants and over 20,000 spectators who attended this years activities.

The Wildflower Festival is the largest triathlon in the world and is now nationally and internationally televised and is featured in numerous publications throughout the world. 13 years ago, the Parks Department contracted with Tri-California to coordinate the Wildflower Festival on behalf of the County. This partnership has been very successful by not only being profitable for both parties, but also providing a wholesome, family atmosphere that promotes a healthy and fun lifestyle for all who attend.

The Parks Department looks forward to hosting this spectacular event for the next 25 years.
In February 2007, Public Works submitted a “High Risk Rural Roads” (HR3) grant application to Caltrans for a proposed Blackie Road Safety Improvement Project in North Monterey County. Blackie Road qualifies for these funds as it is functionally classified as local rural road on which the accident rate for fatalities and incapacitation injuries exceed the statewide average.

Assistant Traffic Engineer Gary Kearns analyzed California Highway Patrol historical collision reports along the 4.7-mile length of Blackie Road. The analysis using ArcMap, a Geographic Information System, showed that 35 collisions were recorded between Commercial Parkway and U. S. Highway 101 between January 1, 2004 and December 30, 2006. Twenty-four of the 35 collisions, 68.5 percent, occurred between MP 3.25 and 4.00 on a segment comprised of two, 11-foot travel lanes, with no shoulders, and deteriorating pavement edge. This collision rate extrapolates to 20.87 collisions per million vehicle miles far exceeding the statewide average of 0.90 collisions per million vehicle miles. The majority of collisions recorded were Run-Off-Road (ROR) collisions directly related to the roadway geometry and high vehicular speeds. The .75-mile segment of Blackie Road was a clear choice for Monterey County to submit an HR3 grant application.
In May, Caltrans notified Public Works that the Blackie Road project was awarded $900,000 in HR3 grant funds for safety improvements. These funds will cover 90 percent of the proposed project costs. Regional Surface Transportation Program “Fair Share” funds will pay for the remaining ten percent of the costs. Public Works plans to have the project design underway by July 2007 to implement the following safety improvements: 1) **Shoulder treatments** including shoulder widening, paving, and reduction of pavement edge drops to promote safe vehicle recovery from ROR collisions. 2) **Rumble Strips**, which produce a rumbling sound and cause a vehicle to vibrate alerting drivers that have drifted from the travel lane onto the centerline or shoulder areas; 3) **Thermoplastic Pavement Markings** to clearly delineate and guide drivers within the travelway; 4) **Curve Warning Arrows and Signs** to alert the driver to decrease vehicle speed prior to entering the curve; and 5) **Roadway Restriping** to change this segment of Blackie Road to a “No Passing” zone to avoid head-on collisions. These safety features have proven effective by allowing drivers time to make corrections or reduce speed to avoid accidents.

The Public Works Department extends a special thanks to Gary Kearns of the Public Works Traffic section, for the supporting traffic collision analysis data.

**Sheriff’s Department**

The Sheriff’s Office is in the process of ordering additional TASER® weapons equipped with the new TASER cam™ as recommended by the 2006 Civil Grand Jury. The TASER® purchases are a result of the Sheriff’s Advisory Council’s fundraising events.

The Sheriff, Undersheriff, and Chief Deputy Liebersbach along with representatives from other County Departments will be attending a follow-up meeting with Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary James Tilton. The meeting is to discuss the recently approved prison reform legislation and Monterey County’s eligibility for participation and possible future funding.

The Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force has launched a Web site at [www.gangtaskforce.org](http://www.gangtaskforce.org). There is also a link from the Sheriff’s Web site.

This concludes the CAO report.