MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 21, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 21, 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.

Department of Social and Employment Services

The Monterey County Workforce Investment Board and the One Stop Career Center system and partners will be hosting their 2nd Annual Employer and Employee Recognition Event for the employment of individuals with disabilities on Friday, July 6, 2007 to celebrate the success of the employer and employee community in the employment and retention of individuals with disabilities. The event is scheduled from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Salinas One Stop Career Center, with an awards ceremony planned at 2:00 p.m.

Elected officials to honor local employers and employees throughout the County will provide recognition awards and presentations. A special presentation will be given by Gary Karp, an internationally known public speaker with a passion for living and a desire to help people reach their potential. Gary will tell his own story of survival and perseverance after breaking his back at the age of 18 and continuing on to personal and professional success. Success stories and bios of the award recipients will appear in the program available on the day of the event.

“I received my Bachelor’s Degree and was lucky enough to obtain my first real job right out of school. Even though I know that I have a physical limitation, I see myself just like everyone else. I pride myself in knowing that people
acknowledge my loyalty and hard work based on the person that I am and not my disability. I take pride in my independence and the lifestyle I lead. I work, travel and play just like everyone else. I thank all the people around me because they allow me to be just like them and share this wonderful experience called life.” – Jocelyn Rosete, Department of Social & Employment Services - CWES Division

Additional events of the day will include tours of the One Stop Career Center, refreshments and a variety of vendor exhibits with information on assistive technology and how businesses can effectively support and encourage disabled individuals to secure and retain employment.

The business community and members of the public are welcome to attend this free event.

We are accepting nominations from all Monterey County Departments who have successfully hired and retained individuals with disabilities or to nominate an employee with disabilities for providing outstanding service. The nomination deadline is June 1, 2007.

For more information about this event, please contact: Joseph Werner, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board, (831) 759-6644, wernerj@co.monterey.ca.us

Health Department

The Monterey County Mental Health Commission, in conjunction with the Behavioral Health Division of the Health Department is sponsoring the 3rd annual “FIESTA OF HOPE” dinner and art showcase, as part of Mental Health Awareness Month. The dinner and art showcase will be held at the Embassy Suites, Seaside on Thursday, May 31, 2007.

Three years ago the Commission took an unprecedented step to pull public and private service providers together, along with mental health consumers, to be a service “buffet” where families and individuals who struggle with mental illness could, in one night, enjoy a great meal, receive information and be encouraged by seeing the supports that are available to them in Monterey County. A wide variety of service providers including education, EMS, law enforcement, social services, drug and alcohol support groups and faith-based organizations have come together beautifully to support the residents of Monterey County.

The Commission immediate past-chair explained, “The purpose is to provide a community event that will educate the public and raise awareness of the resources, treatment options and support available to those touched by Mental Illness. At the 2006 event we were able to provide 100+ scholarships for clients and family members to attend. To see the room full of clients and their families lets me know we are doing something significant here in Monterey County.”

The speaker for the evening is Dr. Michael O’Connor, who will discuss his personal experience
as a son and Mental Health professional. There will be a question and answer time following the presentation.

Along with the dinner many resource groups are planning exhibits, and consumers of Mental Health services will have an art and craft showcase, of which many items will be available to purchase.

Behavioral Health Director, Wayne Clark stated, “Our goal is that the Fiesta of Hope continues as a resource for our community, an avenue for consumer voices and a fun, informational evening.” Other agencies in California and across the country are interested in duplicating the model we have created here in Monterey County with this event. Tickets are $35 and checks should be made payable to The Monterey County Action Council, c/o Monterey County Mental Health Commission, P.O. Box 3724, Salinas, CA 93912. For further information call 755-4561 and speak to Lennis.

Probation Department

Project Impact is a program within the school districts designed to highlight and combat the many problems associated with substance abuse. The Courts, District Attorney, Probation Department, Public Defender, and Sheriff’s Office have agreed to conduct a court session (driving under the influence trial) on campus at Carmel High School. This will be a three and one-half hour project presided over by the Honorable Larry Hayes. Dean Flippo, Mike Kanalakis, Manuel Real, and James Egar have all made staff available for the planning and implementation of this remote trial. The Public Defender’s Office has helped to identify a client willing to participate in this public proceeding. Almost two hundred graduating seniors will attend together with their teachers to observe and learn. Deputy Public Defender Tracy Mooney has worked extensively with all parties concerned to plan and implement this unique program.

There will be a courtroom in a gymnasium with a Judge’s bench, witness stand, court clerk and counsel tables, as well as a jury box. The trial will include voir dire (jury selection), opening statements by both attorneys, direct and cross examination of a police officer, criminalist and civilian witness, followed by closing arguments, jury instructions, deliberation and verdict. The Probation Department will present a modified report and recommendation, and the Court will impose a sentence accordingly. The justice partners will be available for a question and answer session after the formal proceedings have concluded.

The Monterey Herald will be sending a reporter and photographer, local television and cable access television will be present to film stories, and the entire proceeding will be video-taped for further educational benefit.

In addition, Gonzales Police Chief Paulette Cudio and the Superintendent of Education are planning to attend so that the County can partner in the Chief’s efforts to initiate positive juvenile programs in that community.
This entire program is almost without expense and is a positive demonstration of a successful collaborative justice program. The County and Board of Supervisors can be proud of the Departments involved in providing the service above and beyond their usual assignments.

Sheriff’s Department

Sergeants, Commanders and Captains for all Bureaus are receiving Incident Command System (ICS) 300 & 400 training. ICS 300 & ICS 400 trainings are Fiscal Year 2007 requirements for federal funding eligibility. The trainings provide a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all-hazard incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across all functional emergency management disciplines.

The Custody Operations Bureau Facility Needs Assessment is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. The Sheriff’s Office will be asking the County to accept the final Jail Facility Needs Assessment, direct staff to proceed with an Environment Impact Study, hire an architect to design the appropriate facility and to continue to explore funding sources.

This concludes the CAO report.