MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 29, 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.

District Attorney

The Monterey County District Attorney’s Truancy Abatement Program was honored by the Monterey County School Boards Association with its “Celebrating Excellence In Education” award at its annual organizational meeting held at the Steinbeck Center on April 30th. Superintendents and elected School Board Members of the school districts of Monterey County recognized District Attorney Dean Flippo and Deputy District Attorneys Elizabeth Thomas and Diana Rosenthal for their work and success in overcoming truancy in Monterey County.

Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools, submitted the District Attorney’s Truancy Abatement Program to the School Boards Association for this special recognition. The Truancy Abatement Program carries and annual workload of over 4,000 truancy cases. It reaches out to students and parents, both English and Spanish speaking, to assist them in addressing truancy issues and finding solutions. The District Attorney’s Office provides mediations with students, parents, teachers and school administrators.

The success of the Truancy Abatement Program has meant thousands of Monterey County students are in class. Their attendance means not only are students back in the classroom and not on the streets, but that they are learning and saving the school districts hundreds of thousands of dollars in loss revenue caused by their truancy.
In one high school district, a sample of 52 truancy court-involved students showed that before the involvement of the D.A.’s Truancy Mediation Program, there was an average of 288.9 days of student absence per month. These absences translated to $79,460 in lost Average Daily Attendance (ADA) that school year.

After the Truancy Mediation Program was implemented, the days of student absence was reduced to 18.7 and an increased revenue of $74,333.41 resulted from increased ADA.

In an effort to have students attend school regularly, Deputy District Attorneys Thomas and Rosenthal work with Monterey County’s 24 school districts by conducting meetings and giving presentations to parents and students who are identified as at-risk for truancy. District Attorney Flippo stated, “Research shows that a primary indicator of future delinquency and criminal activity is a pattern of truancy. If we can devote resources to return students to school and keep them from becoming involved in criminal activity, it is worth the effort.” Over the years the program has been in operation, parents, students, and administrators have provided testimonials to the value of the program and the recognition of the importance of obtaining an education. The program works with children from first grade to high school seniors.

For additional information, contact Dr. Nanacy kotowski, County Superintendent of Schools (831) 755-0301 or District Attorney Dean Flippo at (831) 755-5470.

Sheriff’s Department

The Gavilan Academy Graduation took place on May 16th and included four Sheriff’s Office deputy sheriffs. They are Justin Gill, Sonja Gutierrez, Jorge Lopez and Jessica Samudio. Deputy Justin Gill earned Top Recruit, which is the overall achievement award. In addition, Sgt. Anderson was given the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee's Award for Instructional Excellence.

Chief Stephen Cercone, the newly named chief of the Seaside Police Department, will be sworn-in on Friday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. at the Seaside City Hall building, located at 440 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside.

This concludes the CAO report.