MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for October 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.

Elections

Absentee Voting: Tuesday, October 30, 2007 is the last day to request an absentee ballot for the November election. As of Monday, October 29, the Department has issued 78,162 ballots and has received nearly 17,000 voted returns. Voters may return their voted ballot to any active polling place in Monterey County up to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6th. Voters may return their voted ballots to the nine participating City Halls according to the following deadlines: Thursday, November 1st in King City and Sand City, and until Friday, November 2nd in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Greenfield, Gonzales, Marina, Seaside, and Soledad. The Department worked on Saturday to open and extract voted ballots that have been signature verified in order to begin early ballot tabulation on Monday, October 29, 2007. State law allows tabulation as early as seven business, or 11 calendar days.

Election Officers: The Department held 18 classes and has trained nearly 500 Election Officers who are now ready to oversee the County’s 113 precincts in operation for the November Election. Of the total Election Officers and Field Inspectors hired and trained, 87 have joined through the County’s Election Official Program. Monday, October 29th, is the last class conducted where all precinct Inspectors are invited to the Board of Supervisors’ Chambers for a special training to highlight important changes and new procedures. This week, the Department will also be holding “Practice Makes Perfect”, which are practice sessions held between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. offering Election Officers an opportunity to visit the Department to practice setting up and using the voting equipment.
Website: To comply with County Code, Section 1.10.030, the Elections Department has posted the latest local campaign contribution and expenditure reports on the official Monterey County Elections website at: www.montereycountyelections.us/contributions_expenditures.htm. The Department also posts all press releases on the website. The latest news is linked on the homepage, and archived at www.montereycountyelections.us/news.

February 2008 Presidential Primary/Statewide Petitions (Referendums): Ballot design and preparation will soon be underway. The Department has multiple deadlines forthcoming which will make ballot stock and design selection difficult to target. At this time, the ballot will consist of the office of President along with three statewide measures. Locally, jurisdictions have until the 88th day before the primary, or Friday, November 9th to place any ballot measures before the voters. However, due to the potential for four gaming referendums to make the February ballot, the Department must wait to print ballots delaying the ability to send materials out to the County’s 60-day military and overseas voters. Counties have until December 3, 2007 to certify each of the petitions, but are being encouraged to finalize their findings earlier hoping to avoid further delays. If the referendums qualify as late as December 3rd, the State must display the ballot title and summary for 20-days, providing each county with the official language on December 26, 2007. This late date also puts at risk the Department’s ability to have sample ballot pamphlets and absentee ballots ready for voters by the first day for Early Voting on Monday, January 7, 2008. The Department is working hard to conclude its work early, and plans to finalize signature verification and certify the petitions by the end of this week, on Friday, November 2nd, one month ahead of schedule.

Equal Opportunity Office

David Medrano recently announced the appointment of Bonita Monarque as Associate Equal Opportunity Analyst with the Equal Opportunity Office effective Monday, October 29, 2007. Ms. Monarque comes to the Equal Opportunity Office after having served for five years in the Monterey County Sheriff’s Department as a Management Analyst II. Ms. Monarque is returning to the Equal Opportunity Office where she previously served in the same capacity from 1991 through 2002 before transferring to the Sheriff’s Office. Ms. Monarque’s appointment comes as the result of a transfer opportunity offered by the Equal Opportunity Office to all qualified County employees. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Monarque to her new position.

Parks

The Monterey Sports Car Championships were held at the Laguna Seca Recreation Area on October 19-21, 2007. This event was the finale to 50 Years of Racing. “I could not be more pleased with the fabulous ending to our 50th Anniversary season,” said Gill Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.

The American Le Mans Series and the SPEED World Challenge put on great show for good crowds. The season-ender was also broadcast on NBC and is the only Laguna Seca race event that features “racing into the darkness” for the American Le Mans race.
American Le Mans Series President and CEO Scott Atherton stated that the series is alive and well and looking strong for the next decade and beyond. He also noted that the series is working on an initiative centered around alternative racing fuels and is discussing development of a hybrid-powered race car with several manufacturers.

Bobby Rahal was the final inductee into the Legends of Laguna Seca Walk of Fame and was honored during a ceremony on Saturday of the races. Mr. Rahal has raced at Laguna Seca since 1976 and competed this past weekend as well. Next year’s race is scheduled for October 17-19, 2008 and will again receive television coverage.

**Resource Management Agency**

The Resource Management Agency held its Second Annual Enhancing Excellence Training Event on Wednesday, October 24th. The goal of the event was to facilitate collaborative learning between the departments. Employees were offered the opportunity to enroll in six different courses. The training sessions ranged from very specific CEQA Training to a broader course in Personal and Professional Goal Setting. After the morning session, over 350 employees gathered at the Laurel Yard for a steak and chicken barbecue feast prepared by Public Works staff. The session opened with presentations by Dave Potter, Chair to the Board of Supervisors, and Lew Bauman, CAO, followed by a Service Recognition ceremony. Certificates of Recognition were awarded to 43 employees for their years of dedicated service to the County. The event concluded with a Combined Giving Silent Auction. The departments then broke into individual activities for the remainder of the afternoon.

**Sheriff’s Office**

Congratulations to Deputy Steve Bernal who was selected as the September 2007 Deputy of the Month for his thorough investigation in an embezzlement case.

The Deputy Benefits Association Christmas Dinner Dance 2007 tickets went on sale on Oct. 15th. The event will be held on December 15th. For information or tickets, contact Cmdr. Hunton, Sgt. Burns, Victor Lurz, Ofelia Gonzales, or Jessie Robles.

This concludes the CAO report.