MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for November 13, 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

November 6, 2007 Election: Local elections ran smoothly, as polling sites opened on time and the Election Officers and voters adjusted from using the electronic voting equipment to returning to paper ballots. As expected, the results were released slower, however, the Department notified the public of the potential delay in results reporting, which helped to reduce questions and phone calls. All precincts reported in by approximately 11:30 p.m. and the Department completed its semi-final official election night report by 12:35 am. One notable situation was a report of a brief power outage at two polling sites after the close of polls. Each polling site is equipped with flashlights for this type of situation, but the Election Officers for one of the sites exhibited a bit of ingenuity and pulled a car up to the front door to shine the headlights to provide enough light to manage the closing procedures. When the Elections Department personnel arrived with additional flashlights, the power was restored and closing procedures continued without incident. The assigned Field Inspector assisted at the other polling site by staying with the Election Officers until all closing procedures were completed.

There are a handful of close races and the Department has worked through the days immediately following the election to finalize verification on the remaining 6,000 absentee ballots to update the election results on Friday, November 9th by the close of business. The Department will also
complete verification on approximately 300 provisional ballots, which may also affect the close races.

The Department must complete all steps of the official canvass no later than the Monday before the last Friday of this month, or November 26, 2007, in order to meet State law and allow local school and special district officers to take office by early December. This canvass period is eight days shorter than the Department provided for all other elections under State law; however, with a low turnout, there should be minimal overtime and impact on the cost of the canvass. In addition to the mandated steps of the official canvass, the Department is implementing a 100% manual audit of all votes cast on the touch-screen voting machines and a potential increased audit on paper ballots as required by the conditional recertification.

Once again, the Elections Department would like to thank all County employees who signed up to participate through the Election Officer program. For the November Election, there were 114 employees who contributed – this is a new record for the Election Officer program! With all of the changes before the voters and Election Officers, having the assistance of County employee skills and talent adds to the Department’s confidence that Election Day would run smoothly.
THANK YOU!

February 2008 Presidential Primary: The February Presidential Primary is 84 days away. The Department is preparing to mail a postcard to each permanent absentee voter who is registered as either Decline-to-State or is registered with a party that has not qualified for the ballot in California, to inform them of their voting options. California has an established “modified” primary system where each qualified political party may allow unaffiliated voters to participate in the party’s election. For the February Presidential Primary, the American Independent Party and the Democratic Party have indicated they will allow crossover voting for the office of President. Unaffiliated permanent absentee voters who receive this card are asked to indicate their choice, if any, and promptly mail the card back in order for the Department to prepare to mail the crossover ballot.

Friday, November 9th was the last day for local jurisdictions to request consolidation services and to place any candidate contests or ballot measures before the voters. The Department received a request from the City of Seaside to place a Vital Services measure before the voters of the City. However, ballot layout and design will not be complete until late December due to the potential for 4 gaming referendums to qualify, as well as a rumored late legislative measure to be placed before the voters. Nearly all counties, including Monterey, have certified and reported their final number of qualified signatures, but larger counties, like Los Angeles, may need until the deadline of December 3, 2007 to certify their petitions. The Department is working with the print vendors to be able to print and mail sample ballot pamphlets and absentee ballots as soon as possible. There is a possibility for mailing out the sample ballot pamphlets on time, near the end of December 2007, with the caveat that if the language of the 4 referendums is amended during the public review period ending on December 26th, the Department will need to mail a supplemental sample ballot image to each voter in order to replace the image that was included
in the pamphlet. The late measures may also lead to a delay of official ballots mailed to the permanent absentee and mail ballot precinct voters, and will certainly delay materials for the military and overseas voters who normally expect information as early as 60 days before the election, or near December 5, 2007.

**Resource Management Agency**

**Service Improvements at the Salinas Permit Center:** To continually provide improved services to the people of Monterey County, the Building Services Department and Planning Department have increased their office hours and implemented a new customer tracking system.

On November 2, 2007, the Salinas and Marina Permit Centers increased their hours of operations to Monday thru Friday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. This change allows customers an early option as well as full service up to normal closing time for County offices. Staff will work 8 hour shifts with staggered starting times to enable the extended open hours.

On November 5, 2007, the Salinas Permit Center launched its new customer tracking system, Q-Matic. This system tracks customers to assure that they are helped in a timely manner. This tracking system includes TV monitors that call the customers number as well as provides informational videos, job announcements and the County cable station.

The tracking system allows Permit Center managers to track the number of customers waiting, waiting times and the number of windows open for each category, such as Building, Plan Check, Planning, Records, and Code Enforcement. Managers can electronically direct additional staff when waiting times exceed the service standards. Finally, the system provides a variety of reports on service efficiency and effectiveness to help further improve customer satisfaction.

**Sheriff’s Office**

The Monterey County Sheriff’s Advisory Council is holding their fundraising dinner for the Sheriff’s Office helicopter on Nov. 15th at 6:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Monterey. The price is $100 for MCSO personnel who wish to attend. For more information contact Ms. Chrietzberg at 649-4600.

The Monterey County Peace Officer’s Dinner Meeting will be held Nov. 14th at Gino’s at 1410 S. Main St., Salinas. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and the cost is $25.00 per person. Sgt. W. Kaye and Sr. Records Specialist Suzanne Pedroza will be honored for their intervention at an off-duty traffic accident.

The Deputy Benefits Association Christmas Dinner Dance 2007 tickets went on sale on Oct. 15th. The event will be held on December 15th. Tickets are still available.
The California Law Enforcement Association of Records Supervisors (C.L.E.A.R.S) held their 34th Annual Training & Technology Seminar on Nov. 5-9, 2007 at the Hyatt Monterey. C.L.E.A.R.S State Executive Board issued a Proclamation designating November 7, 2007 as "Law Enforcement Association Records and Support Personnel Day". The Proclamation recognizes and thanks the Records and Support personnel for all the assistance they provide to their law enforcement agencies. A big thank you to the Monterey County Sheriff's Office professional staff for all that you do to make this a professional organization and to ensure the safety of our deputies!

This concludes the CAO report.