MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 10, 2007

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for December 10, 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.

Sheriff’s Office

Deputy Steve Bernal - 2007 Deputy of the Year for the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office. Monterey County Sheriff Mike Kanalakis takes great pride and pleasure in announcing the selection of Deputy Steve Bernal as the 2007 Deputy of the Year for the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Kanalakis noted that this was a very difficult decision as there were many well deserving deputies nominated.

Deputy Bernal an eight-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Office is currently assigned to the Enforcement Bureau in the South County Station in King City.

Deputy Bernal was selected for this distinguished award for his very proactive efforts in two extraordinarily difficult cases. One of the cases was an embezzlement investigation and the second a child sexual exploitation case.

Both of these investigations confirmed Deputy Bernal’s willingness to go above and beyond his normal duties as a deputy sheriff assigned to patrol. In both instances, he took extremely difficult cases and worked them to their successful conclusion and prosecution. His efforts and perseverance are indicative of his desire and dedication to protect the citizen’s of Monterey County.
A life long resident of Monterey County, Deputy Bernal is married and the father of three children. He is a “people person” with impeccable moral character. His positive attitude towards helping others is evident by the fact that he is very active in his community even when off duty.

An accomplished singer and guitarist, he recently stared in the leading role of King City stage production of *Guys and Dolls* produced by the Stage Hands Theater Group. He is a member of the *Nashville Song Writers International* and often performs as a solo singer at numerous community functions.

Deputy Bernal is well respected by the citizen’s of South Monterey County. He has received several written letters of commendation from members of the local community for his efforts at a community project in the Pine Canyon Area and a local community fundraiser for a local cancer patient.

Deputy Bernal is to be congratulated as the recipient of this most deserving honor. In recognition of his award, Deputy Bernal will receive a personalized *Deputy of the Year* badge that he will be entitled to wear throughout 2008. He also receives a $500.00 cash award from the Sheriff’s Advisory Council.

**Department of Social and Employment Services**

*Open Hearts and Homes for Waiting Children*: Monterey County celebrated Adoption Awareness Month by honoring those families who have opened their hearts and homes to waiting children in the foster care system.

On Thursday, November 29, 2007, all families who have finalized adoptions during the past year were recognized at a reception held by the Family and Children’s Services Branch of the Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services. This year, 42 families adopted 63 children. Of these children, 21 were over the age of 5, and some were as old as 15.

“When foster children do not have the opportunity to return to their birth parents, we are committed to finding them a new permanent family, regardless of their age,” said Program Manager Christine Lerable, who oversees the staff dedicated to finding families for neglected and abused children. “Most of our adoptive parents have worked with the birth families in an effort to help them reunify. When this is not successful, they are ready and willing to adopt.”

Monterey County’s involvement with the Family to Family Initiative supports the agencies emphasis on finding foster care within the child’s community and promotes placement with relatives and near kin, who have been more successful at keeping the children in more familiar and comforting environments. “This year, an amazing 43% of our adoptive families were relatives or near kin of the children,” states Ms. Lerable.

Each year, there are always more children in need of foster and adoptive parents. The department hopes the celebration will help motivate the community to make the call that can change a child’s life. For more information call 1-800 850-0006.
Health Department

Monterey County Equips All Law Enforcement Vehicles with Defibrillators. If you live in or visit Monterey County, your chances of surviving a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) have increased dramatically. Thanks to a hallmark program, all law enforcement vehicles in the County now carry Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and all federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel in Monterey County are now CPR and AED trained.

"Monterey County is one of just a handful of counties in the nation that has equipped every level of law enforcement vehicle with an AED," says Tom Lynch, Monterey County's Emergency Medical Services Director.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors fully funded the purchase of 156 AED units to equip all local law enforcement agencies with this life saving device. An additional 22 AED training units were also purchased. The Emergency Medical Services Special Assessment (CSA74 Fund) provided $269,643 to implement this benchmark medical response program.

"Anytime you see law enforcement arriving on the scene in Monterey County, you can also expect an AED and someone that knows how to use it to save a life," says Chief Michael Klein of Sand City.

Law enforcement agencies that are AED equipped include: the Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Fort Hunter-Liggett, CSUMB, California Parks, County Parks, Regional Park District, and the twelve incorporated cities.

The American Heart Association estimates that 330,000 lives are lost each year in the United States due to SCA. If you are unlucky enough to be alone and outside of a hospital, your odds of surviving a SCA is less than five percent. The following four critical factors will improve your SCA survival:

1. Early Access - recognizing that a cardiovascular emergency exists and immediately notifying the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System, usually by calling 9-1-1.
2. Early CPR - starting CPR immediately after cardiac arrest to circulate blood to vital organs buys time for the victim until defibrillation can be administered.
3. Early Defibrillation - AED of the victim as soon as equipment arrives.
4. Early Advanced Care - trained health care providers arriving quickly to administer advanced lifesaving interventions.

For additional information about this program, contact John Sherwin at (831) 755-5013 ext 31 or sherwinj@co.monterey.ca.us <mailto:sherwinj@co.monterey.ca.us>.

This concludes the CAO report.