MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
   County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for February 4, 2008

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

The Presidential Primary Election Day - Tuesday, February 5, 2008! Visit the Elections Department’s website to verify registration status, find the location of your polling place, see a list of all polling places in Monterey County, see the Department’s latest press releases, and check to see if the Department has received your vote by mail ballot.

Polling place supplies were packaged by precinct and on Saturday, February 2nd, Inspector pick-up was completed by 2:00 p.m. Inspectors will contact the polling place owners today in order to introduce themselves, obtain emergency/after hours contact information, and visit the poll site to familiarize themselves with the location. The Elections Department wishes to again thank all who have signed up to assist on Elections Day!

The Department will begin to use the new help desk call center, AskED, (Robis, Inc. as contracted through Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc.) that will allow the Department to easily log all telephone calls and to be able to provide consistent instruction and assistance to Election Officers and Field Inspectors, as well as voters. The help desk consolidates the entire Election Officer manual, text from the Observer Guide, and materials used by the public phone bank into one database. The program also links directly to the Department’s voter registration system for easy
voter look-up. With typical turnover in the Department’s phone bank personnel, the help desk will benefit customer service and allow for more timely resolution of telephone calls.

**Vote by Mail (Absentee Voting):** As of Saturday’s report (2/2), the Department has issued over 84,000 vote by mail ballots and has received over 38,000 voted returns. All voted returns are verified by checking the residence address and voter’s signature appearing on the outside of the blue return envelope. The Department has processed approximately 20,000 voted ballots so far using three Optech 400-C ballot tabulators. As scheduled, the Department will process another estimated 15,000 voted ballots that were extracted from return envelopes on Saturday, February 2nd. The Department, however, cannot accumulate any votes or know any results until the close of polls on Election Night.

Voted ballots must be received by an elections official no later than the close of polls on Election Day. Please do not mail your voted ballot back to the Department. POST MARK DOES NOT APPLY!! Return your voted ballot directly to the Department’s office in Salinas or to any active polling place in Monterey County. Locked vote by mail drop boxes are no longer available at City Halls.

**Important:** if you work in Monterey County but reside in a different county, you must return your voted ballot to the county of your residence.

**June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary Election:** Candidates seeking nomination to offices scheduled for election at the June election have been visiting the office obtaining signature in-lieu petitions to collect signatures to reduce their filing fees. Last week was also the period for filing Declarations of Intent for election to Superior Court Judge in Monterey County. There are 12 non-partisan Superior Court Judge seats up for election this June, as well as Board of Supervisors in District 1, 4, and 5, and the San Benito County Board of Education’s Trustee Area 2 which is shared with Monterey County. Partisan offices include State Senate District 15, State Assembly Districts 27 and 28, Representative in Congress, District 17, and members to various local political party central committees.

**Library**

The Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) and the Community Foundation for Monterey County hosted the *Libraries and Literacy for Life Summit* in the Community Room of the Marina Branch Library on January 28, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to bring Monterey County’s library directors and chief educators together to discuss the state of literacy in local communities. The goal was to launch a sustainable process of establishing literacy as a core service in libraries throughout Monterey County.

Assemblywoman Anna Caballero provided opening remarks by telephone from her office in Sacramento. She encouraged library directors and educators to promote literacy as a crucial issue for the health and prosperity of Monterey County residents. California State Librarian, Susan Hildreth, traveled from Sacramento to participate in the meeting, and spoke on the
services and funding provided by the California Library Literacy Services. She recognized libraries in Monterey County, as well as the Community Foundation, for their commitment to sustainable literacy services. She shared statistics, stating that MCFL’s Mobile Library Literacy Services, delivered by MCFL’s Reading Safari staff, visited 60 preschool sites, providing literacy opportunities to over 1100 children in 2006/07. She recognized the Monterey County Free Libraries for training and supporting 96 volunteer tutors who provided over 6,000 hours of preparation and literacy instruction to 109 adult learners, 31 families, and 46 children under 5 years of age, during the same time period.

This concludes the CAO report.