MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for April 21, 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.

Library

The Library has launched a "Monterey County Writes Poetry" festival to celebrate National Poetry Month. Monterey County Free Libraries invites County residents of all ages to participate by writing poems in English or Spanish. Selected poems will be published on the Library's website. Teens and children may also opt to compete in the Cowboy Poetry Contest, which is held in conjunction with the California Rodeo and is sponsored by the County Library. Submission forms are available at www.montereycountyfreelibraries.org. For details, please call (831) 883-7542.

Elections

June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary: The June Primary is 43 days away. This election is referred locally as “consolidated” as there are local issues on the ballot in addition to the federal offices and state legislative offices and propositions. Monterey County’s nonpartisan offices scheduled for election are three members of the Board of Supervisors, Districts 1, 4, and 5, and one office of Superior Court Judge. There are four local measures qualified – two school bonds (Salinas City Elementary and Aromas-San Juan Unified) and two special taxes (Spreckels Memorial and the City of Pacific Grove). The most recent item to qualify for placement on the June ballot is the Recall election against Senator Jeff Denham, State Senate District 15. A list of
all qualified candidates and measures appears on the Monterey County Elections website at www.MontereyCountyElections.us. Statewide information can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov.

The period for qualifying as a write-in candidate is now in progress. The deadline for any person wishing to turn in paperwork for becoming a qualified write-in is Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Voters who are currently registered to vote with the American Independent Party, the Libertarian Party (Excluding The 27th Assembly District), the Peace and Freedom Party, or the Green Party will receive a special notice from the Elections Department notifying them that there were no qualified candidates for the partisan nomination to federal or state legislative offices at the June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election for the listed political parties. Therefore, pursuant to Elections Code Section 8004, whether they vote by mail or vote at their polling place on Election Day, they will be provided a ballot containing statewide propositions and all nonpartisan contests and ballot measures for which they are eligible to vote. Voters affiliated with the Green Party will see the partisan Green Party County Council (Central Committee) race on their ballot.

Register to Vote: Any voter seeking to change political party affiliation to be eligible to vote for partisan offices must do so by the voter registration deadline which is Monday, May 19, 2008.

Vote by Mail (Absentee) Voting: Voters who may be both a permanent vote by mail voter (new terminology referring to permanent absentee voters) and registered as either Decline-to-State or is registered with a party that has not qualified for the ballot in California, were sent a post-card from the Department informing them of voting options in California’s “modified” primary system. The deadline to return that card requesting a cross-over ballot was Friday, April 11, 2008. The Elections Department will prepare to mail the cross-over ballot beginning on Monday, May 5th.

Monterey County’s military and overseas voters will soon receive their official ballot materials in the mail. The County will continue to provide these “Special Absentee Voters” the option of faxing their voted ballot back to the office if they do not receive it in time to vote and return it by mail. During the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election, the Department received nearly 100 faxed ballots from the Special Absentee Voters who could not return their ballot via mail.

Poll Worker Recruitment: The Department would like to thank all of the County employees who have signed up to participate in the June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election. As of Friday, April 18, the Department has received 65 applications through the County Election Official Program – this number reflects just over HALF of the level of participation for the February Primary (122 applications received) and HALF of the Department’s goal for the June 3rd Primary which is 124! The Elections Department is more than appreciative of the willingness of each employee to join, and of their supervisor to allow involvement in the program and provide voters assistance on Election Day. THANK YOU to those who have already signed up – and ask for continued interest by all interested in volunteering this year!

Facilities: The Department has looked at the organization of workspace within the Office and has reorganized workspace to accommodate the increased operational needs of Precinct Services
and our Early Voting Program. The changes are minimal but will go a long way to improve operations. Precinct Services is now further behind the scenes and closer to the area of specialized precinct supply storage and warehouse operations. The front public counter will be moved back a few feet in order to accommodate the large influx of voters we expect to see if not in June then in November 2008 for the Consolidated Presidential General Election. The Department assisted over 1,000 voters on Election Day in February and it was a packed house! The additional space in the front “lobby” will allow for better flow of incoming and outgoing voters and enable the Department to have two separate lines, providing improved flow at the counter – one to allow voters to complete paperwork and the other to obtain voter materials. The Department has also installed a mail slot in the glass window to the right of the front doors. This will allow voters dropping off their voted ballots in the evenings or weekends to easily place their ballot through a mail slot rather than attempt to slide their ballot between the Department’s two front doors.

The Department has also worked with the property owner to make a few minor improvements to the warehouse and bathroom facilities. Doors have been installed in the warehouse to separate one workspace from the other and provide for better insulation when employees spend long hours in the back. Air vents and fans have been installed in the restrooms to offer better airflow and ventilation. While they may be minor, the improvements go a long way to provide better comfort for the employees.

This concludes the CAO report.