MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for April 28, 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.

PARKS

SEA OTTER CLASSIC - LAGUNA SECA RECREATION AREA

Sea Otter Classic was held at Laguna Seca Recreation Area on April 17-20 for the 18th straight year. The 4-day festival event included everything from the “Kid’s Egg Hunt, Rodeo & Races” to professional races in downhill, dual slalom and road racing. Nearly 10,000 athletes from across the globe participated in the athletic events. Our own Salinas High School cross-country mountain bike team earned several awards in the Junior Sport and Beginner’s categories.

The Expo area of the event offered plenty of food vendors, activities for all ages, a trade show and product demo area. The Expo area featured over 300 vendors. The new product demo area allowed participants to try out a variety of items on the spot.

Sea Otter Classic has made it a priority to take care of our natural resources and to ensure a healthy environment for future generations. They continue to improve and expand their environmental programs each year through partnerships with Clif Bar, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., Toyota and others. They also continue to grow their donations to a number of local charities.
Sadly, Sea Otter Classic suffered their first fatality in the history of the event. San Jose resident, Mark Reynolds, died Saturday afternoon after an accident on the downhill course. Reynolds was an experienced competitor who had attended every Sea Otter event.

**PARKS/WATER RESOURCES AGENCY**

On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, the County entered into a one year “Interim Agreement” with Forever Resorts to operate the resort businesses at Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio. The County purchased all the assets of the resorts from the prior concessionaire in October of 2007 and has operated these facilities up until April 22, 2008.

Forever Resorts will now run the marinas, stores, rental units, fuel facilities and restaurants at both lakes. The County would continue running the campgrounds and day use facilities.

Forever Resorts was selected for their expertise, experience and ability to provide strong business management, finance and product strategy. They have a proven track record in operating resorts at other public and private facilities where reservoir levels are subject to substantial changes caused by weather or man-made actions.

Forever has over twenty-five years of experience in marina and lodging operations throughout the United States. Forever operates in several locations throughout California such as Trinity Lake, Oak Bottom, Brandy Creek and Lake Don Pedro.

Parks and Water Resources, the County’s two agencies that will oversee the Forever Management Agreement, are excited about the positive impact this partnership will have on patrons at both lake facilities.

This concludes the CAO report.