MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
        County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 5, 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

Congressman Sam Farr to award the “We the People” collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Monterey County Free Libraries System.

U.S. Congressman Sam Farr will officially award the Monterey County Free Libraries with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA) on May 9, 2008. The program will start at 11 a.m. and will be held at the Community Room at the Marina Branch Library. The NEH grant is made up of 374 books in English and Spanish, and 17 CD-DVD kits devoted to the “Created Equal” theme. Copies of the books will be available to the public for borrowing on May 9th, 2008, after the ceremony.

This grant, which is sponsored by the U.S. Congress, honors the 200th birthday of president Abraham Lincoln in 2009. Newbery-award winning author Paul Fleischman, whose book Saturnalia, is part of the “Created Equal” collection, will speak on the occasion as well.

A children’s program focusing on Abraham Lincoln will precede the award presentation ceremony. The children’s program will be from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Ruth Paget, Youth Services Librarian, at (831) 883 -7542.
Elections

Register to Vote: The deadline to register to vote for the June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election is Monday, May 19, 2008. Those who wish to receive all official voter information pamphlets well ahead of the Election (there are two this election) should register to vote early. If you or anyone you know is concerned you may not be registered to vote, please visit the Department’s website where you can check your registration status by selecting the link, “Are You Registered to Vote in Monterey County?” Register TODAY!

Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets: The Department will mail out over 147,500 of the local Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets beginning on Wednesday, May 9, 2008. As has been in past primary elections, this is a combined information pamphlet and contains sample ballot for ALL parties, as well as the non-partisan voter’s ballot. Voters will read about the Modified Primary system in California and a new law that tells Election Officials to refrain from printing a party ballot when there are no partisan candidates qualified in the county, what an overvote and an undervote are, how to correctly mark the ballot and how to use the touch-screen voting machine, and, (on the back cover) there is an application for a vote by mail (absentee) ballot, as well as the location of their polling place.

The State has one Official Voter Information Guide that contains information on Propositions 98 – 99, both regarding Eminent Domain issues. The state pamphlet mailing period began on April 24th and includes all voters registered by Friday, April 4, 2008.

Vote by Mail (Absentee) Voting: The Department will mail nearly 81,000 ballots to voters in Monterey County who vote by mail beginning on Monday, May 5, 2008. The Department also included a voter instruction sheet to assist voters in how to correctly mark the ballot and how to request a new ballot if necessary. Monday, May 5 2008, also marks the first day of Early Voting at the Department.

Poll Worker Recruitment: As of Friday, May 2, 2008, the Department has now placed 122 County Employees as poll workers and field inspectors – we are only 2 away from the Department’s goal of 124!! This number now BREAKS THE RECORD of poll worker and field inspector participation for both the November 6, 2007 and the February 5, 2008 elections (both reached 114). The 122 poll worker and field inspector participants are in addition to those who’ve signed up as couriers (delivery drivers) and receiving station personnel. The Elections Department is very 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!


**General:** A few of the Department’s staff were able to “get out of the house” this past week and attend trainings, user group meetings and demonstrations from other counties. Two staff attended the Lorman Educational Service’s “Election Law” seminar held in Sacramento, which was attended by county and city election officials from all over California. It was an all day class that covered a myriad of topics ranging from sources of law and how they relate to the conduct of elections, campaign finance laws, mandates surrounding initiatives, referenda and recall petitions, and discussions of different election litigations over the years that are still referred to today when solving court challenges. Two other staff attended a user group meeting held in Santa Clara County by Sequoia Voting Systems in conjunction with the 22 California Counties currently using the system, as well as visited a neighboring county to see how their GIS system is integrated with their election management systems.

This concludes the CAO report.