MEMORANDUM

DATE:       May 19, 2008
TO:         Board of Supervisors
FROM:       Lew C. Bauman
            County Administrative Officer
SUBJECT:    County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 19, 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

Register to Vote: The deadline to register to vote for the June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election is TODAY, Monday, May 19, 2008. 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?” Voters will need to provide their date of birth, residence house number and zip code to verify registration status and party affiliation. The Department will remain open until midnight on Monday, May 19th to register voters.

As of the Department’s last report of registration (5/14/2008), there are 147,895 registered voters in Monterey County. The political party affiliation breakdown is as follows: 73,434 Democratic Party, 42,696 California Republican Party, 2,904 American Independent Party, 1,118 Green Party, 584 Libertarian Party, 370 Peace and Freedom Party, 26,433 Decline to State/nonpartisan voters, and 356 voters registered with political parties that have not yet qualified for placement on the ballot in California (such as the Reform Party or the Neuroscience Party).

Vote by Mail (Absentee) Voting: The Department has mailed out nearly 86,000 vote by mail ballots and has received nearly 12,000 voted returns as of Friday, May 16, 2008. Tuesday, May 27th is the last day to apply to receive a ballot in the mail for the June Primary. Applications can
be found on the back cover of the local sample ballot and voter information pamphlet or on the Department’s website. Voters can also log on to the Department’s website to check to see if their voted ballot has been received by the Department. There is a link on the home page called, “Have You Received My Vote by Mail Ballot?” The voter will need to provide their date of birth, residence house number and zip code to verify the receipt of their voted ballot.

Poll Worker Recruitment: Once again, a huge THANK YOU to all those who have signed up to participate as a poll worker through the County’s Election Official program. To date, there are 128 employees who can be assigned to work one of the 124 polling places. This number does not include those who will be assigned as Field Inspectors, Couriers or Receiving Station personnel. This number also surpasses our June goal for this program of 124 employees. The level of participation is extremely helpful to the Department and to the voters of Monterey County.

Recall: Many may have heard the media reports on the “cancellation” of the effort to recall, or remove, Senator Jeff Denham from his seat in the 12th Senatorial District. On Friday, May 9th, Senator Don Perata (D-East Bay, Senate District 9) announced that he would no longer be financially supporting the effort to recall Senator Denham, and gave the impression that the recall was over. The Department received a high volume of calls from confused voters during the week after the announcement, asking could they still vote on the recall because it was on their ballot, would the Elections Department count the vote, what would happen if a majority of voters chose to recall the Senator even though Senator Perata announced his effort in the campaign was over, etc.

The recall election is still on the ballot. Once a recall measure has qualified for placement on the ballot, the election must move forward. Voters may still choose to vote on the recall measure, and may still choose to vote for a replacement candidate who would replace the Senator should the recall measure pass. The Monterey County Elections Department, along with Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Benito Counties, will still be required to count the votes for both the recall and the replacement candidate. If the recall measure passes by a majority of the voters voting “YES”, then Senator Jeff Denham will be removed from office. Tuesday, May 20th is the last day for write-in candidates to qualify for office. To date, the only candidate who has qualified is Monterey County Supervisor Simon Salinas.

Judicial Election: On Friday, May 16, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Tom Wills to a vacancy in the Superior Court created by Judge Jose A. Velasquez. Tom Wills’ name also appears on the June Primary ballot, along with three others, as a candidate for Superior Court Judge to fill seat currently held by Superior Court Judge Stephen A. Sillman. The Elections Department communicated with staff from the Governor’s Office of Judicial Appointments (OJA) on Friday to gain a full understanding of the Governor’s appointments and its effect on the outcome of the Election should the appointed candidate also win the election in June. The staff at the OJA could not answer the Department’s questions and hopes to respond to the Department’s questions during the week of May 19th.
What the Elections Department can confirm is that all candidate names, including Wills, appear on the ballot and voters do have an opportunity to select one of the candidates to fill the seat to replace retired Judge Steven A. Sillman.

**Emergency Communications**

On May 15th Westmed Ambulance dispatch personnel, who are co-located in the Emergency Communications 911 Dispatch Center, made the move from their stand-alone EMS Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to the County’s Tiburon CAD. After a transition and training period, this change is expected to significantly improve communication between the County staff who answer 911 calls and dispatch law and fire agency responders, and the Westmed ambulance dispatchers. All dispatchers within the Comm Center will be able to easily route critical update information from police and fire to ambulance dispatchers and vice versa. This improved coordination capability is ultimately expected to increase the speed and quality of information flow, reduce call update processing time, and improve the accuracy of information provided to field responders by all dispatchers.

**Library**

Monterey County Free Libraries would like to announce the addition of a new Managing Librarian to the team.

Mary Housel comes to us from Pacific Grove Public Library where she was the Senior Librarian in charge of the library. Prior to that position, Mary worked at Harrison Memorial Library in Carmel, at Orange County Public Library, and at Contra Costa County Public Library.

Mary has her Masters in Library Science from the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University at Long Beach.

Among other things, Mary will oversee adult services, system reference, collection development, and outreach services (including bookmobiles and Library by Mail). She will also be the Senior Manager for the Peninsula region.

Please join us in congratulating Mary and welcoming her to the MCFL team. Welcome Mary!

This concludes the CAO report.