MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 21, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
      County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for July 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.

Elections

June 3, 2008 Consolidated Statewide Primary: The Department completed the official canvass and certified the Election on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, which was the 28-day certification deadline established by state election law. The Department has posted the complete Statement of the Votes cast on the website under the pull-down selection labeled “Election Results” and then by selecting “Statement of the Vote”. The final results reflected that 53,227 voters cast a ballot in the election, which reflects a turnout of 36.03%. Of that percentage, 26.14% voted by mail and 9.89% voted at their polling place.

The Elections Department would again like to thank all County employees who signed up to participate through the Election Officer program. There were 132 County employees who assisted the election as poll workers this June. All poll worker stipends have been issued. Anyone who believes they did not yet receive their stipend in their bi-weekly paycheck should call the Elections Department so that staff that can clear up any reported issues.

Outreach and Education: On Monday, June 30th, the Monterey County Elections Department joined Congressman Sam Farr and the District Director of San Francisco Citizenship and Immigration Services, and many others as 127 people representing 24 different countries become new citizens at the “Proud to be an American Citizen Central Coast Citizenship Ceremony” at...
the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. The Department was honored to be on the agenda and to be asked to speak at the event. The Department set up a voter registration table and placed packets on all chairs inside the auditorium for all new citizens in attendance that included a letter from Congressman Farr, a new voter registration card and a “Register to Vote” pen that included a toll-free number to the Secretary of State’s office, as well as a brochure developed by the Department that explains registration and voting programs offered in Monterey County. The Elections Department was joined by elections staff from Santa Cruz County and assisted 64 new citizens register to vote. Kudos to Heather Frisella and Josie Chavez for representing Monterey County’s Election Department and for providing much needed voter outreach and education for the County’s new citizens.

On Tuesday, July 15th, the Department’s Candidate Filing Officer and Registrar were invited to a meeting of the Monterey County Chapter of the California Special District Association. The Registrar was asked to prepare a presentation regarding topics such as procedures for vacancies and filling by appointment or election, election procedures including appointments in-lieu, qualifying ballot measures by initiative or board action, calling special elections, and costs associated with providing election services.

On Thursday, July 17th, the Elections Department spoke to young adults, ages 18 – 24, enrolled in a transitional education and work program with the County’s Behavioral Health Division to discuss voter registration and voting in preparation for the upcoming Presidential General Election. Questions were asked such as, “what happens after I register to vote?” “where can I find information about each qualified political party and what their candidates stand for?” and “what do you do to protect registration information and guard against voter fraud?” – All very good questions. The Department also provided information on the Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments, being a protected County under Section 5 and having to get pre-clearance before implementing certain changes, how to become a poll worker, and the importance of voting and how to find the inspiration to participate in all elections, not just for President.

August 26, 2008 Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare Systems All Mail Ballot Special Election: The Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System board called for an all mail ballot in order to place a bond measure before the voters of the District. The $392 million bond will be financed by taxes and will be used for improvements to the Hospital. This election will be held solely by mail, there will be no polling places established on Election Day. Registered voters of the District will receive an official ballot along with a sample ballot and voter information pamphlet. Election materials will be mailed to voters living in the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on Monday, July 28, 2008.

November 4, 2008 Consolidated Statewide General Election: The November General Election is 106 days away. The candidate nomination period opened on Monday, July 14, 2008 and will close on Friday, August 8, 2008. There are 19 local school and special districts with offices scheduled for the ballot in addition to the 12 Cities with general municipal elections. August 8, 2008 is also the deadline to qualify local ballot measures for the November ballot. Visit the
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Department’s website for a description of the Election including offices on the ballot, a candidate guide and a list of candidates who have obtained papers so far, information on being a poll worker including the Department’s Team Up for Democracy program, and important dates to remember such as the deadline to register to vote which is Monday, October 20, 2008 (hint: the deadline to register to vote for any election is set by state law and is no later than 15 days prior to the election). The Department will provide a link to the statewide information regarding the 12 qualified state propositions and qualified federal and state candidate lists as soon as they become available on the Secretary of State’s website. A brief description of the 12 propositions can be found at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_i.htm.

The Secretary of State’s Office will be preparing a statewide voter information pamphlet for mailing to each household in mid-September. The Elections Department will prepare and mail the local pamphlet, which will contain a sample of the official ballot along with candidate statements of qualification, and information about local ballot measures. Mailing of the local pamphlet is scheduled for early October, 2008.

The Department will soon be sending out Election Official applications to sign up for the November 4, 2008 Consolidated Presidential General Election. Anyone interested should watch their Inbox the coming information.

Library

**Big Sur Branch Library Reopens**: The Big Sur Branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) resumed full services on Friday, the 18th of July. The library was evacuated on Wednesday, July 2nd, following a mandatory evacuation notice for all of Big Sur. In a fast and well-coordinated effort, all computers and close to 12,000 books, DVDs, and audio books were removed in about five hours from the library that day.

With the lifting of the evacuation orders, partial library services were restored on Monday, July 14th, when computer and Internet services, and the pick-up of reserved items were restarted. Several Big Sur residents came in on Monday to contact loved ones via e-mail. The library resumed summer reading programs on Wednesday, with a Taiko drumming program featuring Ikuyo Conant. All services, including checkout of materials, references, and children's storytimes resumed as of Friday.

**Carmel Valley Branch Continues to Support OES and Community in Fire Effort**: The Carmel Valley branch continues to be a center for disseminating information on the fire. The Library is maintaining a fire information bulletin board near the entrance, which includes the option of leaving and picking up notes. One of the challenges being faced in the community is assuring that announcements, evacuation notices, etc. reach Spanish-speaking members of the community. Carmel Valley Library staff have been helping local Spanish-speaking residents who come into the library and, with the help of staff from other branches and also from a patron who is a professional translator, have been translating notices and evacuation guidelines for the
Cachagua and Carmel Valley areas. Translations, though informal, are being shared with local response teams.

MCFL Receives Certificate of Appreciation from Team 5, Incident Management Team: The staff at Monterey County Free libraries has been recognized for their contributions in the fire fighting effort. In addition to being a central source for sharing and disseminating information, the library staff has translated notices and announcements, and delivered reading materials to the firefighters at the camps at Andrew Molera Park and also at the Carmel Valley camp. The certificate recognizes the library "For going above and beyond the level of service expected to provide assistance to manage the Basin Complex Fire".

Youth Programs at the Library: An upsurge in interest in teen programming has prompted MCFL to add nine more free teen programs at locations throughout the County including Seaside, Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales, Buena Vista (River Road), Pajaro, and San Ardo. Cartooning and scrap booking workshops make up the new programming. Monterey's master muralist Jose Ortiz will share his cartooning skills with teens. Ortiz has exhibited at the Monterey Museum of Art, and his murals grace many buildings in Salinas. Scrap booking teacher Bonnie Brown will show how to personalize bookmarks, greeting cards, and journal covers, using contemporary designs. For a complete listing of teen programs, please check MCFL's website at www.montereycountyfreelibraries.org, or call your local MCFL branch.

Parks

Valley Heritage Day on July 4th: The Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum hosted their annual Valley Heritage Day, on July 4th, at San Lorenzo Park in King City. The event was preceded by a parade down Broadway Street. Over 1500 people attended the event, enjoying museum exhibits, children's games, arts and crafts and plenty of food. In addition, 150 pristine classic cars were on display. Proceeds from the event support the museum's educational programs.

This concludes the CAO report.