MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 11, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for August 11, 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

Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare Systems All Mail Ballot Special Election: The deadline to register to vote for the August 26, 2008 all mail ballot election is TODAY, Monday, August 11, 2008. The Elections Department will be open until 5 p.m. To date, there are approximately 65,100 registered voters in the District.

Qualified voters reside in Salinas and surrounding areas, stretching from Prunedale and Castroville in the north to portions of Chualar and Gonzales in the south, and reaching out to the coastal areas of Moss Landing and portions of Marina.

Voting materials, including the official vote by mail ballot along with important voter information about the measure, began to arrive in voters’ mail boxes on or about Wednesday, July 30th. The deadline to return the voted ballot is Election Day, Tuesday, August 26, 2008 by 8 p.m. Return postage is paid.

If a voter has moved to a new address, voting materials cannot be automatically forwarded to the voter by the United States Post Office, per law. Anyone who believes they reside within the
boundaries of the District and has not yet received voting materials should contact the Elections Department.

**November 4, 2008 Consolidated Statewide General Election:** The November General Election is 85 days away. The candidate nomination period closed on Friday, August 8th. A list of qualified candidates is posted on the Department’s website. There are some local offices with a five-day filing extension to Wednesday, August 13th at 5 p.m. When one or more eligible incumbents have not filed nomination papers by today’s deadline, State law provides for an extension of five calendar days to allow non-incumbent candidates to declare candidacy.

August 8, 2008 was also the deadline to qualify local ballot measures for the November ballot. There are five local school and city measures qualified for the ballot. All qualified local measures are listed on the Department’s website under the following link:

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.j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections.j.htm).

There may be a delay in the finalization of the official ballot, specifically Proposition 8 (*Initiative #1298. Limit on Marriage Constitutional Amendment*). There was a court challenge to the official ballot language that was prepared by the State Attorney General. However, the Superior Court denied their writ requesting the language assigned to the Ballot Title & Summary be changed. The California Election Code states that a ballot measure must receive an impartial statement. The Superior Court also found that the law gives the Attorney General discretion to rewrite ballot titles and summaries. The proponents of Proposition 8 indicate that, with the decision of the Superior Court, they will take their challenge to the Appellate Court.

In addition to the above potential delay, the Legislature is contemplating either amending the language of Proposition 1 (*SB 1856 (Chapter 697, 2002) Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century*) or removing it from the November 2008 ballot for placement on the ballot in the future. There has also been information that the Legislature will be seeking to place additional propositions on the ballot, potentially creating a supplemental state pamphlet.

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 in box on the coming information.

**Outreach and Education:** On Saturday, July 26th, the Monterey County Elections Department provided registration and outreach at the Community Health Fair in Castroville. The Department set up a voter registration table and answered questions about the voting and elections processes.
This was the first Community Health Fair in Castroville and the Department registered only a few voters. The Department is hopeful that this event will have a higher attendance in the future.

On Sunday, August 10th, the Department attended the Salinas Valley Pride event/parade and provided voter registration services to those in attendance.

**Parks**

Spirit West Coast was held at the Laguna Seca Recreation Area on July 31-August 2 for the 12th straight year. The three-day festival included six stages of top performers in Christian music including headliners TobyMac, Third Day, and Newsboys. There were numerous food vendors, a variety of sports areas, late-night comedy shows, and a large expo of Christian-related merchandise and services. VeggieLand, the children’s area, featured train rides, clowns, face painting, a petting zoo, and the popular VeggieTales characters.

Ticket sales were down, but likely topped 40,000 for the three-day event. (Final attendance numbers are not yet available). The majority of attendees camp within the boundaries of Laguna Seca Recreation Area with “Camp Managers” hosting each area. No significant incidents or injuries were reported during the event or by the public safety agencies at the post-event meeting.

Produced by Christian Music Today, the festival is hosted by a non-profit board and thousands of volunteers. Spirit West Coast will return to Laguna Seca Recreation Area on July 30-August 1, 2009.

This concludes the CAO report.