MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for September 29, 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

Corona AMA Superbike Finale: The Corona AMA Superbike Finale was held at Laguna Seca Recreation Area on September 27th, and 28th. Launched in 1976, the AMA Superbike Championship is America’s premier motorcycle road race series. This year’s 11-event coast-to-coast series featured four classes: two for highly modified street bikes (Superbike and Formula Xtreme) and two for near-production versions of these machines (Supersport and Superstock).

The Red Bull AMA U.S. Rookies Cup returned to the track with the best young riding talent in the country. The Supermoto USA series was also part of the championship weekend, riding on a course that was part asphalt and part dirt with jumps. The Supermoto also featured the Second Annual USA Women’s Only Race featuring some of the leading female racers in the country.

The weekend included many fan activities and vendors for the 5,000 people attending the event. (Estimated attendance, actual figures not yet received.)

Heart Walk: The American Heart Association hosted the Second Annual Heart Walk at Laguna Seca Recreation Area on Saturday, September 20th. Attended by approximately 150 walkers, the fun-filled event offered children’s games, heart-healthy displays, activities and entertainment.

Sponsors included Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Both offered booths with heart health information.
Survivors of heart disease and stroke spoke to the walkers as inspiration before the walk and a list of names of those we lost to heart disease this past year was read as a remembrance. After warming up with some high energy aerobics, the walkers took off around the course. A total of approximately $100,000 was raised for the American Heart Association.

The Heart Association plans to hold the 3rd Annual Heart Walk at Laguna Seca Recreation Area in the Fall of 2009.

ELECTIONS

November 4, 2008 Presidential General: The Presidential Election is 36-days away. There are many cities, school, and special district elective members on the ballot in addition to the federal and State – so many that each voter will receive two ballot cards that will make up their official ballot. The Ballot Card A will contain all candidate contests and a few State propositions and local measures, and Ballot Card B will contain the remaining Statewide propositions. There are a total of 49 different versions of the official ballot and each version is based on the geographical location of the County. Additionally, because election officials are required to report election results by the voters’ precinct, the 49 ballot types must contain a code for and be labeled by the specific precinct number….So, this actually means that there are 184 different versions of the ballot! A list of all qualified candidates and measures appears on the Department’s website at www.MontereyCountyElections.us and by selecting the tab “Upcoming Elections”, then selecting “November 4, 2008” and choosing between “Candidates” and “Measures”. Statewide information can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov. From that home page, select the yellow box to the left, “My Voice, My Choice, My Vote”.

The Statewide Voter Information Guides containing information on all of the qualified propositions should be hitting the mail stream any day. There will be a Supplemental State Voter Information Guide that will be mailed in the weeks to come. This guide will contain only Proposition 1A, which replaces Proposition 1 in the first Voter Information Guide.

The period for qualifying as a write-in candidate is now in progress. The deadline for any person wishing to turn in paperwork for becoming a qualified write-in is Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Did you know that election officials cannot count votes for write-in candidates unless they have met the legal qualifications? They must file a Declaration of Write-In Candidacy along with other papers, and some may also have to file nomination signatures. So, even if you and thousands of other voters write-in Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck, neither can be declared a winner unless the Disney characters actually file official paperwork!

Register to Vote: The deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 20, 2008. The Elections Department will once again remain open until midnight to help people register to vote. The Department is currently receiving 230 to 250 registrations each day through local voter registration drives.

Vote by Mail (Absentee) Voting: The Department held a meeting with representatives from the United States Postal Service on Wednesday, September 10th, to review mailing requirements and important mailing dates. The Department also learned that for the 2008 Elections, all military and overseas voters’ ballots will receive special handling to expedite the outgoing and return mail. The Post Offices will send ballots to the nearest Processing and Distribution Centers, based on APO/FPO addresses, and then ballots will be expedited via Express Mail to International Service Centers.
Monterey County’s military and overseas Special Absentee Voters were sent their official ballot materials on Saturday, September 20th, meeting the US Postal Services deadline, at 45-days prior to the Election. The County will continue to provide these Special Absentee Voters the option of faxing their voted ballot back to the office if they do not receive it in time to vote and return it by mail. The Department expects the fax machine to be in high use and has purchased a second machine to accept roll-over fax transmissions when the first machine is busy.

**Poll Worker Recruitment:** The Department would like to thank all of the County Employees who have signed up to participate in the November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election. As of Friday (9/26/08) the Department has received 159 applications through the County Election Official Program – this is a RECORD BREAKING NUMBER!! The Elections Department is extremely appreciative of the willingness of each employee to assist on Election Day, and of their supervisor to allow involvement in the program. Our goal is to place a minimum of 5 Election Officers at each of the 124 Precincts. Additional Election Officers will be placed in areas showing historically high turn-out. If you are still interested and have not yet submitted your application, there is still time to sign up. Classes begin in mid-October.

**Outreach:** Wednesday, September 17th was “Constitution and Citizenship Day” and celebration of the historical signing of the U.S. Constitution. The Department was on hand at Hartnell College to participate in the celebration and registered 25 new voters. On Wednesday, September 10th, the Department joined the League of Women Voters and members of the Monterey County Office of Education to begin the plan to participate in the Secretary of State’s “My Vote California Student Mock Election” which takes place on Thursday, October 30, 2008, only a few days before California’s November 4th Presidential General Election. This program is meant to encourage high school and middle school students to be active voters once they are old enough to cast a ballot. For more information on the Mock Election, visit [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm). On Monday, September 22nd, the Department attended an outreach event at the Avalon Villa Serra Nursing Home to register new residents and discuss the November election ballot, how to vote by mail or at the polls, and presented an overview of how to properly mark the official ballot by connecting the head and tail of the arrow with one single line and how to properly complete the vote by mail ballot return envelope. On Friday, September 26th, the Department, in partnership with the Monterey County Office of Education and its Home Charter School Program, was visited by students in grades 4-8, ranging from 9 – 12 years of age, and their parents. The Department offered a tour of the facility and an introduction to how a local Elections Department affects their lives and why it is important to register and vote. Elections staff educated the students about the various programs they each oversee such as registration and outreach, voting by mail, petitions, becoming an election officer and Election Day voting at a local polling place. The Department also established a polling place inside the office to allow the students to vote a “famous names” ballot and select between Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore, or Theodore Roosevelt and Charles Fairbanks for President and Vice President, between Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt for State Legislature, to name a few. The students will also be able to select either a paper ballot or a touch screen voting machine to vote, and will watch as the Department tallies their votes. Each student was presented with a Certificate of Participation, signed by the Registrar and Assistant Registrar, along with a US Flag pin and a red, white, and blue cupcake.

This concludes the CAO report.