MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 13, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for October 13, 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.

Agricultural Commissioner

Information on a scheduled Public Forum regarding the 2008 Farm Bill is provided below:

Congressman Farr will host a Public Forum on how the 2008 Farm Bill can benefit the Central Coast. In addition to the Congressman, others that will be present to speak are:

- Lloyd Day, Administrator, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC
- Ben Higgins, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Davis, CA
- Gayle Norman, Deputy State Conservationist, USDA NRCS, Davis, CA
- Other USDA representatives to speak to the research and finance portions of the 2008 Farm Bill to be announced

The Public Forum is intended to help growers, shippers, ranchers, and other agriculture industry participants better understand the specialty crop and other provisions of the recently enacted 2008 Farm Bill that will benefit the Central Coast.

The forum will be held:

- Friday, October 17, 2008, 2 – 4 p.m.
- Monterey County Agricultural Center Conference Room, 1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA

For more information, please contact Alec Arago in the office of Representative Farr at (831) 424-2229 or at alee.arago@mail.house.gov.
Elections

November 4, 2008 Presidential General: The Presidential Election is 22 days away. The Department is calling in scheduled temporary employees to assist with the increase in telephone calls and early voters coming into the office, and to help prepare polling place supplies for the 124 precincts available to voters this November.

The Department began pre-election Logic & Accuracy testing on the voting equipment and vote tabulating devices on Saturday, October 11th. Testing is scheduled over the next two weeks and must be completed no later than seven (7) days prior to the election it is scheduled to be used, which is Tuesday, October 28th.

Register to Vote: The deadline to register to vote is one week away, Monday, October 20th. The Elections Department will once again remain open until midnight to help people register to vote. Registration forms are also available at US Post Offices, City Halls, libraries, and local Department of Motor Vehicles. The Department has seen a rise in voter registration and is receiving up to 450 registrations a day! As of Friday, October 11th, there are now 151,444 registered voters in Monterey County, an increase of 3,382 since the Department reported registration statistics to the Secretary of State in early September.

Vote by Mail and Early Voting: The Department has completed the mailing of all permanent vote by mail and mail ballot precinct ballots. Any permanent vote by mail voter who has not yet received their ballot can contact the Department to request a replacement ballot be mailed. Vote by mail voters who have already voted and returned their ballot can confirm the Department’s receipt of the voted ballot by visiting www.MontereyCountyElections.us and select “Have you received my voted ballot?” As of Saturday, October 11th, the Department has issued a total of 89,229 vote by mail ballots and has received 4,722 voted returns.

Early voting began on Monday, October 6th. The Department has issued over 100 ballots to voters who have come to the office in Salinas to cast their vote early. The Department is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays now through Saturday, November 1st. Voting will continue at the Department through 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Poll Worker Recruitment: The number of County employees who have signed up to participate in the November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election continues to climb. As of Friday, October 10, the Department has now received 169 applications which more than surpasses previous records. Again, the Department would like to say THANK YOU!!

The Department has now completed all Train-the-Trainer classes in preparation for Election Officer training classes that will begin this week. There are a total of 32 training classes and 28 Practice Makes Perfect sessions available in preparation for the November election.

Outreach and Education: The Department recently participated in the following events: Monday, September 29th, spoke before the Monterey County Disability Commission, provided information on accessible voting, early and weekend voting, and other important registration and voting information; Thursday, October 2nd, held presentation for local English and Spanish
media outlets, provided a media kit containing statistical information, sample press releases, dates for early voting, frequently asked questions about registration and voting by mail, important information for voters going to the polls, and other important information they can use in their news stories about the Presidential General Election; Wednesday, October 8th attended “Forum for the Future”, a leadership forum to encourage young adults to become more involved in their communities by volunteering for local community and service organizations, seeking membership on Commissions and Boards or running for elective office; Thursday, October 9th met with members of the Democratic Central Committee to answer questions about voter registration, vote by mail voting, election procedures and the upcoming election schedule in order to provide members with key information to educate voters as well as to pass on to other Committee members; Friday, October 10th, the Registrar of Voters was a guest speaker at two separate Political Science classes held at the Monterey Peninsula College. The Department was contacted by a local professor who was interested in providing students information about how federal and state laws such as the Voting Rights Act, the Help America Vote Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and California Election Code and Regulations lay the foundation for how elections are conducted in California and Monterey County.

This concludes the CAO report.