MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for October 20, 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

November 4, 2008 Presidential General: The Presidential Election is 15-days away. The Department is wrapping up final plans for Election Night needs and continued needs throughout the canvass of the vote.

The Department has completed the pre-election Logic & Accuracy testing on all touch-screen voting machines to be placed at the County’s 124 precincts. Testing of the 400-C Optech central count tabulating devices will continue through the week.

Register to Vote: TODAY, MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, is the deadline to register to vote! The Elections Department staff will be available on the phone and in person at the Department until midnight to help last minute registrants complete forms and get registered to vote in the Presidential General. Registration forms are also available at US Post Offices – the Department suggests anyone registering at the Post Office see the postal worker date their registration form with October 20th. As of Friday, October 17th, there are now 153,756 registered voters in Monterey County, an increase of 2,312 in one week.

Vote by Mail and Early Voting: The Department has now issued nearly 91,500 vote by mail ballots and has received approximately 17,000 voted returns. As a reminder, the Department is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays now through Saturday, November 1st. Saturday, October 18th was a busy day helping new voters complete registration forms and issuing vote by mail ballots to voters wishing to cast their vote early, prior to Election Day. Voting will continue to be offered at the Department through 8 p.m. on Election Day.
**Election Officer Training:** Training classes for the November election began this week. Each class lasts approximately 2 1/2 hours and includes new materials, new procedures, additional role play for working with voters in special situations, and hands-on training on the touch-screen voting machines. Training takes place over a 2 1/2 week period and classes are offered in Salinas, Monterey, and King City. In addition, there will be three Inspector training classes which will focus on more difficult tasks such as opening and closing procedures and ballot reconciliation.

**Outreach and Education:** The Department recently participated in the following events: Monday, October 13\(^{th}\), held the first meeting and office tour of the Observer and Advisory Panel, five of seven members were in attendance; Tuesday, October 14\(^{th}\), visited North Salinas High School with the California Secretary of State, Debra Bowen, to speak to students about registering and voting, and participating in the Student Mock Election as well as discussing opportunities for students to serve as Election Officers with the County; also, hosted a visit and tour of the Department for the Secretary of State; Thursday, October 16\(^{th}\), the Registrar of Voters participated in a live interview on KSCO radio along with the Santa Cruz County Clerk, Gail Pellerin, to discuss important information for voters relating to registration and voting procedures; Friday, October 17\(^{th}\), the Department joined radio personnel from Jammin’ 97.9 FM on the campus at the Monterey Peninsula College in order to register voters and encourage participation in the coming Presidential Election; and, Monday, October 20, 2008, the Department will partner with Univision, the Citizenship Project of Salinas, and the Immigration Project of Santa Cruz County for “Destino 2008” to register voters at the Citizenship Project office, located at 931 E. Market Street in Salinas between 6 - 8 p.m.

**Health**

**Monterey County Awarded Safe Routes to School Grant:** The federal Safe Routes to School program granted an award to the Monterey County Health Department $316,640 to implement the educationally-based Street Smarts school safety program for grades K-8 in Soledad and King City. The Public Works Department will act as the lead fiscal agency, and the Health Department will implement the grant.

The Safe Routes to School Grant will use education and awareness along with supporting activities, engineering, and enforcement to bring about attitude, behavior, and social norm changes for pedestrian, bike, and traffic safety for students and their parents. Working with the Soledad Unified School District and the King City Union School Districts’ superintendents and principals, the grant will serve 10 schools and over 5,000 students for two years. The award-winning Street Smarts program originating from San Jose uses education through a comprehensive bilingual media campaign to raise public and community awareness about driving safely, obeying school zone safety limits, watching for pedestrians, giving pedestrians right-of-way in crosswalks, and sharing the road with bicyclists. This campaign will help reduce bike and pedestrian injuries in Soledad and King City, map out the safest routes for students to take, and promote walking and biking to school.

This concludes the CAO report.