MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for October 27, 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 eight-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 all required pre-election Logic & Accuracy testing for all machines to be used in the November Presidential General Election.

Registration Deadline Over: Monday, October 20th was the last day to register to vote for the November 4th Election. The Elections Department staff remained open until midnight to help last minute registrants complete forms and get registered to vote in the Presidential General. There were over 1,300 people who came to the Department on the deadline to register to vote and the last new Monterey County registrant completed their form at 11:58 p.m., just two minutes before the legal deadline.

As of Monday, October 27th, there are now 157,482 registered voters in Monterey County, an increase of 3,726 since last week. The Department must complete all data entry and report registration numbers to the Secretary of State’s Office on Tuesday, October 28th.

Thank you to the County employees from the District Attorney’s Office, County Counsel, and In Home Supportive Services for answering the Department’s call for data entry help over the weekend. Specifically, the Department would like to thank the following employees for offering their time and energy to help the Department process thousands of voter registration forms and qualify those voters to vote in the Presidential General Election: Sharon Kachadoorian, Caroline McMillin, Glenda Edward-James, Vanessa Dorantes, and Linda Gutierrez.
Vote by Mail and Early Voting: The deadline to request a vote by mail ballot in the mail is Tuesday, October 28, 2008. The Department has now issued just over 94,740 vote by mail ballots and has received nearly 33,380 voted returns. Any voter who will otherwise be unable to vote at their polling place on Election Day may come to the Department to obtain a ballot in person, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, including Saturday, November 1st, and up to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters may also authorize a family member, including grandparents, or a member of their household to come to the Department to pick up a ballot on their behalf.

As a reminder, all voted mail ballots must be received by the Monterey County Elections Department by the close of polls on Election Day. Monterey County employees who reside in surrounding counties are reminded to return their ballot to the County where they are registered to vote and where they obtained their vote by mail ballot – the Monterey County Elections Department cannot accept a voted ballot that should be returned to another county. Voters who will be mailing their ballot back to the Department are encouraged to do so no later than Friday, October 31st, which is also the last day that vote by mail ballot drop boxes will be available at City Halls.

On Saturday, October 25th, the Department worked from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. opening and extracting vote by mail ballots in preparation for the first day of ballot tabulation today, Monday, October 27th. State election law allows local election officials to begin opening and tabulating valid vote by mail ballots seven business days, or 11 calendar days prior to any election.

Election Officer Training: The final training class for the November election was October 27th. There have been nearly 800 Election Officers trained, including those trained on Saturday, October 25th in King City. Inspector training classes will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. “Practice Makes Perfect” sessions designed to provide individual training for Election Officers on the set up, operation of, and closing procedures on touch-screen voting machines, begin tomorrow, and run through Friday, October 31st. Sessions are available beginning at 9 a.m. with the final session ending at 4 p.m. each day.

Library

Gonzales Branch Library moves to a new location: The Monterey County Free Libraries system invites the public to attend the grand opening of the new Gonzales Branch Library on Saturday, November 1, 2008, from 11 a.m. - 12 noon. Free food, free books, and fun will abound as Gonzales celebrates its expanded home.

The new site, which is next door to the old location, is approximately one and a half times the size of the former library. It will feature an expanded area for children, a separate community meeting room and homework center, and will have many more computers for the public to use.

The new location will also have photographs and artifacts that reflect the history of the area. The Library has worked closely with the Agricultural Museum and the Parks Department in creating these displays.

To facilitate the move, the Gonzales Branch Library will be closed Tuesday, October 28th, through Friday, October 31st. Library services will resume after the opening ceremony on November 1st.
Bookmobile service will be available in front of the old library during the closure on the following days: Tuesday, October 28th and Thursday, October 30th, from 2 - 6 p.m. For more information, please call (831) 675-2209.

Libraries Celebrate “Make a Difference Day”: Saturday, October 25th was “Make a Difference Day”, and the Monterey County Free Libraries system marked the occasion in cooperation with York School. Students from York School, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary year, presented a children’s program featuring crafts and a reading of the Dr. Seuss book, “The Lorax” at several area libraries including the Buena Vista, Carmel Valley, Castroville, Marina, Prunedale, and Soledad branches.

The project was planned by York students to take the message of conservation and “how we can help care for our planet” to elementary school children.

Natividad Foundation

Natividad Reads! - ¡Leyendo con Natividad!: The National Institutes of Health has identified illiteracy as one of the most serious health problems facing the U.S. today. Natividad Medical Center’s mission is to continually improve the health status of everyone in Monterey County, so the Foundation and Hospital developed Natividad Reads! - ¡Leyendo con Natividad! to encourage reading among children, families and employees at the hospital as a means of improving their health.

Starbucks, KWAV and Monterey County partnered with Natividad Medical Foundation to promote a Book Drive in September at 17 Starbucks stores throughout Monterey County to help Natividad Medical Center launch Natividad Reads! - ¡Leyendo con Natividad!

The kickoff event, sponsored by First5 Monterey County, Earthbound Farms, Community Foundation for Monterey County, Salinas Public Library, and Monterey County Free Libraries, was held at the Hospital on September 23, 2008, and featured the presentation of more than 4,200 donated children’s books to the patients and families at Natividad.

October 1, 2008, Salinas California. “Smiles & Scowls”: Smiles to the new literacy program, "Natividad Reads!" launched by Natividad Medical Center which serves a big portion of the population with literacy issues. About 11 percent of Natividad patients cannot read. In a society awash in medication to treat illnesses, the ability to read and understand dosage is paramount. In some parts of east Salinas, one in four adults has less than a seventh-grade education. Every program, every opportunity to bring people up the literacy ladder is a noble and necessary goal for enhancing the quality of life countywide.
**Sheriff's Office**

On October 16, 2008, Sheriff Kanalakis and County Supervisor Salinas made the trip south to visit the students and staff at San Antonio School in southern Monterey County. They were greeted by Superintendent Linda Irving and Board President Jason Soares. After a tour of the site and observing a primary recess, the distinguished guests enjoyed a fabulous Chinese food lunch prepared by the cafeteria, as did all the students that day. The Sheriff stated, “I had forgotten how cold school milk is; there is nothing like it!” Supervisor Simon Salinas felt right at home at San Antonio School having taught 5th and 6th grades himself.

The Sheriff reminded the school staff that they can visit the Sheriff website to review sex offender information. They can even sign up to receive alerts if one moves into their area. Please go to the website for more information. [http://www.joinmcsso.com/](http://www.joinmcsso.com/)

This concludes the CAO report.