MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 23, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for February 23, 2009

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/Sealer of Weights & Measures

The Board of Supervisors, in special recognition of the work performed by the County Sealer and his staff, proclaims that the week of March 1 through 7 be known as “Weights and Measures Week” in Monterey County, and urges everyone to recognize the very valuable contribution to the economic welfare of the communities of this County being made by the staff of the Department of the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures.

In a time when we are looking for efficient and effective government, we need to look no further than our State or local weights and measures program. Considering that as much as 50% of a family’s income is used to purchase consumer goods, the impact on an inaccurate marketplace can be significant to each of us. The cost of a regulatory presence is about 60 cents per person per year, and we can realize the full return on that investment in a single trip to the market.

“Weights and Measures Week” is an opportunity to express appreciation for the value that our society receives for a very small investment in Weights & Measures inspection programs.
Elections

March 3, 2009 Special School Elections: The Special School District Elections are just eight days away. Tuesday, February 17th was the last day to register to vote for the March 3rd Special Election. There are now 6,471 eligible voters in Trustee Area 5 of the Hartnell Community College District, 394 eligible voters in Trustee Area 3 of the Chualar Union Elementary School District, and 237 eligible voters in the San Ardo Union Elementary School District for a total of 7,102 registered eligible voters in the March 3, 2009 Special School Elections. Voters can check their registration status online by selecting, “Am I registered to vote in Monterey County?”

Vote by Mail and Early Voting: The deadline to request a vote by mail ballot in the mail is tomorrow, Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The Department has now issued just over 3,800 vote by mail ballots and has received over 700 voted returns.

Due to the small number of eligible voters living within the three areas of the election, the Department will wait to process voted returns on Election Day, although State law allows such processing to commence up to 11-days prior to an election. Voters can verify the Department has received their voted return online by selecting “Was my vote by mail ballot received by Monterey County Elections?”

Election Day Voting and Results: Polling places, including the Elections Department, will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. There are a total of nine single precinct polling places established for the Special Election. This list is posted on the Department’s website. There are a total of 42 poll workers assigned as Election Officers, 27 with Bilingual skills, and two (2) Field Inspectors to serve the voters on Election Day. Of the 44 workers, four are County employees and one “Team Up for Democracy” group.

May 5, 2009 City of Gonzales Special All Mail Ballot Election: A Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 for the voters residing within the boundaries of the City of Gonzales to fill a vacancy on the City Council, created by the resignation of Council Member Lisa Senkir. On December 1, 2008, the City Council of the City of Gonzales adopted Resolution No. 2008-83 calling for a special all mail ballot election to be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 to fill a short-term vacancy on the City Council that will expire in November 2010.

There will be NO POLLING PLACES ESTABLISHED as this election will be conducted by mail. However, in order to comply with the federal 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and allow voters with sight and mobility impairments and/or with limited English-speaking skills to privately and independently cast their ballot, the Monterey County Elections Department is providing this voting option at the Department in Salinas. Any voter who wishes or needs to use the touch-screen voting machine to cast their ballot should visit the County Elections Department, located at 1370 B South Main Street in Salinas, and ask for assistance.
May 19, 2009 Special Statewide Election: On Friday, February 20, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the State Budget into law. Included in the budget was the order for a Special Statewide Election to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 for the submittal of five (5) Propositions to the voters of the State. The Secretary of State’s Office will provide a shortened calendar of events for the public review period and mailing of information relating to the Propositions at the Special Statewide Election that is called 88-days from the date of the election rather than the normal 131-day deadline for Propositions to qualify for the ballot.

The Department has been closely watching the budget and the Senate Bill that called for the Special Election this May and has already begun making plans for poll worker recruitment and training, polling place confirmations, temporary staffing plans, registration and outreach, and designing the local voter information and sample ballot pamphlet. County employees interested in serving voters at the Special Statewide Election this May should look for the Election Officer Program Application soon!

Probation

On February 18, 2009, at the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Executive Steering Committee meeting in Sacramento, Chief Probation Officer Manuel Real presented Monterey County’s proposal requesting 35 million dollars in state funding to assist with the construction of a new Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center.

Construction funding for juvenile detention or rehabilitative facilities is available under the SB 81 Local Youthful Offender Rehabilitative Facilities Construction Funding Program.

Accompanying Chief Real were Beverly Prior, Architect/Consultant, Doug Rieffel, Juvenile Hall Division Director, and Dan Hogan, Project Manager, Public Works.

Chief Real will be notified of the Executive Steering Committee’s funding recommendations approximately the week of March 9th. Those recommendations will be provided to the Corrections Standards Authority Board for action at its meeting on March 19, 2009.

This concludes the CAO report.