MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for April 27, 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.

Child Support Services

The California Department of Child Support Services has provided information to the local Child Support agencies regarding the Statewide Rollout of Electronic Disbursement outreach to custodial parties currently receiving child support payments by check.

Following the success of the Electronic Disbursement Pilot, the Statewide Disbursement Unit (SDU) is now ready to roll out the program statewide. On April 27th, the SDU will begin an insert process that will span an eight-week period. The inserts will encourage customers to sign up for Direct Deposit (DD) and also inform customers of their automatic enrollment to receive child support payments via an Electronic Pay Card (EPC), if Direct Deposit is not chosen.

The inserts include:
- Statewide Cover Letter
- Bank Fee Overview
- SDU Direct Deposit Pamphlet (direct deposit brochure/application)
- EPC Informational Brochure

Monterey County Department of Child Support Services (MCDCSS) collected $36,371,445 in 2008. The average number of daily disbursements for MCDCSS in the past few months is 685. The Department serves over 21,000 children in Monterey County.
Monterey County Business Council Celebrates National Small Business Week

May 17 – 23, 2009 is National Small Business Week. On May 20, 2009, 3-6:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Monterey, the Monterey County Business Council is partnering with the local banks to celebrate the small businesses of Monterey County and will recognize their contribution to Monterey County’s economy. A panel of experts will highlight financing and technical assistance that is available to help the businesses weather the current economic challenges. Small businesses are the greatest strength of our economy, many times leading the way in innovation and bringing new ideas and services to the marketplace and this is our way of celebrating those that contribute and excel. The Awards Program is also our way of saying thank you to all businesses that have chosen to locate here in Monterey County.

On May 22, 2009, the Council will hold its 2nd Annual Best Places to Work Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. –2 p.m. at the Hyatt Monterey. Three businesses in the 1 – 75 employees category and three in the 75+ employees’ category will be honored as the Best Places to Work in Monterey County, based on a self-completed survey they completed and submitted to Personnel Dynamics. Gerry Hoeffner, President of Personnel Dynamics will announce the winners at the luncheon, review the process and criteria used to select the winners and talk about how the businesses can use the data to be more competitive. The businesses that completed the survey will receive a comprehensive report on how they compared to other participants. For $50 they have a focused assessment of their business.

The objective of the two programs is to show small businesses that we value their presence, recognize their value and strive to provide information that they can use to remain competitive and efficient.

Social & Employment Services

Foster Care Young Adults Learn Life Skills and Collaboration Through Art-Making: On Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 5:45 p.m., Arts Habitat will unveil three new artworks from the Houses Art project in the Hartnell College Center at 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, during a bi-weekly Independent Living Program Workshop.

In January 2009, Arts Habitat launched the second phase of Houses Art in partnership with the Department of Social and Employment Services’ Independent Living Program (ILP). ILP helps foster youth, ages 16 to 19, “map the road to independence,” and learn life skills during their transition out of foster care. Three large, house-shaped paintings were created in collaboration by foster youth and young adults from the PATH and ILP programs of Monterey County. Led by community artist Sue Ann Hillyer, these young artists brainstormed ideas about the environment in a home or a community where they would feel safe to express their own creativity. The artworks reflect ideas that include images of their hopes, fears and realities.

The artworks will be in the window displays at 1000 S. Main St. in the Quadrangle Building, home to the Independent Living Program in May 2009. Additional exhibition locations will be announced at www.artshabitat.org.
Houses Art is funded in part by National Endowment for the Arts, and the James Irvine Foundation, Communities Advancing the Arts program, through the Community Foundation for Monterey County.

This concludes the CAO report.