MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 4, 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.

Elections

The Department recently launched an update to the service provided to verify the receipt of a voter’s mail in ballot. This May, the Department will be conducting two elections within just weeks of each other. In order to provide a voter who is eligible to vote in both elections the ability to verify the receipt of both returned ballots, the Department had to update the programming. The new Vote by Mail Ballot Return Status link is now searchable for the last three elections conducted – March 3rd, May 5th, and also May 19th. If you are a vote by mail voter who voted in any of these elections, please feel free to test it with your own information at http://www.montereycountyelections.us/ABStatus.asp

A big “THANKS!” to the Department’s own Mark Silvia and ITD’s Eddie Urena for their expert help and quick turn around in programming the changes which will improve the services the Department is able to provide to voters.

May 5, 2009 City of Gonzales Special All Mail Ballot Election: The City of Gonzales’ Special Election is tomorrow. Beginning at 1 p.m. on Election Day, the Department will begin to open and prepare the mail ballots for tabulation that is scheduled to commence approximately 8:15 p.m. that night. A full schedule of observation activities is available on the Department’s website under “Latest News.”

To date, the Department has sent out over 2,500 ballots and received only 447 voted returns. Voted ballots must be received by an Elections Official at the County Elections Department or City of Gonzales
no later than 8 p.m. on Election Night. Voters who have not yet mailed their voted return may now wish to personally deliver their ballot.

May 19, 2009 Special Statewide Election: The Statewide Special Election is 15-days away. Today is also the deadline to register or reregister to vote in the May 19th Election. The Department will remain open to register voters during normal business hours to 5 p.m. Anyone who is unsure if they are currently registered to vote can verify whether or not the Elections Department has their record up to date by using the link on the Department’s home page, “Are You Registered to Vote in Monterey County?” You may also pick up a voter registration form at any post office – be sure to fill it out there and have the postal worker date stamp it with a May 4th date. To date, there are 158,587 registered voters in Monterey County, up 196 voters since the last required Report of Registration prior to the November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election.

The Department is up-to-date with mailing out all Vote by Mail ballots and local Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets to all current voters. As a reminder, if you are a Permanent Vote by Mail voter or a voter who resides in an all mail ballot precinct, you will not receive a separate local voter information guide from the Elections Department but instead have received a tri-fold of general information regarding the special election, voting instructions, and a sample ballot along with their official ballot to vote and return. State Information Guides have also been mailed by the state mailing house and should have begun to arrive in the mailboxes of Monterey County voters last week.

Poll Worker Recruitment: Recruitment is complete for the Special Election; however, the Department is now preparing to increase the list of reserve workers to cover any increase in cancellations. Anyone who is still interested in being a Poll Worker either through the County Employee Election Officer Program, through the Individual Election Officer or Team Up for Democracy Programs, or a student or teacher interested in the Student Election Officer Program should contact the Department as soon as possible. Classes are already underway.

Library

MCFL Librarian publishes 21st book: Children’s book author and Monterey County Free Libraries Reference Librarian Carol Diggory Shields will be reading from her latest release, Wombat Walkabout (Dutton Children’s Books) on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 2 p.m. at the Seaside branch. Carol has been a children’s librarian for over 20 years and has written 20 highly acclaimed children’s books. Wombat Walkabout, which is her 21st book, has received a starred review in School Library Journal and has also been reviewed in the prestigious publication, The Horn Book. Carol is well known for her fun and highly spirited story times. The program will be hosted by the Friends of the Seaside Library. Please call (831) 899-2055 for more information. All are welcome.

Library to close for Staff Day on May 8th. All branches of the Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) system will be closed on Friday, May 8th, for their annual staff training day. MCFL has branches in Aromas, Big Sur, Bradley, Buena Vista/Las Palmas, Carmel Valley, Castroville, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Marina, Pajaro, Parkfield, Prunedale, San Ardo, San Lucas, Seaside and Soledad. Online
resources will remain available at www.montereycountyfreelibraries.org. For more information please call your local branch or (831) 883-7573.

**Monterey County Business Council**

2009 Public-Private Economic Development Partnership Awards: On June 18, 2009, the Monterey County Business Council will present their Annual Economic Development Public-Private Partnership Awards as part of the 6th Annual Economic Development Forum. Annually the Monterey County Business Council recognizes public-private partnerships that have resulted in projects and programs that contributed to the economic well being of communities in Monterey County.

We will recognize successful public-private partnerships in two categories: 1) General and 2) Green. The General category requires that the project show an increase in the tax base of a city or the county, retention of jobs, creation of jobs, and upgrade in the skills of the workforce or other measurable benefit to the economy of Monterey County. The “Green” Project should focus on one or more of the following: technology that saves energy, water or other natural resource, development of alternative energy or water sources, promotion of the use of green technology, products or services.

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the Business Council, based on the criteria on the attached page. For questions or further information, call the Business Council offices at 831-883-9443 or e-mail info@mcbiz.biz Nomination forms can be downloaded at mcbusiness.org.

Last year's winners were the Ausonio Construction/Monterey County Redevelopment Agency for the Castroville Plaza; Hayward Lumber/The Sustainability Academy; and CSUMB/PG&E. Take this opportunity to showcase your partnerships.

This concludes the CAO report.