MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 11, 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 held an Observer Panel meeting on Tuesday, May 5th prior to tabulating ballots for the City of Gonzales’ Special Election. Topics discussed were feedback on the March 3, 2009 election as well as any feedback on both of the current May elections. The Panel also discussed tracking of security seals used to secure voted and tabulated ballots as well as the current Supreme Court case regarding Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. This has been the fourth meeting of the Panel since October 2008.

May 5, 2009 City of Gonzales Special All Mail Ballot Election: The City of Gonzales’ Special Election is over and the winner, Mr. Lopez, has been determined. The Department started instructions and the manual tabulation process shortly after 8:15 p.m. and was completed with the semi-official election night canvass, and had the official results posted by 9:15 p.m. Two members of the City of Gonzales’ staff joined the Elections Department to learn about and participate in the manual tally, and one of the candidates, Mr. Ivan Olsen was present to observe. The next day, the Department completed verification of the remaining returns received by 8:00 p.m., and tabulated and reported the final results on the morning of Thursday, May 7th. The final results are posted on the Department’s website under the tab, “Election Results.” The final turnout for the all mail ballot election was 22%. 
May 19, 2009 Special Statewide Election: The Statewide Special Election is eight-days away. Tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12th is the last day to apply for a vote by mail ballot. To date, the Department has issued nearly 94,500 vote by mail ballots and has received just over 19,000, or approximately 18% voted returns. Visit the Department’s website for the latest press release regarding obtaining and returning a vote by mail ballot. As a reminder, state law requires all voted ballots to be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Remember, if returning by mail, the postage is 59 cents (If you reside in an all mail ballot precinct, your envelope will indicate no postage is required). Also, voters may visit the Department’s website to find out if their voted ballot has been received. Just select the link, “Have you received my Vote by Mail Ballot?” and provide the required registration information.

The Department worked on Saturday, May 9th to open and extract the nearly 18,000 voted and verified returns in preparation for machine tabulation beginning on Monday, May 11th. While ballots can be tabulated, results cannot be known or released to the public until after the close of polls on election night.

Monterey County Business Council

On May 22nd, the Monterey County Business Council will host its 2nd Annual Best Places to Work luncheon at the Hyatt, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., $35 per person ($400 for a host table of eight). The guest speaker is Gerry Hoeffner, President, Personnel Dynamics Consulting Group, Specializing in Change, Management & Corporate Culture Enhancement & Employee Development. We will honor the top three winners in the 1-75 employees category and the top three winners in the over 75 employees category. You may RSVP to info@mcbe.biz or 833-9443 by May 19, 2009 to reserve your seats.

This concludes the CAO Report.