MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for May 25, 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's Office

Due to construction, the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's Office will be temporarily moving to 744B La Guardia Street, Salinas. The move will take place during the first week of June, but departmental operations will continue from 1428 Abbott Street during that time. The official opening date at our new location is June 8, 2009. It is expected that we will return to the Abbott Street address in approximately nine months.

The mailing address and phone numbers will remain unchanged. The Agricultural Center Conference Room and the UC Cooperative Extension office will not be affected.

Cooperative Extension

The Monterey County Cooperative Extension farm advisors participated with UC Davis in providing training for a group of Iraqi agricultural extension agents and professors. The group of 14 men and two women from Iraq traveled with their own interpreter, but a good number of them spoke English. Besides the classroom teaching, the group learned through on-site farm visits and a tour through one of the local salad plants. They were very impressed with our agriculture and the way agricultural extension works here, with the dual cooperation of County and University.
The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources has just released its new strategic vision. It can be downloaded at http://ucanr.org/visions/ to see the challenges California will face in the next 25 years and the ways in which the University can use its considerable infrastructure and talent to partner in finding solutions.

**Elections**

**General:** Are you on Twitter? Sign up to receive Election updates and general information about upcoming special and regularly scheduled elections from Monterey County Elections by following “MontereyVote”. You can also see the Department’s Twitter updates (or shall we say, Tweets) by visiting the link “Latest News” or “Follow us on Twitter” on the Department’s main website at www.MontereyCountyElections.us

**May 19, 2009 Statewide Special:** As of the Semi-Final Official Report #4, the last report the Elections Department filed with the Secretary of State on Election night reflecting 100% of the precincts reporting, there was a 23.19% turnout in Monterey County for the Statewide Special Election. Of that number, 15.94% voted by mail and 7.25% turned out at the polls to vote in person. Statewide, results so far reflect a 23.24% turnout so far, and voters voting for Proposition 1A the most (3,986,637 votes) and 1F not far behind (3,973,064 votes). Voters then opted to vote for 1B (3,977,881), 1C (3,965,197), 1D (3,963,787), and 1E (3,944,438) – reflecting typical ballot “fatigue” as voters choose to undervote (not fully mark) some election contests on their ballot.

The “unprocessed ballots” report sent the day after the Election reflected a total of 14,468 ballots remaining to be processed (12,012 vote by mail, 640 provisional, and 1,816 “other” ballots which were either damaged, torn, bent, or otherwise unreadable by the voting system that the Department must duplicate prior to tabulation). Should all remaining ballots be valid, the final turnout for Monterey County may be near 32%.

The Department commenced the Official Canvass the day after the Election and does not expect to need the full 28-day canvass period due to the low turnout of the Statewide Special Election. For a schedule of canvass activities, visit the Department’s website, select “Latest News” and view the link, “May 19 Scheduled Canvass Activities”.

**August 25, 2009 Special Recall Election – Alisal Union School District:** A special mail ballot recall election will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 for voters residing within the boundaries of Trustee Area One of the Alisal Union School District to decide whether or not to recall the board member who represents that Trustee Area and if so, to select a successor to fill the seat. Conducting this Special Recall Election by mail will save the District some money because there will be no fees relating to poll workers and polling places, including materials and supplies for training and Election Day.
On May 6, 2009 the Superintendent recommended to the Board that they accept the certificate and order the election be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 which is an established all mail ballot election date. The Board was to then officially order the election by filing a resolution with the Monterey County Elections Department. However, the Board was unable to schedule the discussion for their meeting on May 20, 2009 which was the deadline for ordering the recall. On May 21, 2009, a letter was delivered to the Registrar of Voters requesting the Registrar set the election to be conducted by mail and held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009. The Registrar of Voters subsequently issued an official call and public notice for the election.

Candidate filing is now open. The deadline for qualifying for candidacy is 5 p.m. on June 11th. Ballots and voter information will be available beginning July 27, 2009.

**Social & Employment Services**

On Sunday, May 17, 2009, the MC-CHOICE Outreach program received a Certificate of Appreciation from the *Network for a Healthy California* during the Network's Retail Program's 2009 Fruit and Veggie Fest held at Arteaga's Super Save Market in Salinas. The certificate was granted in appreciation of the outstanding commitment shown by MC-CHOICE staff toward promoting community health and nutrition. Over 150 families participated in this event which held healthy cooking demonstrations, physical activity, and tips on how to eat healthy on a budget. MC-CHOICE staff was available to hand out food stamp resource kits, provide information regarding community services, and assist with completing benefit applications.

The Network for a Healthy California represents a statewide coalition of local, state, and national partners collectively working toward improving the health status of low-income Californians through increased fruit and vegetable consumption and daily physical activity. MC-CHOICE is the department's community outreach program that works to increase the public's access to public assistance programs such as food stamps and Medi-Cal.

This concludes the CAO report.