MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 15, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for June 15, 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.

Military and Veterans Affairs. Military and Veterans Affairs Office Management Analyst, Tom Griffin, has been named by Assemblymember Bill Monning as “Veteran of the Year” for the 27th Assembly District. A luncheon recognizing Mr. Griffin and recipients of this award from other Assembly Districts will be held Wednesday, June 17th, at the Sacramento Convention Center.

In 1998, Mr. Griffin became the founding President of the Veterans Transition Center (VTC), an organization that now owns 40 homes on the former Ft. Ord and is housing more than 30 homeless veterans and their families in a two-year transition program into permanent housing. He was the creative, driving force behind VTC, conceiving and writing the entire program. Today the VTC has 10 full time staff members and numerous volunteers, and helps hundreds of veterans every year.

Prior to joining the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, 18 months ago, Mr. Griffin worked as a Social Worker in Child Protective Services in both Monterey and Santa Clara counties. Prior to that, he spent five years with the California Department of Corrections (CDC), and worked with veteran inmates because it was his belief that they were forgotten and underserved.
After leaving the Army, Mr. Griffin worked for the Monterey County Housing Authority, serving low income families, many of which were the families of military veterans. He also started the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development mandated Family Self-Sufficiency Program, a program that was recognized as one of the top three programs in the country.

Mr. Griffin, currently a Colonel and brigade commander in the California National Guard, is a United States Military Academy at West Point graduate whose infantry career included service in three tours of Vietnam as an Infantry Airborne Ranger soldier and leader, in direct combat each time. In his 20 years of service, Tom Griffin was awarded numerous medals for valiant service including a Silver Star for gallantry in action, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. While serving in the Army, Colonel Griffin earned a Master’s degree, a Specialist degree, a Doctorate, and concluded his service to our country as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and at Ft. Ord as a Brigade Executive Officer of the 7th Infantry Division.

"Colonel Griffin’s accomplishments on behalf of veterans and children demonstrates the positive impact that one person can have on the lives of others," Assemblymember Monning said. "Whether it is providing assistance to veterans in need of temporary housing, working with veteran inmates, or assisting veterans and their families in receiving the benefits they have accrued, former Lieutenant Colonel has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for veterans and their families."

Monterey County Library. Presentation by Internationally famous Author and Photographer, David Bacon.

The Greenfield Branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries is hosting a presentation by David Bacon exploring the unique challenges and the culture of California’s indigenous Mexican farm workers. This community event and reception will be held on Saturday, June 20, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

David Bacon is a highly acclaimed photographer and is the author of several books including Communities Without Borders, The Children of NAFTA, and Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants. His exhibitions have been sponsored by California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. and the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations. David’s photos tell stories of the lives of the indigenous people and the struggles they have had faced in their effort to assimilate and make a life for themselves in the U.S.

The Greenfield Branch Library is at 315 El Camino Real in Greenfield. All are invited. For more information, please call: 831-674-2614

This concludes the CAO report.