MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for June 29, 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.

Natividad Medical Center

Natividad Medical Center (NMC) has recently expanded its surgical team and laparoscopic surgery services. The newest laparoscopic surgery now available at the hospital is “lap band surgery” or adjustable gastric banding, a weight loss procedure available to obese patients. The hospital also features the first surgeons in Monterey County who specialize in laparoscopic kidney removal, as well as the only fellowship-trained colon and rectal surgeon practicing in the County.

Laparoscopic surgery, or minimally invasive surgery, allows surgeons to perform the same procedures as in traditional open surgery, using small incisions of up to half an inch, instead of large abdominal incisions. The instruments and a tiny video camera are then inserted through these incisions, allowing the surgeon to perform the procedure using the image of the organs transmitted onto a television monitor.

Patients who receive this type of laparoscopic surgery generally recover more quickly, returning to work and normal physical activities in a shorter amount of time. Benefits often include reduced post operative pain, shorter hospital stays, and smaller scars.

In addition to laparoscopic lap band surgery, colon and kidney surgery, NMC also offers laparoscopic surgery for most gynecological problems and hysterectomies, spleen removal,
treatment for gastroesophageal reflux disease, treatment for achalasia, hialtal hernia repair, inguinal hernia repair, gall bladder removal, and appendix removal.

NMC is a 172-bed acute care medical center owned and operated by Monterey County, and has been providing healthcare for more than 120 years. A public community hospital, NMC emphasizes the care of women, children and families and offers comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic and specialty care through its medical staff of more than 235 physicians. The hospital is affiliated with the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine.

For more information about NMC, please call 831-755-4111 or visit www.natividad.com.

This concludes the CAO report.