MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for August 24, 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.

District Attorney’s Office

News Release: Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo is pleased to announce that on August 7th, Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Pamela L. Ham and Deputy District Attorney Carol Reed received Masters of Law in Prosecutorial Science Degrees from Chapman University School of Law located in Orange County, California. DDA’s Ham and Reed have the distinction of being honored in the first graduating class of sixteen prosecutors.

This 2-year program is the first program in the nation to provide a Masters of Law in Prosecutorial Science. The program is a post-Juris Doctor degree granted under the exclusive auspices of the California District Attorney’s Association and Chapman University School of Law. It has a very competitive admission process with a low residency, distance-learning feature, which allows selective prosecutors from all over California to participate. Founded in 1861, Chapman University is one of the oldest, most prestigious private universities in California.

Ms. Ham received her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara and then attended Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas, Texas. In 1994, she began her employment with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office and has been assigned to various units to include the Misdemeanor Unit, Juvenile Unit, Child Abduction Unit, Gang Prosecution Unit, and, is currently the head of our Appellate Unit. Ms. Ham is also an outstanding student of the law, diligent researcher, and an accomplished legal writer.

Deputy District Attorney Carol Reed received an AA Degree in Business Administration from Santa Barbara City College in 1994. She graduated from Santa Barbara College of Law with a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1999. She began her legal career as a Deputy District Attorney with the Tulare County District
Attorney Office in July 1999 and in 2001, was hired as a Deputy District Attorney in the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office. She has been assigned to the Misdemeanor Unit, where she successfully prosecuted several high profile cases involving election fraud and animal abuse, and was one of the lead prosecutors in our Gang Unit and Auto Insurance and Welfare Fraud Units.

District Attorney Flippo stated that he is extremely proud of both deputies and has the highest respect for their willingness and ability to successfully complete this rigorous 2-year program while maintaining their heavy workload.

**Elections**

**Outreach:** The Department will hold an Observer Panel meeting on Tuesday, August 25th in conjunction with the Special Election. This meeting will cover final feedback on the May 5th, and May 19th, 2009 elections as well as any feedback on the current all mail ballot elections held in the Alisal Union School District and Carmel Valley Fire Protection District. The Department has held five meeting with the 2008/2009 Observer Panel; the August 25th meeting will also be this particular Panel’s final meeting. The Department will be organizing a new composition of the Observer Panel for the 2009/2010 election season which will turn its focus on voter outreach and education and poll worker training.

The Department was invited to a candidate information night held by the Republican Party of Monterey County on Tuesday, August 18th. There was a small audience of interested voters there – some were interested in running for State office in June 2010, some were already running for a local office this November 2009, and the rest were simply interested in learning more about the process to run for political office and how elections are conducted. The Registrar of Voters was asked to put together topics relating to what candidates and/or their campaigns do “this way” that the Elections Department wished they did “that way.” Topics on preparation of candidate statements, registering voters, obtaining and using data from the Department, electioneering, observing, and final certification were covered.

**August 25, 2009 All Mail Ballot Elections:** As of Friday, August 21, 2009, the Department had received nearly 2,700 voted returns. Today at 9:00 a.m., the Department will begin the public process of opening and extracting voted ballots from their secure blue envelope in order to prepare for Tuesday morning’s tabulation set for 9:00 a.m. as well. Even though the Department will be tabulating ballots during the day, State law does not allow the release of any vote totals until after the close of polls at 8:00 p.m. Even though there are no polling places for the all mail ballot election, the Department still offers in-person voting up to the close of polls.

**November 3, 2009 Consolidated City, School and Special District Elections:** The November local election is 71 days away. The Department is now working on the design and layout of 41 different official ballot types and voter information pamphlets covering the different areas for the 36 candidate contests and 5 ballot measures. Visit the Department’s website to find the current list of candidates, including offices that will not have to go to election due to sufficient or insufficient candidates.

Today was the final deadline for submission of rebuttal ballot arguments and impartial analyses for each local ballot measure. After the 10-day public review period, and as long as there are no legal challenges to any of the materials up for review, the Department has the authority to click “print”. While the majority of voters will not be mailed their official materials until early October, the County’s “special absentee voters” who are members of the military, family members of military personnel, or voters living overseas can have their official materials go out nearly a month earlier.

This concludes the CAO report.