MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for September 7, 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

Last Monday night (August 31st) at around 9:12 p.m., Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order in an effort to ensure the first responders (firefighters and emergency personnel) battling the fires around California were able to participate in the special vacancy elections in the 10th Congressional and 51st Assembly District occurring the next day, Tuesday, September 1st. The counties of Los Angeles, Mariposa, Monterey, Placer, Riverside, and San Bernardino were requested to work with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) to take the necessary steps to have voting available until 10 p.m. in the affected areas. At 10:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, all six counties participated in a conference call and by 2 p.m., there were over 30 emails between the affected counties and the Secretary of State’s Office working to gain access to incident command centers, whom on the emergency team the counties should communicate, to distribute official ballots to the affected counties, and that all understood the procedures to follow. Monterey County was prepared to send staff to the incident command center for the Gloria Fire with ballots for the two special elections to assist voting, but by 4:45 p.m. had confirmed that the fire was 100% contained and the command center had been shut down. Word had been provided from CalEMA and CalFIRE that there was no longer a need for Monterey, Placer or Riverside County to provide voting assistance to first responders until 10:00 p.m. The next morning, the Elections Department had learned that 10 ballots had been cast due to the Governor’s Executive Order – 7 in Los Angeles and one in San Bernardino from first responder voters participating in the 10th Congressional District election, and two out of Mariposa from first responders participating in the 51st Assembly District election. This was a good “drill” in preparation for AB 1440 (Swanson) that would allow provisional voting for emergency personnel who are called away from their home voting precinct to an emergency in another county.
Outreach: The Department attended “El Dia del Trabajador” on Sunday, August 30th in Greenfield. Gina Martinez, Election Services Specialist, and Maria Murrillo, one of the Department’s temporary election technicians who have been with the Department for the last six elections since August 2008, represented Monterey County Elections at the event. The day was a success for the Department - in terms of voter outreach activities and dissemination of information regarding the Department’s Election Officer Programs. A number of attendees completed registration forms or took forms home for family members, and the staff also provided key information regarding voting rights. Several people signed up to be poll workers for the coming election season and the Department met with a number of high school students and state employees managing other information booths to form community partnerships and provide information regarding special election officer programs.

August 25, 2009 S All Mail Ballot Elections: The Department finalized all steps of the official canvass of the vote and certified the election results on Monday, August 31, 2009. The final results reflected an overall turnout of 40%, with 18% participation in the Alisal Union School District recall (283 out of 1,579 voters cast ballots) and 46% turnout in the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District’s special tax election (2,665 out of 5,745 voters cast ballots).

November 3, 2009 Consolidated City, School, and Special District Elections: The November local election is 56-days away. The Department is now in the final stages of 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. All contests to go before the voters this November are available on the Department’s website under the tab “Upcoming Elections.”

Last Friday, the Department distributed a memo regarding opportunities to participate in the County Election Official Program or the Student Election Official Program. Thank you to those who have quickly turned in their approved applications – the Department has a great start on the recruitment needs for November. If you have not yet obtained approval and sent in your application, please consider doing that right away so the Department can begin to arrange training classes. If your son or daughter is interested in the Student Election Official Program and earn money or community credits toward graduation, remind them to discuss the Program with their teachers so they can receive their assignment and training schedule and make plans to get connected to democracy.

This concludes the CAO report.