MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for September 14, 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.

County Administrative Office

Monterey County is updating its Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan and Continuity Of Operations Planning (COOP) for Continuity of Government (COG) during this pandemic influenza and seasonal influenza season. Federal health officials predict a high percent of absenteeism this fall and Departments are preparing to ensure continuance of essential functions and services we provide.

At the September 2, 2009 Department Heads’ meeting, Dr. Hugh Stallworth, Health Officer, and Len Foster provided Department Heads and staff an update of the current situation and probabilities associated with the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza, for the nation, state and the County of Monterey. Coupled with the H1N1 virus, the seasonal (annual) influenza season is expected to arrive shortly, doubling the number of persons afflicted with Influenza like illness (ILI) this flu season (now through May 2010). The indicators are showing a peak or wave of H1N1 in early to mid October 2009. Their facts support the probability of a 40% absenteeism rate for County staff for a 12- to 16-week period or longer.

Subsequently, Departmental COOP managers attended a tabletop exercise that was provided by Office of Emergency Services (OES) highlighting the probable outcomes when experiencing high absenteeism. The training provided for a thought provoking discussion throughout the
exercise. The exercise vignettes also noted expected arrival of an El Nino this fall/winter, increasing the threat of flooding and power outages, compounding the need in planning for essential functions and services.

OES is providing intensive training to the Department COOP Managers on the essentials of COOP with a focus on COOP during a pandemic influenza. Department plans are being updated and revised. Departments have been asked to increase the awareness of all staff on the effects of pandemic influenzas, seasonal influenza and El Nino, and the need to effectively implement COOP measures, reaching within and outside our organization as necessary for support. The Health Officer and OES staff will also be providing training to the Monterey County City Managers and Special District Managers, offering current information and tools for the continuity of operations to these valuable County partners.

The Health Officer and OES continue to take the lead in training and providing timely information on the current situation, invaluable prevention strategies and coordination of information and resources to all County employees and the public at large. The flu clinic schedule for County employees has been posted by the Health Department along with many valuable resources at www.co.monterey.ca.us/health.

This concludes the CAO Report.