MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 28, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Weekly Report for September 28, 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.

Employee and Community Relations

Two important safety programs for Monterey County residents will launch next month:

“Alert Monterey County.” The kickoff campaign will be held for “Alert Monterey County” at the Steinbeck Center on October 28th, 2009, at noon at the Steinbeck Center. This is the public awareness campaign for the County’s telephone emergency notification system, or TENS. This system has been in place since last summer and has been used in emergencies such as the Basin Complex Fire. In partnerships with cities throughout the County, a publicity campaign is being launched to register cell phones, email addresses and additional landline telephones. Your board will get a full presentation on the Alert Monterey County program at your October 6th, 2009 meeting.

2009 Annual Winter Storm Preparedness Conference. At 1:00 p.m. in the same location (following the kickoff above), the Office of Emergency Services will hold its 2009 Annual Winter Storm Preparedness Conference. We are expecting a wetter than average winter this year and face specific threats in the Basin Complex and Gloria Fire burn areas. The conference will feature the National Weather Service 2009 -10 winter storm season forecast and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency will discuss flood preparedness and storm monitoring capabilities. Registration is not necessary.
**Elections**

**Outreach:** Monterey County Elections was represented at both Hartnell Community College and the Monterey Peninsula College for the 2009 “Constitution Day” held on Thursday, September 17, 2009. The Department collaborated with staff at the Monterey Peninsula College to assist in the “mock election” and at both college locations to register students to vote and encourage them to participate in the coming elections as a poll worker in Monterey County. There was no fee for the Department to attend and both college representatives were very grateful to have the Department partner for the annual Constitution Day event!

The Department worked with the staff at the Monterey Peninsula College to produce the official ballot for the mock election. The college developed the two questions and the Department provided the layout, design, and Spanish translations as well as voting instructions and how to connect the head and tail of the vote target area (the name of the space between the head and tail of the arrow where the optical scan machine detects a vote). The first question in the mock election was: “*Shall the Federal Government play a larger role in regulating the economy?*” resulting in a vote of Yes = 90, a vote of No = 39 (there were 4 students who cast a blank ballot resulting in 4 “under votes” and one student who voted both options creating one ‘over vote”). The second question was: “*Shall the Federal Government increase taxes to help increase funding for health care?*” resulting in a vote of Yes = 78 and a vote of No = 55 (there was one student who cast a blank ballot resulting in one “under vote”). A total of 134 students participated in the mock election.

There were 49 students who registered to vote (10 at MPC and 39 at Hartnell, and 55 students signing up to work at the polls (5 at MPC and 50 at Hartnell). Providing proper voting instructions was also important at the event – one student stated that she has been circling the words “Yes” or “No” when voting instead of connecting the arrow; however, with the under vote and over vote results shown above, the Department may have more outreach to do!

**November 3, 2009 Consolidated City, School, and Special District Elections:** The November local election is 36-days away. The process for the pre-election Logic and Accuracy Testing of the vote tabulating devices began last week and is scheduled to finish before Monday, October 5, 2009, which is the day that Early Voting may commence. All vote tabulating devices must be thoroughly tested before they can be used in any election. The Department is on target to mail the official local voter information pamphlet and vote by mail ballots beginning on Monday, October 5, 2009.

This concludes the CAO report.