MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 5, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for October 5, 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.

Cooperative Extension

Farm management and marketing information critical for agricultural sustainability. Availability and access to farm management and marketing information and education is critical for the competitiveness and economic sustainability of California’s farms. In working with Central Coast farmers, and in discussions with UC Cooperative Extension farm advisors and specialists, a need for comprehensive, easy-to-access information and educational materials on a variety of topics related to management and marketing was identified.

UC Cooperative Extension farm management advisor Laura Tourte, in collaboration with other farm advisors and specialists, designed and developed a website entitled “The Farm Business and Market Place”. It is a ‘one-stop’ place where owners and managers of small to mid-scale Central Coast farms can conveniently access research based information to assist with business and marketing decisions and success. Future plans for the website include easy-to-access online educational presentations, as well as printed materials and presentations for Spanish speaking users and audiences.

Please visit the website: http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/farmbusinessandmarketplace
Health

Monterey County Health Department - Behavioral Health Bureau is now a leader in the adoption of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) technology among California Counties and other Behavioral Health providers in the State of California. The new EMR system was purchased with the use of Technology funds through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Last June, the Board of Supervisors approved the contract with Netsmart Incorporated, the selected bidder, for $1,771,080 (annual recurring cost $270,402).

The EMR went live on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 on-time and under budget. This program will create greater efficiencies within the behavioral health system by providing licensed clinicians and psychiatrists stationed throughout Monterey County with the ability to obtain client information without delay and with greater accuracy. In addition, the system will reduce the number of billing errors and ensure accurate submission of Medi-Cal claims to the State.

Within the first two months of operation, there has been no loss of billing submitted, implying once the start up is over, the accuracy and quantity of billing will improve. Moreover, the reports generated from the new system are already proving extremely valuable for planning purposes and useful in managing data operations in the Behavioral Health Bureau. One additional asset to the electronic system will be the faster turnaround time in receiving payments from the State, due to accuracy and electronic transfer of the data.

The EMR system feature interface operability with the County’s financial system and sets the foundation for the appropriate and secure sharing of data both within the department and with other healthcare providers.

This concludes the CAO report.