MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 19, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Office

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for October 19, 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 - Office of Emergency Services

Typhoon Melor – Monterey County Response: Weeks before Typhoon Melor hit the coast of California, Monterey County was preparing for a very wet winter. The National Weather Service predicted an El Nino season in late summer. Office of Emergency Services, Public Works, and Water Resources Agency staff met with Soledad city officials to identify flood hazard areas created by the Gloria Fire. Mission taskings from the State of California were issued to State agencies to clean drainage ditches and culverts in affected areas. Alerts, including several “Alert Monterey” messages, were sent to private and public organizations to clean and replace protective infrastructure in areas of the Basin Complex Fire in advance of the storm season.

As a result, very little damage occurred in Monterey County, although Typhoon Melor broke all-time one-day rainfall records here. Power outages and relatively small areas of minor flooding were monitored and managed by County staff from the Emergency Operations Center using advanced hydrological telemetry. The Big Sur River and Arroyo Seco Creek reached flood stage, Los Padres Dam exceeded capacity and overflowed, and Carmel Lagoon rose to dangerous levels. County crews responded to road closures and managed the Carmel Lagoon sandbar to allow rapidly rising water to pass through to the ocean without flooding nearby homes, in accordance with the Carmel Valley Emergency Response Plan. By the end of the second day,
remaining effects were limited to a few power outages. A comparison of Monterey County’s experience with Typhoon Melor relative to several other counties is evidence of effective preparation and response.

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.