MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for January 11, 2010

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

Oak trees are important landscape and historical treasures in Monterey County. Anyone dealing with oak trees will be interested in a new website launched by the University of California. The UC Integrated Harwood Range Management Program has compiled this information of service to planners, homeowners, and especially for those developing local or regional conservation plans. There is an 11-minute video about the publication “A Planner’s Guide for Oak Woodlands” and the website also provides an “ask the experts” button for a timely, personal response. The “Planners Portal” and the “Ask the Expert” links can be found at http://groups.ucanr.org/oakplan. The local contact for oak tree disease questions is Plant Pathology Advisor Steve Koike (759-7356), and for tree insect questions, Entomology Advisor Jian Bi (759-7359).

Elections

April 13, 2010 City of Carmel-by-the-Sea: The Department is assisting the City in the preliminary steps in conducting their General Municipal Election; however, the County has not been asked to administer the Election on behalf of the City. The City’s administration is working with an election administration vendor, Martin & Chapman Company out of Southern California who conducts General Municipal Elections for numerous cities in Los Angeles...
County every year. The Department’s involvement will surround providing the confidential voter file to the City to ascertain qualified voters and be able to mail voting materials; the Department is awaiting to hear from the City regarding assistance with verification of voted ballots and the set up and use of accessible voting machines under state and federal law.

**June 8, 2010 Statewide Direct Primary Election:** The June Primary is 148-days away. Today, Governor Schwarzenegger issued the Proclamation calling for the Statewide Direct Primary and placing all federal, statewide executive and legislative offices, and statewide propositions on the ballot. The deadline for legislative and initiative propositions to qualify for placement on the June ballot is Thursday, January 28th (131 days before the date of the election).

The period for collecting signatures in-lieu of filing fees opened on Monday, January 4, 2010 and will close on Thursday, February 25th for all candidates except for candidates for Judge of the Superior Court whose signature in-lieu collection period will close on February 10th which is also the last day for filing the Declaration of Intent for that office. The candidate nomination period will open on February 15, 2010.

California’s Primary is a *Modified Primary* system – this means that, no later than the 135th day before the date of the Election, the qualified political parties must notify the Secretary of State whether or not they will allow Decline to State/non-partisan voters participate (vote) in their party’s primary election for candidates. A voter who is registered as either Decline-to-State (non-partisan and has selected not to affiliate with a political party) or is registered with a party that has not qualified for the ballot in California, may be allowed to participate in voting options for a political party in California’s “modified” primary system. The deadline to register or re-register to vote is 15 days before the election, which is May 24, 2010.

**General:** The Department just completed verifying the signatures upon two recall petitions filed with the City of Soledad. On Thursday, January 7, 2010, the department certified that the two recall petitions were insufficient and would not lead to a recall election in the City. The Department is also working on two statewide petitions (#1369 relating to electricity providers, and 1381 relating to auto insurance), analyzing mail from the November 2009 election before any mail is sent for the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea’s April election or the Statewide Primary in June.

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.