MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for February 22, 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.

Elections

Appointment Process for Vacancies in State Office – Lieutenant Governor Position and Nomination of Senator Abel Maldonado: As reported in the news, the nomination of Senator Abel Maldonado to fill the remainder of the term in the office of Lieutenant Governor did not receive confirmation by the State Assembly. The very next day, on February 12th, Governor Schwarzenegger resubmitted Senator Maldonado’s name for reconfirmation to Lieutenant Governor, starting another 90-day clock for the Legislature to decide whether or not to confirm. Should Senator Maldonado receive the confirmation, he will be forced to vacate his Senate seat, starting the process for the Governor to then call a special election to fill a vacancy in the 15th District. That special vacancy election will have to occur in this year as Maldonado’s term is not set to expire until 2012. Stay tuned.

June 8, 2010 Consolidated Statewide Primary Election. Tuesday, February 16th, was the opening day of nominations for candidates seeking to have their name placed upon the ballot for any one of many offices scheduled for election this June. Requirements vary depending on the office sought. Visit www.MontereyCountyElections.us for more information, including a candidate’s guide. Additional information on running for state or federal office can also be found on the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ca.gov.
Outreach and Education: With the 2010 election season on the near horizon, organizations are beginning activities to “get out the vote” through voter registration drives. This increases some of the Department’s activities, not only to process the incoming registrations, but take the opportunity to reach out and educate those who are in the field reaching out to potential Monterey County voters. On Monday, January 25th, the Department’s Voter Registration Specialist and Registrar of Voters visited a Salinas office of a state voter registration drive being conducted by an organization called California for Voter Turnout, Education and Registration. The purpose of the visit was to educate the members of the organization on the rules and regulations for assisting eligible citizens register to vote. There were about 12 members present to hear the presentation, ask questions, and gain insight into how the Elections Department processes and validates registration forms. On Wednesday, February 17th, the Department’s Voter Registration Specialist met with four members of the Tea Party Patriots of Monterey County at the office also to provide the rules and regulations surrounding registration drives.

Thursday, February 18th, the Department’s Candidates/Campaigns Specialist was a guest speaker for the “Monterey County 2010 Candidate School, Session 2” put together by Leadership Monterey Peninsula. There were about 50 students present to ask questions about the process for running for public office in Monterey County. Since these students had been attending a series of classes about becoming candidates, the Department opted for a question/answer session rather than a prepared presentation. In all the evening was a success although 20 minutes is only enough time to scratch the surface of the filing process. The students asked a wide range of questions and the Department plans to use the experiences from this class and the Department’s own Candidate Seminars to compile an informative and comprehensive presentation on filing for office. It will hopefully help people learn such things as the difference between a "ballot designation" and a "candidate statement of qualifications", to understand that "pulling papers" is more involved than just "picking-up a packet" at the Elections Office, and be able to educate more on the process of filing and running for office, the pool of citizens dedicated to their community and to the democratic process will continue to grow.

The Department’s next seminar, “Decide and Declare!” will be held at the Department’s office in Salinas on Thursday, February 25th beginning at 6 p.m. A member of the League of Women Voters will also be present to discuss candidate options through SmartVoter, the League’s non-partisan website for voter information.

Social & Employment Services

Workforce Investment Board (WIB): Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Updates: Ron Painter, Chief Executive Officer, NAWB www.nawb.org reports that they are working hard to accomplish WIA Reauthorization and the Jobs Bill on Senate and House agendas before attention is lost to health care, the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind and upcoming 2010 elections. In WIA Reauthorization they want to ensure a business led workforce system continues to be a core component. Possibilities for the Jobs Bill include funds for additional grantees from the current DOl RFP’s for green jobs and health care, some compromise over additional funding targeted to on-the-job training and transitional jobs, and almost
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surely robust summer jobs funding. NAWB recommends that local areas should begin preparations for operating another large summer program this year. The full report is available at NAWB Workforce Brief - Jan 27. Additionally, the NAWB website has a draft agenda for the March conference in Washington D.C.

Work Experience and OJT Review: Adapting to the times to best meet the needs of our customers and business partners has been a priority for the workforce development community. Our workforce investment system has changed, and this is most evident in Program Year 2009-10. The implementation of best practices from the Learning Lab model and WIB policies on Tiered Service Levels for Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs mean we are serving everyone who walks in the door resulting in our enrolled numbers going from 678 (PY07-08) to 1705 (PY08-09) to a projected 3,000 this year (PY09-10). Scarce job opportunities sought by many qualified job applicants and the economic climate that is causing business layoffs or closures have prompted our local system to implement new strategies. We have significant ARRA funding that we need to use effectively and efficiently to implement new strategies. Adult and Dislocated Worker Work Experience and the Layoff Aversion Project are new strategies that have already had, and will continue to have a positive impact on the economy.

Success Stories from the Workforce Investment System:

Turning Point Youth Program – When asked how Turning Point services helped G.J., he replied, “You all helped me a lot. You taught me how to talk to an employer, how to dress, and even bought me clothes for my interview. Turning Point got me my first job and I love it, but what is most exciting is that now you’re helping me get my driver’s license. Soon I won’t have to take the bus to work anymore.” Services provided to G.J. include transportation; personal and career assessment; pre-employment and life skills training; case management; food; work permit; mentoring; educational support; work clothes; work experience; and job development.

Unity Care Youth Program – R.J. has always been a very quiet and shy individual. He is a foster youth and is also on probation. During the Work Readiness Workshop, R.J. did not do well in the mock interview. He would not answer questions nor look at the interviewer. His Case Manager took him shopping and R.J. opening up and started talking. R.J. had never owned nice clothing or even tied a tie. R.J. was very excited and eager to go home and practice tying his tie for his Work Experience interview. Staff worked with him to prepare for his interview. After the interview, staff checked in with the interviewing manager who reported that R.J.’s interview went exceptionally well, and they wanted R.J. to start working as soon as possible.

Unity Care Youth Follow-up – T.C. has always been passionate about working outdoors. We worked with T.C. to set up an appointment with a California Conservation Corps (CCC) Recruiter. T.C. loved the program and all that it had to offer, so staff continued to assist T.C. in filling out the application. T.C. interviewed with CCC and has now been hired. T.C. and his mother were very thankful for all our help. T.C. said, “Finally, I found a job that I will enjoy, outdoors!”

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.