MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
    County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for March 15, 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.

Agricultural Commissioner

Ag Expo: The Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Strawberry Commission, presented the 11th annual Ag Expo and Seminar on March 9th at the Salinas Sports Complex. Over 270 growers and their employees (predominantly) from North County attended this event, which is conducted each year in Spanish. The Ag Expo was originally conceived to provide outreach on erosion issues in North County and has expanded to include many other regulatory issues related to safety and resource protection. Seminar topics this year included pesticide use requirements and safety, fumigant issues, protection of water quality, and prevention of erosion. In addition to the speakers, the Expo provided an opportunity for local businesses and agencies to have an exhibit and to interact directly with the participants. Exhibition topics included recycling (thanks for the participation of Environmental Health,) irrigation, equipment, health and safety and water quality.

Elections

April 13, 2010 City of Carmel-by-the-Sea General Election: The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will be administering their election this April, along with Martin & Chapman Company, a voting equipment and administration services vendor from southern California. The Department is providing general assistance so the city may have the voter file and have access to records to verify voted returns and complete the canvass of the vote. For more details, please contact the City Clerk for Carmel-by-the-Sea at (831) 620-2019.
June 8, 2010 Consolidated Statewide Primary: The June Primary is 85 days away. The candidate nomination period closed on Friday, March 12, 2010. The Department has posted a list of candidates who have qualified from Monterey County, as well as a list of the local ballot measures that will appear before voters in various parts of the County this June. The Department has provided a link to the qualified State propositions and will provide a link to the state qualified candidate list as soon as it becomes available.

There are five State propositions and one local ballot measure on the June Primary ballot: Proposition 13 - limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings. Legislative Constitutional Amendment; Proposition 14 - Primary Election Process Reform. Greater Participation in Elections; Proposition 15 - California Fair Elections Act; Proposition 16 - Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. Initiative Constitutional Amendment; Proposition 17 - Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. Initiative Statute; and local “Measure L”, Greenfield Union Elementary School District Bond in the amount of $8,500,000. Primary arguments in favor of or against local Measure L, and subsequent rebuttals to the primary arguments are due March 19 and March 29 respectively.

Why is it called, Measure L? State election law requires that local measures are assigned a letter of the alphabet, rather than a number like with state propositions. The Elections Department has a standing policy in place since March 2007 that says, “Measures will be assigned in alphabetical order beginning with the letter following the last letter assigned in the previous election and continuing through Z, or as close to the end of the alphabet as possible to accommodate all measures filed for the current election.” The last letter assigned for a local ballot measure in November 2009 was letter K (City of Salinas), so for June, we begin with the letter L.

Recruitment is Underway! Last week, the Department sent an email announcing the opening of the recruitment period for poll workers and other Election Day personnel through the Employee Election Official Program. As a reminder, the applications are available through the County Employee’s Intranet. The email provided two links: one for the County Employee application (http://www.co.monterey/pages/elections/APPLICATION-FOR-8-June-2010_MONTEREY-COUNTY-EMPLOYEE-ELECTION-OFFICER.pdf) and one for the Student Election Official Program (http://www.co.monterey/pages/elections/STU-EQ-APP-JUNE-8.pdf). The Student Election Official Program application is also available on the County’s main page (www.co.monterey.ca.us) as well as on the Department’s website (www.montereycountyelections.us), along with applications for Individual Election Officers and the Team-Up for Democracy Program.

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.