MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for May 3, 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.

Departments

Social and Employment Services

On May 3, 2010 Kinship Center’s Family Ties Program and Peacock Acres Incarceration to Success, two service programs for foster and incarcerated youth, are honored on the steps of the State Capitol for exemplary work to improve the lives of foster and transitional youth. They are two out of three programs being recognized statewide by the Foster Care Month Coalition.

Family Ties is a program of the Kinship Center (www.kinshipcenter.org), a California nonprofit agency dedicated to the creation, preservation and support of foster, adoptive and relative families for children who need them. Since 1984 Kinship Center has helped create and support families for thousands of children of all ages. Kinship Center is headquartered in Salinas, California with facilities and services in eleven Southern California, Central Coast and Northern California counties.
The Family Ties Program provides support services to relatives caring for family members’ children when birth parents are unable to provide that care. The goal of these services is to increase the chances for children’s success by building the capacity of kin caregivers to meet their health, financial, social, emotional, and child rearing challenges. Since the inception of Family Ties in 1999 the program has served thousands of children.

Incarceration to Success is a program of Peacock Acres (www.peacockacres.com), a residential agency providing a continuum of services, to foster and incarcerated transitional youth in Monterey County which was founded in 1983. Started as a pilot program in 2004, Incarceration to Success provides a positive and highly structured transitional residential program for probation youth ages 16 to 21 who are completing their period of incarceration in Monterey County’s Youth Center.

The goals of the program include identifying and promoting strong healthy relationships through an array of rehabilitation services and supports such as counseling and psychotherapy, education, and job training. The aim of the program is to foster the development of healthy and productive community members with the life skills required for an enriching life and for their successful reintegration in the local community.

In recognizing these two outstanding youth organizations, the Foster Care Month Coalition singled out the high level of public and private partnerships whose collaboration and coordination further the success of important community based initiatives such as Family Ties and Incarceration to Success. Valued partners include the Monterey County Departments of Social and Employment Services, Health - Behavioral Health Bureau, and Probation. Other supportive partnerships include the Office for Employment Training, Turning Point and the Monterey County Office of Education.

Parks

The 28th Annual Wildflower Triathlons Festival took place on April 30-May 2 at Lake San Antonio. Long known as the Woodstock of Triathlon for its rustic setting, this year’s event will host over 7,500 triathletes.

Top competitors from around the world took part. Athletic events include long course, Olympic distance and a mountain bike triathlon for a variety of age groups. Teams participate in the Club or Collegiate competitions.
Participants are fueled by the “carbo load” dinners offered on Friday and Saturday evening. The festival area includes a Healthy Lifestyle Expo, Kid Zone, race clinics, live entertainment and awards ceremonies.

Many volunteer organizations come together to make the festival happen. AVIA Wildflower Triathlons Festival is produced by Tri-California Events, Inc. for the Monterey County Parks Department benefiting the Parks Foundation of Monterey County

Health Department

Ergonomics
The County of Monterey has launched one of the first of its kind program to complement the successful ergonomics process. It is the Office Chair Quality and Competency Program. The program was designed by Alison Heller-Ono, PT, CPE and Ergonomics Manager as an objective way to measure the quality and competency of our ergonomic office chairs. The inventory program is a way for departments to identify if their chairs are safe, functional and comfortable to remain in circulation or whether they should be repaired or removed from use in the workplace and replaced.

In a recent inventory of the County’s Behavioral Health Dept, employees had reported that they were very unhappy with their chairs as they were not able to adjust the height any longer. Chairs remained at their lowest position. An inventory of 17 chairs occurred to identify if they needed repair or replacement. The chairs were determined to still be under warranty and resulted in at least 15 requiring new cylinders and other parts.

The vendor was contacted to confirm the parts needed were within the warranty period and could be repaired at no charge to the County of Monterey. While the process will take a few weeks, the chair quality and competency program saved this department approximately $8000.00 in chair replacement costs based on the average cost of an ergonomic chair (about $533.00). In addition, the results will add value by extending the life of the chairs another 5-10 years and reduce the risk of future workers’ compensation claims associated with seated work.

If you have chairs that are still within 10 years or newer and they are not functioning properly, please contact Alison Heller-Ono, Ergonomics Manager to evaluate the quality and competency of the chairs in your department. The outcome will allow you to plan for chair repairs and budget for replacements in the coming years, protect your employees health and safety and provide satisfaction for years to come.

Behavioral Health Division
The Monterey County Mental Health Commission, with support from the Health Department, Behavioral Health Bureau, is hosting the sixth annual FIESTA OF HOPE on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in Seaside. The FIESTA OF HOPE was created to provide a community event that also educates the general public and raises awareness of resources, treatment options and support available to those touched by mental illness.
The **FIESTA OF HOPE** also includes an exhibition and consumer art sale. Resource tables provide information about mental health services that are available in Monterey County. Exhibitors display information boards, answer questions, and provide brochures and other informing materials for guests to take with them.

This year’s keynote speaker is The Honorable Judge Adrienne Grover. Her topic is “Finding Hope in the Criminal Courts.”

**2009 Fiesta of Hope Participants**

**Intergovernmental Affairs/Monterey County Business Council**

**Release of Economic and Cluster Status Report**

The Monterey County Business Council has just released its Spring 2010 Economic Report and the Monterey County Competitive Clusters 2009-10 Status Report. The Economic Report includes demographic information on Monterey County; i.e., population trends, unemployment, sales tax and industry specific information relevant to existing and new businesses looking to move into Monterey County. The Cluster Report details the many accomplishments made by the Cluster Working Groups and identifies future areas of focus. Copies of both reports will be widely distributed. Copies can also be obtained by calling the office at 831-883-9443.

**The Monterey Bay Marketplace – A model for the World**

On May 10th, the Monterey County Business Council will partner with the Monterey Bay International Association to sponsor a luncheon seminar on President Obama’s National Export Initiative, which pledges to double exports in the next five years. Experts will talk on a variety of subjects relative to local businesses. Congressman Sam Farr will speak on the initiative and the Free Trade Agreement and how they will help our region. MCBC President Mary Ann Leffel will discuss the Councils role and efforts in promoting global competitiveness. The seminar will be held at The Culinary Center of Monterey, 625 Cannery Row. The seminar begins at 10:00 am at a cost of $40 and the luncheon starts at 12:00 pm at a cost of $40. Both seminar and luncheon is $60.00. Call 831-335-4780 for reservations.

**Elections**

**June 8, 2010 Consolidated Statewide Primary:** As of Monday, the June Primary is 36-days away. Current activities surround the set up and programming of all voting equipment in preparation for the
required Logic and Accuracy testing, assigning poll workers to polling places and class schedules, and preparing for the mailing of voter information pamphlets and vote by mail ballots next week.

Outreach and Education: Today, Monday, May 3, 2010, the Department will hold a special meeting with the Observer Panel to discuss the plans and options for the June 22 and August 17, 2010 Special Vacancy Elections to be held within Senate District 15 (see below).

Election Mail: On Monday, May 10, 2010, the Department will be mailing out all permanent and mail ballot precinct voters their vote by mail voting materials. Vote by mail ballots will also be available at the Department’s office in Salinas for those who wish to obtain a ballot in person. Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlets will be mailed out, if not the same day, then within days of the vote by mail ballots. Electronic versions of the pamphlets will soon be available on the Department’s website ( sans the covers and filler pages – the files are just too large!).

June 22 and August 17, 2010 Special Vacancy Elections – Senate District 15: On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation calling for a special election to be held to fill a vacancy in Senate District 15, caused by the resignation of Senator Abel Maldonado who was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor that same day. The Special Election was set for Tuesday, August 17th; State law mandates the special primary election occur eight Tuesdays prior to the August date, which is Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties all reached out to the Governor to encourage him to consolidate at least one of the elections with the November 2, 2010 Statewide General Election. This decision could have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in Monterey, with more than $3 million dollars saved throughout all Counties, as well as resolved real barriers to these elections would have been realized.

The Monterey County Elections Department, along with the other four Counties, are facing barriers to the ability to successfully administer the June 22 and August 17 Elections: significant unanticipated costs in upwards of $6.5 million for both June and August; lack of available polling places; insufficient staff and poll workers; lack of secure storage space for voting materials and equipment; voting equipment limitations (lack of enough to administer the June 8 and June 22 elections within two-weeks of each other); disenfranchisement of military and overseas voters; and specifically for Monterey, inability to meet legal deadlines under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.