MEMORANDUM

DATE:  June 21, 2010

TO:  Board of Supervisors

FROM:  Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of June 21, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer to the Board of Supervisors.

This Week’s Topics: Election Update, Crop Report, Castroville Neighborhood Watch.

Elections

June 8, 2010 Statewide Primary: The Elections Department posted an update to the official result twice last week, tabulating all remaining valid ballots. The first update was issued on Monday evening and included nearly 19,000 voted returns; and the second update was issued on Friday evening, June 18, and included all remaining voted ballots, now reflecting a total turnout of 38.75%, or 61,699 out of 159,238 eligible voters. As of Friday’s report, the outcome reflects the necessity to conduct two local run-off elections at the November 2, 2010 Statewide General – the Sheriff and the Treasurer/Tax Collector race. The two top vote getters from each race will appear on the official ballot for voters to decide.

The Official Canvass: State law provides a 28-day period to complete the official canvass of the vote and produce a final certified statement. The deadline to finalize all steps of the official canvass, including manually tabulating all valid write-in votes and performing the official 1% manual tally to validate the electronic tally, is Tuesday, July 6. The Department will need all 28-days for the June 8 election – not due to a large voter turnout but simply due to having to cease the official canvass for the June 8 Statewide Primary in order to begin work on the June 22 Special Primary.

June 22 Special Primary Election – Senate District 15: Election Day is TOMORROW! Polling places have been secured and the majority will remain the same location as used in June 8. However, it is important that voters verify their location before heading out on Election Day....
Election Day – Where do I Vote?: To verify if you are eligible to vote and where your polling place is located, visit the Department’s website at www.MontereyCountyElections.us and visit the links “Where do I Vote?” to enter in the street address of where you currently reside – this will generate the location of your polling place along with a sample of the official ballot. There are four candidates seeking to fill the one vacant seat, allowing all voters, no matter what political party mark their one choice, “Vote for One” any candidate.

Election Mail: Tuesday, June 15, was the last day to request a vote by mail ballot be sent. The Department is receiving calls from voters who have question about their eligibility or may have misplaced or thrown away their June 22 ballot in confusion, since it was necessary to mail them out so close to the June 8 Statewide Primary. Please look through your mail for June 22 Special Primary voting information – the color of the Voter Information pamphlet is green, the vote by mail envelope has a message on the back in red, the official ballot is a bit smaller than the June 8, and the return vote by mail envelope is green. If you can’t find it, it’s not too late to vote!

Any voter who wishes to vote on Tuesday, June 22 must now either come to the Department to obtain a ballot in person, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. TODAY, and up to 8 p.m. on Election Day, or, simply head to vote at their polling place on Election Day.

All vote by mail ballots must be returned in Monterey County no later than the close of polls on Election Night. Voters may drop their ballot off at the Elections Department anytime during normal business hours or through the convenient drop slot in the front door, and may return their voted ballot to any of the ACTIVE polling places in Monterey County. It is important to check the list, because the June 22 is not countywide, the locations may not be available. http://www.montereycountyelections.us/Pollworkers_June_22_2010.htm

As of Monday, June 21, the Department has issued nearly 59,620 vote by mail ballots and has received 22,358 voted returns. With 92,088 eligible voters, 24% have already voted by mail. The Department worked on Saturday, June 19 to open and extract approximately 21,000 voted returns from inside their secure green envelope in order to begin ballot tabulation on Monday and be able to have results available to the public shortly after the polls close on Election night.

Agricultural Commissioner

Monterey County’s 2009 Crop Report will be unveiled Tuesday, June 22nd at 9:00 a.m. during an informational briefing at the office of the Grower Shipper Association of Central California (GSA). The GSA office is located at 512 Pajaro Street in Salinas.

Monterey County’s Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen will give an overview of the County’s agricultural production values for last year. Also invited to provide comments on the report:

- Steve Church, Church Brothers, LLC, Chairman of Grower Shipper Association
- Lorri Koster, Mann Packing, Past Chair of Grower Shipper Association
- Jason Smith, Paraiso Vineyards, President of Monterey County Farm Bureau
Jim Bogart, President – Grower Shipper Association
Mark Murai – President, California Strawberry Commission
Carolyn O'Donnell, California Strawberry Commission
Rhonda Motil, Monterey County Vintners and Growers

"2009’s production confirms that agriculture is Monterey County's top economic industry," says Lauritzen.

While the County's world recognized vegetable crops continue to collectively account for the largest portion of the total value, strawberries, wine grapes, nursery commodities and livestock production all contribute to the County's diverse agricultural industry.

Copies of the 2009 Crop Report will be available at the press briefing and at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, located at 744B La Guardia Street in Salinas.

Sheriff

In response to the recent rash of crimes in Castroville, the Sheriff's office and community leaders from Castroville are held a community meeting June 21st at the North County Christian Center, 11299 Poole Street in Castroville. The Sheriff's Office provided information about Neighborhood Watch and tips on how to better protect homes and property such as:

* Learn how to select locks and prevent burglaries
* Learn about operation Identification
* Learn how and when to report suspicious activity
* Receive Free Family and Home Safety Handouts
* Learn about posting warning signs and decals

For more crime prevention tips, visit the Sheriff’s website http://joinmcsos.com/tips.htm

This concludes the CAO Weekly Report.