MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of August 16, 2010

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

This Week’s Topics: Monterey County Libraries step in to support citizenship programs in Castroville, District 2 is celebrating state approval for highway improvements, and lots of folks were hitting the highway to Monterey County for festivities this month.

Libraries

CITIZENSHIP PROJECT AT MCFL

Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) continues to respond to the needs of the community in these difficult economic times. This summer MCFL started a project to provide citizenship tutoring at the Castroville branch to help people prepare for the U. S. citizenship interview and civics exam. Citizenship classes used to be available at the Adult Education center but these classes have been cut due to lack of funds. In keeping with library traditions, rather than offering a class, the literacy tutoring model was used for this project.

Study materials were obtained from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Castroville Friends of the Library financed the purchase of other materials. This is an all volunteer program: the volunteer tutors are college and high school students. The program has a current ratio of less than one tutor to two learners, with 14 learners already participating. The Homework Center Coordinator from the Castroville branch, Sally Childs, a well known and dedicated volunteer in the community, is spearheading this project.
One reason this service is so important is that it costs $675 to take the test and in the current economic climate it is particularly important for test-takers to be well prepared so they don’t waste their money. Many of the adults using our services have very little education and they profit greatly from the one-on-one tutoring which is offered in English and Spanish.

MCFL offers many books as well as links to online resources to prepare for the citizenship process, including the subscription based Learning Express database. For information on the tutoring program at Castroville, please call 831-769-8724.

**Elections**

**August 17 Special General Election – Senate District 15:** Election Day is TUESDAY! Polling places have been secured and the majority will remain the same location as used for both June 8 and June 22. 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](http://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, August 10, was the last day to request a vote by mail ballot be sent. If you requested a ballot and cannot find it, or if you did not request a ballot in the mail, you can still vote on Election Day!

Any voter who wishes to vote on Tuesday, August 17 must now either come to the Department to obtain a ballot in person, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, August 16, 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 August 17 is not countywide, the locations may not be available. A list of polling places and poll workers can be found on the “Work at the Polls” information page.

As of Monday, June 21, the Department has issued nearly 59,829 vote by mail ballots and has received 25,382 voted returns. With 89,830 eligible voters (this is a drop in registration since the June 22 Special Primary, 28% 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.

As a reminder, Senate District 15 does not encompass the entire County of Monterey. It does include areas along the coast side, west of Salinas, from the northern end of the County at the
Santa Cruz boarder down to the southern end of the County at the San Luis Obispo boarder. Areas not included in Senate 15 are represented by Senate District 12 which will appear on the November 2010 ballot. Anyone who feels they are registered and eligible to vote in the August 17 Special General can verify a polling place for their residence address by selecting “Where to I Vote? Find your polling place here” from the Department’s home page at www.MontereyCountyElections.us

Observation Activities: The Department has posted the schedule of observable activities on the website under “Latest News and Postings”. According to the schedule, the Department plans to resume processing returned vote by mail ballots on Saturday, August 14 for tabulation on Monday, August 16. Results cannot be released until the close of polls on Election Night.

November 2, 2010 Statewide General – Local candidate nominations has closed and the Department is awaiting final word from all City Clerks and neighboring counties with contests on the ballot in Monterey in order to determine the number of contests and ballot types that will be necessary for the November General. Friday, August 6 was also the deadline for the placement of local ballot measures before the voters; there are eight local ballot measures that will appear on the ballot in various areas of the County. To see what local measures you might be eligible to vote on, visit the Department’s website and select the tab for “Measures” that appears on the November 2, 2010 election page under “Upcoming Elections.” You may notice that the assigned letters for the local measures are not in alphabetical order (E, M, N, O, P, Q, R, and Z). Ballot measures E and Z were submitted to the largest/controlling county who assigned the letter to the official ballot measure. Ballot measures M – R were filed in and assigned by Monterey County.

The Department is also busy confirming poll locations, preparing poll worker training materials and class schedules, and commencing the recruitment for the over 600 workers that will be needed.

### District 2

Supervisor Lou Calcagno reports that North Monterey County is celebrating a milestone this week, with the approval from the California Transportation Commission’s for safety improvements along the Highway 101 corridor from north of Salinas to Echo Valley Road. After 30 years of appeals, on Thursday August 12th, the CTC unanimously approved an allocation of $91,310,000 to construct two new interchanges and make operational improvements in North County along U.S. Highway 101.

On hand for the historic approval were members of the original Highway 101 Bypass committee, including Calcagno and one of the CTC commissioners and representatives from TAMC and Caltrans. Funding for the project remains contingent on adoption of a state budget, but construction on the four-year project is slated to begin next April.
Parks

International events have kept Monterey Parks very busy during the month of August.

ROLEX MONTEREY MOTORSPORTS REUNION
The Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion was held at Laguna Seca Recreation Area on August 13-15. The Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCORMP) produced the event this year which has a new name and a new direction. The purpose of the event remains the same—to present remarkable vintage racing while celebrating motorsports.

The inaugural event celebrated the 60th anniversary of Formula 1 racing and All-American icon Dan Gurney, the only American to win an F1 race in a car of his own construction. He was a contender in everything he tried—Indy cars, NASCAR and sports cars. Mr. Gurney signed autographs for a long line of fans amid a display of his cars.

In addition, the weekend was packed with nostalgia, presenting cars that represented every era of racing. There were more than 600 vehicles entered in 19 races. The Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at Laguna Seca is part of the Classic Car Week in Monterey.

CONCOURS D’LeMONS
There is the Concours d’Elegance and then there is the Concours d’LeMons! Billed as the “trough of the automotive world,” this fun event was held at Toro Park on Saturday, August 14th for the second time. Promoters Alan Galbraith and Melissa Louge attracted approximately 80 entries in categories such as Rust Belt American, Unmitigated Gaul, Needlessly Complex Italian and Worst of Show.

Worst of Show was won by a green and white 1958 shortened Volkswagen van. Judges resembled a comedy act and could be bribed by contestants. Wayne Carini, from the TV show Chasing Classic Cars said, “Car shows are taken too seriously. Here, we just have fun.”

SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL
The 43rd Annual Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival was held at Toro County Park August 7th and 8th. The event was presented by the Scottish Society of the Monterey Peninsula and the Salinas Jaycees. The games were officially opened on Saturday by Honorary Chieftain Jeff Craig. The opening ceremonies included introductions of dignitaries, a parade of the clans and the ever popular Massed Pipe Band.

Among the stilt-walkers and entertainers, there were Scottish Games for young people. Attendees enjoyed Piping & Drumming
competitions, Irish & Highland Dancing competitions, athletic events, Celtic harping, historical re-enactments, Celtic arts and crafts, British food vendors, and Sheepdog demonstrations. Entertainment was provided by 1916, a Celtic Rock Band, Tempest, an international folk-rock band, and very popular singer-storyteller from Dublin, Seamus Kennedy.