MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of November 29, 2010

In this week’s edition: The final tally is in for Monterey County Elections, an online addition to Board of Supervisors meeting reports and local cooperative extension experts collaborate with federal teams on food safety.

Elections
November 2, 2010 Consolidated General - Official Canvass: The Department completed tabulation of all remaining ballots on Monday, November 29, which included approximately 3,000 ballots cast at the polls and some vote by mail. Last week, the Department was able to release another result update on Wednesday, prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Two races have been getting closer throughout the canvass, and the mayoral race in Greenfield reflected a change in the top vote getter. The Department had already completed the required manual tally of both the paper ballot and touchscreen voting machine results, but decided to manually review one more precinct for the City of Greenfield and one more precinct for the City of Seaside as the two mayoral races are either within or close enough to the threshold in the expired state regulation (requirements for close contests where the margin of victory is 0.5% or less) to warrant an additional review. The outcome for the City of Greenfield reflected a change in the winner, after weeks of the vote tally eking closer and closer; and the vote tally for the City of Seaside continued to get closer and closer, however, the outcome remained the same.
The tally of write-in votes also completed last week for qualified write-in candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, 17th Congressional District, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Department must certify the final election results no later than Tuesday, November 30 and bring the final certified Statement of the Vote before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 7.

On Monday, November 29th, the Department honored a long-serving “Team-Up for Democracy” group from the Italian Catholic Federation along with Ms. Elizabeth “Betty” Termaine. Ms. Termaine currently holds the record for being the eldest poll worker in Monterey County and the eldest current worker in the State! Supervisor Armenta’s office also joined the Department to recognize both the group, and Betty, for providing voter services in the last 24 elections held over the past seven years.

**Clerk**

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors routinely refers matters of interest or concern from the community to county departments and staff for review and information. These referrals are an important part of county government. Now the public can track these referrals online.

The County Administrative Office developed and maintains a tracking document which follows a Board referral from its inception through to completion. This document is traditionally included in the Board of Supervisor’s agenda packet, but when the board agenda went online last year, the new web agenda did not have a specific link for this weekly report.

Thanks to Clerk of the Board Gail Borkowski and her staff, who were able to make adjustments to create a link and add this to the Board of Supervisors web agenda. You can find the Board Referral Update document under CAO Comments and Referrals.

**Cooperative Extension**

This month, three microbiologists from the USDA Food Safety Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland came to Salinas to conduct studies on leafy greens and vegetables. This is part of an ongoing collaborative effort between this USDA team and the local extension food safety team.

Following the serious and now infamous E. coli O157:H7 outbreak on coastal spinach in 2006, local farm advisors Steve Koike, Michael Cahn, and Richard Smith made adjustments to their applied research programs and embarked on field studies on the survival of E. coli under Salinas
Valley conditions. This group has successfully obtained four years of funding and continues to work on applied food safety research.

Because of these efforts, Koike has joined other research projects, including this work with the Beltsville team, in dealing with contamination of leafy green vegetables. The USDA researchers used the Cooperative Extension laboratory lab, largely developed by Koike, as their local base of operations and worked with Monterey County producers and processors to further explore means of reducing contamination of lettuce and spinach produce.

Farm advisors Steve Koike (above) Richard Smith (upper right) and Michael Cahn (right)