MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 8, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of November 8, 2010

In this week’s edition: The Monterey County Government Center walls will be filled with the work of local artists as a new exhibit opens, Elections continues the ballot count, winter preparedness takes center stage at OES and find out what happens when county libraries team up with the National Park Service.

Administration
The 5th annual art exhibit in the County Government Center in Salinas will kick off Tuesday, November 9th. Forty works of art celebrating the unique beauty, colors, lifestyle, and heritage of Monterey County will be on the display for all to enjoy.

Over the years, the government center has become known for its display of public art, celebrating our county

Working in partnership with the Arts Council for Monterey County, the art selected to be a part of this exhibition was submitted by local artists and passed a juried process. Many of the works are for sale.

The opening reception for the exhibit is Tuesday, November 9th from 5-7pm at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas.

River Road Trail by Andy Williams
Lupins in Toro County Park by Lida Neufussova
Elections
Election Day – November 2, 2010 Statewide General: Overall, Election Day went along smoothly, all locations opened and closed on time. The Elections Department was bustling all day with voters dropping off voted ballots or coming to the Department to vote rather than head to their polling place from the time the doors opened at 7:00 am through the close of polls.

The first report, reflecting 39,621 mail ballots (from 36,403 vote by mail and 3,218 Mail Ballot Precinct voters) that had been received and verified up to Friday, October 29 was released just after the last voter left the Department around 8:20 p.m. and all other polls reported no more voters. The last precincts were logged in at the Department shortly after 12:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, when the final Receiving Center truck arrived with results from the Monterey Peninsula. The final report was transmitted to the Secretary of State shortly before 4:00 a.m., Wednesday, reflecting 63,220 ballots cast in Monterey County (39.46% turnout).

The Official Canvass: The Department has reported that there were approximately 40,256 ballots left to count after Election Day. The majority are vote by mail ballots as the Department received nearly 30,000 in the mail and dropped at the polls on Election Day. Also, there were more provisional voters this November than in the past, with over 4,500 cast on Election Day. The remaining ballots are both vote by mail and polling place ballots that require review.

State law provides a 28-day period to complete the official canvass of the vote and produce a final certified statement. During the canvass, the Department will be scanning all roster indexes to capture voter history, processing all remaining vote by mail and provisional ballots, reviewing, duplicating and remaking otherwise unreadable ballots to capture voter intent, reconciling returns from all 122 precincts, conducting the required manual tally of results, including meeting any increased post-election manual tally requirements for close contests, processing payroll for all election officers and field inspectors, preparing certificates of election for all candidates and local governing bodies for adoption, sending final certified results to the Secretary of State, and packaging and sealing all returns for storage and retention for 22 months.

The Department released the first results update on Friday at about 3:30 p.m. that included just under 11,000 additional vote by mail ballots and showing a new total of 74,006 ballots (now a 46.19% turnout). The Department has a general Results Reporting Schedule and plans to release updates by the end of the day each Friday until complete.

The Department will randomly select precincts and begin the manual tally process on Monday, November 8. For a schedule of the official canvass and observation of activities, visit the Department’s website and select the link for “Latest News and Postings”.

Snapshot of the Elections Department webpage which gave residents up-to-the-minute election results
Poll Workers – Once again we'd like to say THANK YOU to all of those who helped out during the November election. We cannot succeed without you! It was a long and very busy day for most, and some precincts had it a little busier than others, ending up borrowing materials and gaining assistance from their neighboring precinct. Now that's what we call TEAM WORK! Payroll can take up to 6 weeks to process so your patience is appreciated. Remember, you will not receive a separate check for your duties; your pay will appear in your bi-weekly County paycheck.

Office of Emergency Services
Winter Storm Preparedness is in the spotlight this week at the Office of Emergency Services. The office will hold the County's yearly Winter Weather Briefing Wednesday, November 10th from 1-4pm at its offices at 1322 Natividad Road in Salinas.

This briefing includes the National Weather Service predictions for winter weather, PG&E, the Water Resources Agency and other response agencies discussing their preparations for response to stormy weather emergencies.

This week is also Monterey County Winter Storm Preparedness Week. To find out how to be prepared for winter storms, check out preparedness information at http://www.in.co.monterey.ca.us/oes/ and click on MyHazards, which provides a list of informative links to a variety of important activities, including assembling a disaster kit.

Libraries
Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) is collaborating with the National Park Service to encourage children to explore Pinnacles National Monument.

Through this very popular program, children can now check out an Adventure Pack at the King City branch and learn about an amazing natural landmark that is right in our backyard.

Provided by the Parks Service, each Adventure Pack contain items such as a compass, binoculars, trail booklets and maps, a nature journal, field guides. Children can complete the activities in the booklet and earn a Junior Ranger Badge.

The Pinnacles National Monument contains some spectacular hiking paths and is the eroded remains of an ancient volcano. It is also home to interesting wildlife, rocks, plants and caves. Pinnacles national monument was established in 1908 and now includes over 26,000 acres in the Gavilan Mountains with more than 16,048 acres federally designated as protected wilderness.

For more information about the Adventure Packs program, please call (831) 385-3677.

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