MEMORANDUM

DATE:            December 13, 2010

TO:              Board of Supervisors

FROM:            Lew C. Bauman
                  County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT:         County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of December 13, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week’s Topics: Monterey County’s Child Support Services makes a Top Ten List of California Counties with high rates of child support collection, the Agricultural Commissioner’s staff has tips to make sure buyers don’t get burned on firewood prices and the County’s Lactation policy for working mothers gets international attention.

Child Support Services

Despite a difficult economy, the Monterey County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has increased child support collection totals by $1.492 million over the last 12 months for the children and families it serves. This effort assures self-sufficiency for the many families who rely on these monies to make ends meet.

“Last year’s collection total was a 4.19% increase, which was a direct reflection of the state providing additional investment money to our program,” states DCSS Director Stephen H. Kennedy. “Because of our increase in collections we are expected to reach a level of efficiency ranking of taking in $3.65 for every dollar spent for the period of time ending September 30th 2010.”

This ranking places Monterey County within the top 10 of all counties within the State of California. The state average is $2.10.

Even with the down-turn of the economy, the Department met and exceeded their goal for last month by $442,400.
**Agricultural Commissioner**

Don’t get burned buying firewood this winter. Using a fire to warm your home is a popular alternative in the colder months, but if you are buying wood in volume, make sure you are getting what you pay for.

The Agricultural Commissioner’s Weights and Measures division has some important suggestions for wood buyers. If you are buying firewood by the ‘cord,’ be sure you understand this measurement. A full cord of wood fills a 4’x4’x8’ cubic area.

The only way to know for sure that you are getting the right amount of wood for the price is to have the seller stack the wood and to measure before you buy. Mark off an area in 4-foot-by-8-foot increments to be filled, making sure not too much airspace is left in a crisscross wood-stacking pattern.

What firewood buyers routinely see is wood being sold out of a pick up truck, with the sellers offering it as a cord of wood, which usually is not the case. Check the Agricultural Commissioner’s website for wood buying tips: [http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/ag/](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/ag/)

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**Health**

Monterey County Health Department’s Karen Walters has earned praise from an international crowd when she presented the Lactation in the Workplace Policy Toolkit and poster at the 15th Annual International Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Conference in San Francisco recently.

“Having a lactation policy for working mothers is necessary because it allows them to continue breastfeeding when returning to work postpartum,” says Walters. “Seeking a private place to pump can be challenging in some organizations. A policy defines their right to pump or express milk for their babies when returning to work as stated in the 2002 California Labor Code § 1030-1033.”

The poster brought Monterey County Health Department to the international scene as attendees from Australia, India, Egypt and Thailand spoke with Ms. Walters on how they can model a policy using the toolkit in their countries.

Strong support from Supervisor Jane Parker brought attention to the need for a lactation policy in the workplace to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, which passed the “Lactation in the Workplace Policy” in April.
“The lactation policy toolkit is the end result of two years of a policy research project I completed while earning my Masters of Public Policy from California State University Monterey Bay. I was honored to be able to display Monterey County’s work at the international conference” says Walters.