MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
       County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of December 20, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: Monterey County Departments are working hard to bring holiday cheer to those less fortunate - but one department could use a boost; you can be a weather spotter as the Office of Emergency Services partners with the National Weather Service on training locals; and Elections is wrapping up a busy year, with one election already on the horizon for 2011.

DSES/Sheriff
Holiday giving takes on a whole new meaning when you know that the gifts you give are for those in crisis, or may be the only thing received during the season, especially when it comes to children. Two county departments are making a tremendous effort to gather meaningful gifts for children, but one department is in need of a last minute outpouring to meet its goal.

At the Department of Social and Employment Services, the Holiday Giving Project is a successful year-round effort that puts holiday gifts into the hands of more than 2,000 local foster children.

Volunteer Dyane Tori began partnering with DSES 9 years ago to bring holiday cheer to children in need. The work actually starts with community appeals in February, amassing donations through the year. In October, Family and Children’s Services social workers create wish lists for the children and youth on their caseloads. In December Monterey County employees jump into the effort, taking wishes from individual children and turning them into beautifully wrapped gifts, especially for each child.
“The generosity of Monterey County staff located at the Government Center was overwhelming this year,” says Dyane. “They just gave and gave to the children.” The Monterey County Management Council also focuses on children in foster care as they make the Holiday Project the recipient of the manager’s community outreach.

At the Sheriff’s Department, The Teddy Bear Program puts these comfort toys in patrol cars, to be used throughout the year to give to children in need. But this year’s drive for bears is falling far short of its goal of 1,400 bears. Hundreds more are needed.

The job of these bears is to comfort children in traumatic situations. Patrol Deputies keep them on hand for children from homes where domestic violence or other traumatic incidents have occurred. Detectives utilize teddy bears when interviewing young victims of sexual/physical assault and domestic violence. Bears are also provided to Detectives in the Coroner’s Office to have on hand when making a death notification in homes where children are present.

During the holidays, bears are shared with partner agencies that work with children who are victims of violence, and given as holiday gifts for needy youngsters. If you would like to donate a bear you can make your donation at the following locations:

**Coastal Station-Monterey**
1200 Aguajito Rd, Room 002, Monterey, CA 93940
Contact Donna Galletti 647-7909

**Castroville Field Office**
10680 Merritt Street, Castroville, CA 95012
Contact Dave Crozier 759-6675 or Jo Anna Martin Del Campo 759-6678

**Central Station-Salinas**
1414 Natividad Road, Salinas, CA 93906
Contact Dave Crozier 759-6675 or Jo Anna Martin Del Campo 759-6678

**South County Station-King City**
250 Franciscan Way, King City, CA 93930
Contact 385-8312

**Office of Emergency Services**
Monterey County is experiencing hazardous winter weather, but did you know that forecasters get critical field reports from well trained local residents? As part of Winter Storm Preparedness efforts, OES sponsored a Weather Spotter class taught by local National Weather Service staff.

“Weather spotters are eyes and ears in the field” says Emergency Planner Sidney Reade. “Many of those trained in the class are members of our Citizens Emergency Response Teams and Amateur Radio Emergency Disaster workers, so County Emergency Services will benefit from their training to better understand a weather disaster.”
While the National Weather Service may have sophisticated high tech equipment at its disposal, it still needs those observing weather as it is happening. Weather Spotters provide vital, real-time observational data. Often when the weather service issues hazardous weather warnings, there are even instructions to spotters to call in.

Anyone with access to a telephone or HAM radio can be a spotter. Locally, spotters include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, CERT volunteers, public utility workers and other citizens interested in weather.

Spotter training covers:
- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety
- Information of other environmental hazards in this area

To find out more about weather spotter training through OES, contact Sidney Reade at 796-1902.

**Elections**
November 2, 2010 Consolidated General - Official Canvass: The Department completed the canvass of the vote and submitted results to the California Secretary of State, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, and all local jurisdictions having contests on the ballot in order for elected office holders to take their respective seats and for successful local ballot measures to take effect. The final result reflected an overall turnout of 63.32%, with 22.05% of the vote cast at the polls and 41.27% of the vote was cast by mail ballot.

On Monday, December 20, the Department held a post-election meeting to review the last four countywide elections and to discuss preparations for the future. The main goals of the post-election meetings are to acknowledge the hard work and successes each team member has, as well as to look at the process as a whole to find areas to improve upon, whether major or minor, prior to the next election.

New Law Conference and Workshop – December 7 – 10: Each December, the Department participates in the annual New Law Conference and Workshop in Sacramento. This 2 ½ day conference consists of Association committee and Board meetings, a full day of review of new laws, subcommittee presentations discussing the year in review and what’s to come, and guest speakers ranging from lobbyists, state legislative analysts, and representatives from state and federal voting organizations, such as the federal Election Assistance Commission and the Federal Voting Assistance Program, and The PEW Center on the States.

May 3, 2011 Special Mail Ballot Election: On Friday, December 17, the Department received a resolution from the Monterey Peninsula Water District calling for an all mail ballot election in order to fill a vacancy on their Board of Directors in Area 1. The candidate nomination period will open on Monday, January 10 and close on Friday, February 4.

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