MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 23, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of August 23, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Weeks Topics: August Special Election Update, Monterey County Free Libraries receive a $20,000 gift and Board of Supervisors District Events.

Elections

August 17 Special General Election – Senate District 15: Election Day came and went, all polls opened on time and, overall, the day was fairly quiet. In the days leading up to the Election, the Department issued a press release establishing a result reporting schedule. The first report, reflecting vote by mail ballots received and processed (signatures and addresses validated, envelopes opened and ready for tabulation) up to the Friday before Election Day, or August 13, was issued at approximately 8:15. Election materials began to arrive from voting locations to the central office in Salinas shortly after 9:00 p.m., enabling the Department to remain on schedule and issue the next result update at 10:00 p.m. The final election night report was issued just before midnight.

Those watching the results may have noticed that, between the 11:00 p.m. update and the final result report at 11:59 p.m., there was only one more precinct reported. With so many people involved in administering an election, and with approximately 400 people working in the field on Election Day, it is hopeful, but difficult to strive for perfection and reach it - someone is bound to forget something! One of the drivers hired to retrieve
election materials from the farthest voting location in the County, down in Lompoc, seemed to forget that the Elections Department needs ALL official precinct election materials on Election Night for reporting – this includes the voted ballots, the touch screen voting machine, printers and results cartridge, roster indexes, provisional and vote by mail ballots.

Helping Voters: At approximately 6:30 on Election Night, the Department received a call from the Watsonville City Clerk (operating a polling place in City Hall for the County of Santa Cruz) informing us that she received a “green” vote by mail envelope from a Monterey County voter. After realizing neither she nor any of her precinct workers could leave the polling place to go to the nearest Monterey County polling place, the issue was pushed to the top and the Registrar from Monterey and County Clerk in Santa Cruz worked to have Monterey staff drive to Watsonville to visit both the City Hall and the Convention Center where Santa Cruz voters where headed, together with the poll workers break the official seal on the ballot box to retrieve Monterey ballots. Monterey staff waited in Watsonville until the close of polls just in case any other Monterey County voter happened by the Watsonville polling places on their way home to Monterey. Sure enough, the staff returned to Monterey that night with five vote by mail ballots. Had the City Clerk in Watsonville not called, the five voters would not have had their vote counted. *(Why? California Election law requires the voter to return their voted ballot by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to the election official who issued it for their ballot to be counted.)*

Observation Activities: The Department has posted and distributed an updated schedule of observable activities on the website under “Latest News and Postings”. According to the schedule, the Department continued to work on the official canvass, processing all vote by mail ballots and issuing another updated result on Friday, August 20. The next result is planned for Tuesday, August 24, and the canvass must be complete and election certified to the Secretary of State no later than Friday, August 27. The canvass can take days, if not weeks to complete, depending on the type and size of the election. After Election Day, the Department reported a remaining estimated 6,000 ballots to process.

November 2, 2010 Statewide General – Now that all official filing periods for ballot related materials has come and gone, the Department is busy finalizing ballot layout placing candidates and measures in certain orders to determine the sheer number of ballots that must be designed and available as well as the number of ballot cards for each voter, which, in Monterey County this year, the official ballot for all voters will contain two cards worth of candidate and ballot measures.

**Libraries**

Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) has just received a generous gift of $20,000 from the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) to establish a new Health and Wellness Resource Center at the Marina. The gift will be spent over the next year to fund a health collection consisting of adult and children’s books and
periodicals in English, Spanish, and in large type, along with a magnifying reader for the visually impaired.

MCFL was asked to partner with CHOMP in establishing the special Health and Wellness Resource Center to coincide with CHOMP’s scheduled opening of a new wellness center and primary care office scheduled to open in mid 2011 at the corner of Imjin Parkway and 2nd Avenue, in Marina. The first materials for the Health and Wellness Resource Center will arrive in the latter part of September and will provide the community with valuable information resources to help make daily health and wellness decisions.

District 4

Supervisor Parker is pleased to welcome Elliott Robinson, Director of the Department of Social and Employment Services, as a special guest on Monday, August 30th, 2010 at her “Hot Drinks and Hot Topics” meeting. The public is welcome to attend and participate in an informal conversation.

“Hot Drinks and Hot Topics” is a regular public meeting hosted by Supervisor Parker every Monday prior to a Board of Supervisors meeting at The Cherry Bean Coffeehouse at 332 Main Street in Oldtown Salinas from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

District 2

Several Monterey County staff members will join Supervisor Lou Calcegno, who is hosting a radio/TV program on the Monterey County 2010-2011 budget. The program will air Tuesday, August 24th at 5:00 p.m. on KNRY 1240 AM and Comcast Cable Channel 24.

Participating County staff include Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo; Ben Franklin, Eligibility Supervisor, Department of Social and Employment Services & Chapter President SEIU Local 521; and Rosie Pando, Assistance Chief Administrative Officer, Budget and Analysis Division.

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