MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 27, 2010

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of September 27, 2010

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Weeks Topics include: Monterey County celebrates a successful summer youth jobs program, local UC Extension advisors involved in key food safety field studies, and answering your questions about this years Employee Giving Campaign.

Social/Employment Services

Nearly 600 young residents were fortunate enough to be part of the 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program through the Department of Social and Employment Services – Office for Employment Training. The success of this program will be celebrated Tuesday September 28th when the Monterey County Board of Supervisors will receive a report about the Program and then host a noontime celebration in the courtyard of the County Administrative Building in Salinas.

Over the summer months these youth received pre-employment skills training, mentoring, on-the-job work experience, as well as connecting with nearly 600 local employers. Over $2,000,000 in wages were paid to participating youth employees.

Every year, the Youth Program provides services to youth with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds. Federal workforce investment services target youth who are from low-income families...
and who experience multiple risk factors such as serious challenges in school, experience with the foster care system, pregnant or parenting, etc.

This year, due to limited WIA funding, The Office for Employment Training (OET) leveraged funding with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF ECF) funds. This funding allowed dramatic expansion in the number of served by subsidizing the youth wages. TANF ECF also expanded eligibility to include youth from families earning up to 200% poverty level.

Some of the summer jobs available to youth included multimedia training and work experience at local TV stations, construction, health care, retail, restaurant, child care, and mechanics. Some County departments and local businesses provided work experience. The OET worked with the local Mission Trails Regional Occupational Program centers to provide cooperative credits that may be applied to graduation requirements. This win/win partnership benefits high school students, providing them both training and high school credits at the local ROP centers.

The Summer Youth Employment Program was as a key ingredient in the County’s partnership with the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP.) An important part of the CASP strategy to prevent violence is providing youth with productive, safe and economically beneficial alternatives during the summer.

**Ag Extension**

Local farm advisors from the University of California Cooperative Extension, Monterey County, are participating in critical food safety research.

Steven Koike, Mike Cahn, and Richard Smith are continuing their field research project on survival of E. coli under Salinas Valley field conditions.

This multi-year project has demonstrated that, in general, E. coli does not persist for long periods of time in soil or on lettuce or spinach leaves. Such information indicates that if a crop becomes contaminated early in its cycle (before emergence, or when still young), persistence of the E. coli through harvest is unlikely. The team has also demonstrated that leafy green plants do not absorb and take up E. coli through their roots (called “internalization”).

This local UC Extension group continues to partner with UC Davis experts in food safety. This farm advisor team also received a grant to continue research in 2011.

Koike is a member of the food safety advisory committee for the Hartnell College Ag. Business & Technology Institute, and spoke on E. coli at the May 20 Food Safety Summit meeting at the college.
2010 County Employee Giving
Let the giving begin! The 2010 Monterey County Employee Combined Giving Campaign is underway.

Just a reminder to all county employees, there are two important changes to the campaign this year:

- The deadline for contributions this year is earlier! Please make your gift by October 8th in order to coincide with open enrollment.
- Contributions will no longer be submitted via paper forms – rather submittal will be via the Employee Self Service (ESS) System.

If you need assistance with entering your contribution in ESS, just contact your department’s Giving Campaign coordinator.

Instructions on entering your contribution, as well as an electronic version of the Charitable Agencies Guide and FAQ’s can be found on the County’s intra-net at www.in.co.monterey.ca.us/pages/EmployeeGiving/

Time is very short to make this campaign a success. Your participation in this crucial giving campaign is deeply appreciated, as our collective contributions to the recipient agencies throughout Monterey County mean more than ever before.

Elections
November 2, 2010 Consolidated Statewide General: As of Monday, the General Election is 36-days away. Current activities surround the set up and programming of all voting equipment in preparation for the required Logic and Accuracy testing, assigning poll workers to polling places and class schedules, and preparing for the mailing of voter information pamphlets and vote by mail ballots next week.

Election Mail: On Monday, October 4, 2010, the Department will be mailing out all permanent and mail ballot precinct voters their vote by mail voting materials. Vote by mail ballots will also be available at the Department’s office in Salinas for those who wish to obtain a ballot in person.

The new version of the Monterey County Voter Guide will also be mailed out within the next week, if not the same day, then within days of the vote by mail ballots. You will notice the cover design is simpler, there is a new index page, the center fold where the sample ballot is located will have a gray or black edging to the page so it stands out to the eye, and the voting instructions have also been cleaned up. The Department would like to thank members of the Observer Panel for taking on this task and providing the Department with constructive feedback that could be successfully implemented. Electronic versions of the pamphlets will soon be available on the Department’s website (sans the covers and filler pages – the files are just too large!).
Poll Worker Recruitment: The Department would like to thank all of the County Employees who have signed up to participate in the November 2, 2010 General Election. Last week, the Department sent a second email asking for participants in the County’s Election Official Program, especially reaching out to those who are bilingual and can assist our Spanish-speaking voters. If you are still interested and have not yet submitted your application, there is still time to sign up. Classes begin in mid-October.

Health

Could something as simple as walking to school make your life and our community better? Yes, says the Monterey County Health Department, which is sponsoring International Walk to School events in Soledad and King City this week as part of its injury prevention and safety outreach “Safe Routes to School.”

The goal of this grant funded program is to educate parents, children, and community leaders about safe driving, pedestrian and bike safety. The events also emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment.

Soledad elementary schools will celebrate on Wednesday, October 6th. Students, parents, and teachers from Rose Ferrero School will meet at 7:15 am to form “Walking School Buses” to the school. King City will celebrate and create their “Walking Buses” on the 7th.

Approximately 1,400 students are expected to walk to school during the two days, along with parents, teachers and community leaders.

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