DATE: January 18, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of January 17, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: Public Works is honored for the San Jerardo Water Project, Child Support Services takes paternity education to school, a Health Department collaboration with the Naval Post Graduate School produces new insights into influenza and check out the Libraries Book Club To Go.

RMA – Public Works
The San Jerardo Water System Improvement Project, a project of the Public Works Department, has been selected as the American Public Works Association, Monterey Bay Chapter, 2011 Project of the Year. The award will be presented Wednesday, January 19th at 7pm at the organizations meeting in Hollister. Representatives from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Public Works Department and the San Jerardo Community will be on hand for the event.

The San Jerardo project involved the installation of two miles of water transmission pipelines, erecting a 285,000 gallon water tank and constructing a potable water well at the San Jerardo Community, which is located about 5 miles southeast of Salinas.

"While this was a very important project from a

County and community leaders take part in the groundbreaking of the San Jerardo Water System Improvement Project in December 2009. A year later, the project was completed.
technical and engineering perspective, on a higher level, this was a project about environmental justice and doing the right thing for San Jerardo," says Yazdan Emrani, Director of Monterey County Public Works. "I am proud of our team's accomplishment in completing this project on time and on budget in order to deliver clean, safe, and reliable water to this community."

Emrani says while many people worked on this project, several key individuals are deserving of special mention:

- Paul Greenway
- Enrique Saavedra
- Arturo Adlawan
- Dirk Medema
- Ed Muniz
- John Suwada
- Jose Gomez
- Billy Issa
- BJ Rhatigan
- Mary Perry

The project took one year to complete and cost just over $5 million. Primary funding for the project came from several grants: $2,743,530 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, $1 million from Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and $1 million from Community Development Block Grant.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works services.

**Child Support Services**

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has developed a Paternity Education Program to provide presentations to local schools, and it is getting a good response from educators.

These paternity presentations focus on the legal and financial consequences and responsibilities a teen would face if they became a teen parent. The presentations are customized to age appropriate classes and are lively, encouraging students to participate in the discussion. When CSS staff visits a school, they usually give talks in the health, economics or social studies classes.

DCSS recently mailed out 78 letters to local middle and high schools, explaining how schools can request a paternity education presentation. The department has received comments from teachers that they really like the presentations and feel they are precise and to the point.

One teacher stated, "They give the students a reality check when it comes to the financials and the fact that they just can't go away to college or just plain go away and not expect consequences."
The goal of the Paternity Education Program is to educate students about the financial responsibilities of parenthood, reduce the number of out of wedlock birth and improve the future health and welfare of children within our community.

CSS also offers this program to organizations and agencies. For more information, call Maria Cuellar, Public Information Officer 769-8782 or email at: cuellarm@co.monterey.ca.us.

Health
You expect the Health Department to be at the local forefront regarding influenza issues. But over the past two years, epidemiologists with the Health Department have taken this work to a new level - collaborating with the Naval Post Graduate School on an H1N1 Pandemic Detection surveillance study of influenza patterns and symptoms.

Surveillance is a newly emerging application in the fields of public health disaster and bioterrorism preparedness. Surveillance for unusual disease ‘events’ is conducted using health-related data collected before diagnosis, for instance, symptoms described by patients at a clinic or hospital. That data is analyzed to look for unusual complaints or descriptions that may signal an outbreak or a bioterrorism attack.

Since 2005 the Health Department has been monitoring emergency room and clinic data for symptoms or indicators that could detect known flu outbreaks using a system they call EARS, Early Aberration Reporting System.

Working with Professor Ron Fricker and two Master’s of Science students at the Naval Postgraduate School, Health Department Epidemiologists Krista Hanni, Susan Barnes and Kristy Michie assessed the effectiveness of several syndromes for influenza-like illness. The testing of several different syndrome indicators for influenza-like illness resulted in improvements in the use of surveillance work done by the Health Department during the recent H1N1 2009 pandemic.

The results of this collaboration have been well received. It was been presented to several national associations, including a recent Computing Conference held in Monterey.

Sample Surveillance Report compiled by the Health Department. These reports are available online.
Library
Monterey County Free Libraries’ Book Club To Go program is receiving accolades from a national website catering to book clubs. LitLovers, which is a Barnes and Noble affiliate, provides resources for book clubs, from recommendations, discussion questions, to how to run your own book club.

LitLovers took notice of Monterey County after Club Coordinator Beata Obydzinski contributed discussion questions for a book the site was recommending, and wrote up a feature on the library’s innovative program. What makes the write up special is that while other book clubs can send a request to the site to be featured, LitLovers chose Monterey County independently.

Monterey County has quite an active book club program. To date, 100 people have checked out a book club bag, and it’s no wonder, considering how easy it is to use. All you need to get started with your own Book Club To Go is a county library card. The service is called Book Club To Go, because everything you need for your own book club is in the bag, literally. Each Book Club bag contains 10 paperback copies of a book, discussion questions, and tips for leading a book group discussion. There are 91 titles available, but you are welcome to request titles.

Find out more about Book Club To Go at:
http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/BookClubToGo/default.html

The Library is surveying club users to improve, expand the program. If you have used the club and want to participate, go to the Library homepage http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/ and click on Book2GoSurvey.

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