DATE: March 14, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of March 14, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics:
* Find out what it was like for 16 hours in Monterey County's Office of Emergency Services during the tsunami event last Friday
* County Libraries are ready to launch a new system with more services
* One Supervisor goes to new heights to make sure a water project is completed

Office of Emergency Services
Monterey County’s Office of Emergency Services is one of those county offices which runs quietly and stays behind the scenes until an emergency hits. Then this office and its staff move into high gear, providing countywide critical services in times of need.

Last Friday’s tsunami warning was just such an event. For 16 hours on Friday March 11th, OES staff and other county employees made sure Monterey County cities and all residents were informed and safeguarded.

The role of Emergency Services during such an emergency is to coordinate emergency efforts affecting Monterey County. Area cities rely on OES for emergency messages and resource coordination for safety measures that protect the public.

Thanks to quick thinking OES Emergency Planners Sidney Reade and Bertha Simpson, Monterey County’s Emergency Services office was open and prepared before area cities began requesting assistance and information about the tsunami.
Alerted by the California Emergency Management Agency of a tsunami warning in response to the earthquake in Japan, Reade and Simpson arrived at OES at 1:20 a.m. Friday morning. The following is a timeline for the 16 hours that followed:

1:20 a.m. – Sidney Reade, Bertha Simpson arrive at Emergency Services office. Monitor tsunami warnings and notifications; receive calls from coastal cities for status report.

2:00 – 3:00 a.m. - EOC activated to level 1 (staff only) prompted by at least two coastal cities activating their own emergency centers; National Weather Service begins providing updates; California Emergency Management Agency begins statewide hourly conferences on the latest changes in the tsunami conditions, particularly from buoy markers at sea; Shawn Atkins, Public Works, arrives at the EOC in preparation for providing field staff and emergency signage.

3:00 – 4:00 a.m. - CAO arrives at EOC, City of Marina requests a radio check; communications with North County Fire; updates from Cal EMA and National Weather Service include projected wave height and length of wave surges; determined no evacuations required but beach closures needed; information sent to 2-1-1 for residents calling with concerns.

4:00 – 5:00 a.m. – At the request of coastal cities and state parks, begin coordinating assistance efforts such as preparing signage for beach closures, emergency messages for AlertMontereyCounty notification system, public information releases; participated in conference call with California Emergency Management Agency Coastal Region requesting state resources to assist with signage for Highway 1.

6:00 -7:00 a.m. – Begin direct distribution of signage for beach closures via Public Works (beach access roads), Cal Trans (Highway 1) Sheriffs office, patrolling beaches in unincorporated areas as requested by public safety agencies; continue to participate in state briefings to receive updates on tsunami conditions.

7:00-8:00 a.m. – Media update sent; 2-1-1 updates sent; hourly updates on tsunami/weather and status in other counties; first accounting of actual affects reported by all coastal counties.

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Building Services relayed primary contact information; hourly updates on tsunami/weather and status in other counties.

9:00 a.m. – Noon – Hourly updates on weather and damage from around the state; provide media interviews on tsunami to inform the public of safety efforts; email updates to county officials.

Noon – 3:30 a.m. – Environmental Health staff checks in the EOC for updates, county inspectors visit Monterey and Moss Landing harbors; hourly updates received on
tsunami/weather and damage from around the state; advise local cities on expected change in tsunami warning; provide three additional interviews to local press on local safety efforts.

3:30 – 5:00 a.m. – Tsunami warning reduced to advisory; contact cities/state parks regarding status of beaches to be reopened or remain closed; public information release on downgrade; request Cal Trans signage to remain on Highway 1 until Saturday; coordinate with Public Works to remove signage Saturday.

5:00 p.m. – Local emergency situation ends and OES staff heads home.


**Libraries**

Coming soon to the Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL): A new online catalog and many new services!

Twenty years after MCFL first dropped the old card catalogs and went online, another milestone is taking place – libraries are updating to a new computer system. This integrated library system (ILS) lets users search for items in the collection and place reserves. It lets staff check-out the items, keep track of due dates and overdue fines, and check items in when they are returned.

Choosing the right ILS is not easy and is one of the most important decisions a library can make. It involves moving all the records for every item in the collection (for MCFL in the neighborhood of half a million) and the records for each of our card holders (well over 130,000). Financial records need to be retained and details of each current transaction.

After serious research and consideration, MCFL chose the Polaris Library System as our new ILS vendor. MCFL believes that Polaris can provide the products and services we require, as well as having the vision and flexibility to support our evolving goals and plans.
Our new “go live” date is set for the 6th of April. In addition to all the current capabilities, here are some of the exciting new features users can look forward to:

- Access to library services from mobile phones
- Access to the online catalog in English and Spanish
- Ability to track your reading history
- E-mail notifications from the library instead of print/mailed notifications
- E-mail notifications/reminders of soon to be due items

Another feature we are working on is e-commerce: the ability to take credit card payments at the library. MCFL is excited about the enhanced service level we will be able to deliver and will work hard to ensure a smooth transition. We invite you to try out this system as soon as it is up and running in April and send us feedback.

**District 2**

Second District Supervisor Lou Calcagno got a ‘bird’s eye’ view of a recently completed project at a North Monterey County subdivision.

Supervisor Calcagno was joined by Don Rosa from the Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District and Building Services Director Tim McCormick to view a new 120,000 gallon water tank built to serve the small Grey Eagle subdivision about 8 miles north of Salinas and provide added fire protection in this area of North Monterey County.

The tank is the culmination of several years’ effort to fill an important public safety void for the area.

Work on the new tank began last year, prompted by the discovery that original tanks built for the subdivision were not connected to the area’s private water system. The water company responsible for the tanks had been placed in receivership, and Pajaro/Sunny Mesa Community Services District had acquired its assets. The County requested Pajaro-Sunny Mesa build the new tank.

The project was initiated at the request of Supervisor Calcagno a couple of years ago.

"I referred this problem to staff back in 2008 when I was first made aware of the situation and I am pleased that we finally have a fully operational storage tank for the residents of the area," says Calcagno. “This time, I personally climbed up the ladder to inspect it inside and out for myself."
This new tank replaces the two original containers. It was built at a different location than the originals, at a higher level in the area which improves its use for fire protection.

Inspecting the Grey Eagle Water Tank were Supervisor Lou Callegno (left), Don Rosa, Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Community Services District (center) and Tim McCormick, Director of Building Services (right)

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