DATE: March 7, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of March 7, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: A Health Department recycling event keeps used oil filters out of the trash; nominations are being accepted for awards recognizing community efforts for mental health services; news from Elections on the upcoming special ballot in May and UC Cooperative Extension takes its class into the field to study irrigation and water use.

Health

The Recycling & Resource Recovery Services of the Health Department’s Environmental Health Bureau hosted a Used Oil Filter Exchange on Saturday, March 5th at Kragen Auto Parts, 989 N. Main St. in Salinas.

This event offered county residents who change their own motor oil the chance to bring in their used oil filters for recycling, and get a free filter in exchange. A total of 80 filters were given away during the event. Recycling Services has hosted these events since 2008 and used filter collection has increased by 20% since they began.

Filter exchange events promote used oil filter recycling, since many do-it-yourselfers are unaware of the opportunities available to recycle filters, such as drop-off centers and the curbside collection program. Curbside programs provide free collection of used motor

This Fram brand filter is the type of filter typically given away during the exchange event. Those recycling receive either the exact filter they bring in, or something just like it.
oil and filters on your garbage and recycling collection day. Contact your garbage and recycling hauler for a free container for your next oil change and place the container next to your carts on collection day.

For more information on the Countywide Used Oil & Filter Recycling Program or to learn about upcoming events, contact Recycling Services at 755-4579 or recycle@co.monterey.ca.us.

Also from the Health Department, Behavioral Health Division, applications are being accepted for awards given at the upcoming Fiesta of Hope event in May. The deadline for nominations is March 15th.

This event aims to raise awareness of the resources, treatment options, and support available for those touched by mental health issues in Monterey County. Awards are given recognizing individuals who have made a significant contribution to promoting mental health services in our community or who have utilized those services in a significant and life changing way.

The Fiesta of Hope event will take place Thursday, May 19, 2011 at the Embassy Suites. For more information about awards and nominations, contact Nancy Upadhye, Mental Health Commissioner, at 755-8448.

Elections
May 3, 2011 Special All Mail Ballot Election – Monterey Peninsula Water Management District vacancy: Preparations continue. The Department of Justice was officially notified and provided documentation for the election for review and preclearance prior to Election Day. The Department is using similar materials as were used in previous all mail ballot elections and expects preclearance. Voting machine preparation will begin in the next few weeks. The Department will prepare at least two central tabulation machines and two accessible touch screen voting machines for use during Early Voting, and as provided by state and federal law.

General Office: Last week, the Registrar attended a two-day meeting of the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials in Sacramento to discuss duties as chair of both the Conferences/Site Selection and the History Committees and to attend a day-long meeting to review and comment on 41 pieces of current election-related legislation introduced in both the Assembly and Senate.
The Department continues to work on special projects related to assessment of polling places, voting machine maintenance, voter file maintenance, preparations and work associated with redistricting, updating procedures and finalizing a public guide to understanding and observing elections.

**Cooperative Extension**
The University of California Cooperative Extension, Monterey County, hosted the 2011 Irrigation and Nutrient Management Meeting and Cover Crop and Water Quality Field Day on Wednesday, February 23rd at the Spreckels Memorial Building in Spreckels.

The meeting brought together researchers from the University of California, staff from the Resource Conservation District and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve to discuss improving irrigation and water use, nutrient management and ways to reduce offsite movement of nitrates.

Following the morning session, the meeting moved to the USDA Spence Research Station to discuss vegetated ditches and low-residue cover crops as a means of improving the quality of agricultural runoff.

More than 100 people attended the program including growers, fertilizer company representatives, regulators, staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other agencies, as well as interested members of the public. The meeting was featured on the front page of the Monterey Herald and the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Vegetated ditch carrying runoff water to a sediment pond.

Low residue cover crops on the furrow bottom of winter fallow beds.

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