DATE: April 4, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of April 4, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week’s Topics: The annual Victims’ Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for April 15th. Building Services is making headway streamlining the permit process, Elections reports balloting has begun in a local, all mail election and the Libraries celebrate the Week of the Young Child with some “Wheelie” fun activities.

District Attorney
Each year at this time, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office holds the Victims’ Dedication Ceremony. This event gives the community a chance to remember crime victims and gives survivors an opportunity to come together and remember their lost loved ones.

The 12th annual ceremony will be held Friday, April 15th in the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Chambers in Salinas beginning at noon. The event will also be cablecast live on the county’s government access channel, Comcast Cable Channel 28.

In 1997, a small group within the Monterey County District Attorney’s office began developing the idea of a ceremony for the community to mark National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, and in 1999 the first Victim’s Dedication Ceremony was held.

This year’s event will feature David Balch, who will share his family’s story of the loss of their son Sebastian in 2009, their experiences with the criminal justice system and where they are today.

Sebastian Balch was killed by a drunk driver in 2009.
The program also includes music, a slide show honoring Monterey County homicide victims, and the “Invitation to Survivors,” during which survivors can announce the name of a loved one who was murdered.

The event is designed to both educate the community and support those who have lost loved ones, and concludes with a release of doves outside the board chambers.

Following the ceremony at the Government Center, participants can take part in a more personal reception which includes grief and healing counseling sessions and art therapy sessions for children.

**RMA – Building Services**

The Building Services Department remains focused on addressing issues pertaining to the delays in issuing building permits. While a significant number of permit applications remain in the queue to complete processing, the numbers are declining and service is improving day-by-day. There has also been a significant decline in complaints recently. Staff continues to work on improving the workflow processing so normal service levels will be achieved.

To address concerns by the development community about how such delays affect their ability to pull building permits under the former 2007 California Building Code, which has a current deadline of end of June, the department has determined that an extension until the end of December is justified. Notification of this change is in process.

Streamlining the building permit review process remains a priority for Building Services and work to accomplish this continues. The Board will be given another progress report in a few weeks.

**Elections**

May 3, 2011 Special All Mail Ballot Election – Monterey Peninsula Water Management District vacancy: Voting begins today with the mailing of nearly 7,900 vote by mail ballots to eligible voters residing in Division 1 of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Early voting also begins today, for those who wish to use the ADA accessible voting device set up at the Elections Department in Salinas. Eligible military and overseas voters were mailed their ballots in early March.
Additional information about the May 3rd all mail ballot election can be found on the Department’s website under the link “Upcoming Elections.” Voters will find information about the purpose of the election, important dates and deadlines, how and where your completed ballot can be returned, how to check to see if you live in the Division and are eligible to vote, and more. The deadline to register to vote is Monday, April 18th.

General Office: Last week, the Elections Department participated in a conference call with staff from the Secretary of State’s Office, along with a UC Berkeley professor, Mr. Phil Stark, to discuss participation in the Secretary of State’s audit pilot project as established by AB 2023. This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to establish a post-canvass risk-limiting audit pilot program in five or more voluntarily participating counties as another method of validating the election results. After the pilot program is completed, the Secretary of State will, no later than March of 2012, report to the Legislature on the effectiveness and efficiency of the risk-limiting method.

Daily operations consist of maintenance of the voter file, updating procedures based on new laws and “lessons learned” from recent elections, maintenance and rotation of voting devices, and preparations for the November election such as mailing election notices to 44 local jurisdictions. The Department, as a precaution, has also been working on securing polling places and poll workers in case the State does call a special election this summer, although time has nearly run out for an election in late June 2011.

Libraries
Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) is partnering with First 5 Monterey County to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, which is April 10-16, 2011.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The theme for this year is “Early Years are Learning Years.”

In honor of the event, First 5 is sponsoring the appearance of the Wheelie Mobilee at several MCFL branches. Wheelie Mobilee is MY Museum’s educational vehicle that gives young children a fun opportunity to explore educational crafts and toys.

Children can try out the Solar Gears which they arrange around a solar-powered central cog. Adjustable solar panels give kids a hands-on look at how energy is collected, converted, and put in motion. Or young artists and writers can indulge their creativity
with magnetic words, bolts, nuts, chains, spoons and various interesting pieces on the Magnetic Cart.

The Wheelie Mobilee is scheduled to be in the parking lots of MCFL branches as follows:

Saturday, April 9th – 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. GONZALES (851 Fifth Street)

Saturday, April 9th – 2 p.m.-5 p.m. PRUNEDALE (17822 Moro Road)

Monday, April 11th - 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m. KING CITY (402 Broadway Avenue)

Tuesday, April 12th – 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SEASIDE (550 Harcourt Avenue)

Tuesday, April 12th – 2 p.m.-5 p.m. GREENFIELD (315 El Camino Real)

Wednesday, April 13th – 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CARMEL VALLEY (65 W. Carmel Valley Road)

Wednesday, April 13th – 2 p.m.-5 p.m. CASTROVILLE (11160 Speegle Street)

Thursday, April 14th- 2 p.m.-5 p.m. PAJARO (29 Bishop Street)

Friday, April 15th - 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m. MARINA (190 Seaside Circle)

Spanish/English bilingual staff will be available to help. All are welcome! Please call (831) 883-7542 for more information.