DATE: April 25, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Report for the week of April 25, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week’s Topics: Our series from the District Attorneys Office’s on the dangers of unlicensed contractors continues with details of a pilot program aimed at the problem; the top 911 Dispatcher for the County is named; the Sea Otter Classic made for a big weekend at Laguna Seca say our friends in the Parks Department, and Elections loses a dedicated volunteer who also was the State’s oldest poll worker.

**District Attorney**

On April 13th, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) awarded Certificates of Recognition to Deputy District Attorney Carol Reed, District Attorney Investigator Martin Sanchez, District Attorney Chuck Hahn and one of the CSLB’s own investigators, David Leary for their efforts in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting unlicensed contractors and contractors who do not carry workers’ compensation insurance. These four were the nucleus of a pilot program addressing unlicensed and uninsured contractors that is now being duplicated in 18 counties around the state.

The genesis of the program came in 2009, when the CSLB assigned a dedicated State Wide Investigative Fraud Team [SWIFT] investigator, David Leary, to Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties for enforcement of unlicensed contractors. For about a year, Leary issued administrative fines to unlicensed contractors and organized sting operations. But to do more, he sought cooperation from the District Attorney’s Office Workers’ Compensation Fraud unit to cooperate and partner in a Pilot Program to address the problem of unlicensed and uninsured contractors.
The pilot program has proved to be extremely successful in uncovering, investigating and prosecuting unlicensed contractors operating in Monterey County while simultaneously investigating and prosecuting those individuals who were found not to have the requisite workers' compensation insurance. This cooperative effort has resulted in more complete and efficient investigations and prosecutions.

"This program has made it more difficult for those persons engaged in multiple areas of fraudulent conduct to escape full accountability," says Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo.

CSLB Board Chair Lisa Miller-Strunk says among the successes of this partnership is the discovery that of the cases initially investigated as unlicensed contractor cases, 75% of those being investigated did not carry workers' compensation insurance.

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) licenses and regulates contractors. Becoming a licensed contractor has requirements that include age, experience and skills necessary to manage the daily activities of a construction business. Extensive testing must be passed before a person can become a licensed contractor.

In the next installment of this series, Deputy District Attorney Carol Reed will write about consumer risks, dangers and unexpected expenses that can occur when dealing with an uninsured or unlicensed contractor.

**Parks**
The Sea Otter Classic was held at Laguna Seca Recreation Area on April 14th-17th.

The 4-day festival featured nearly 10,000 athletes competing in professional races in downhill, dual slalom and road racing as well as a variety of amateur and youth events.

The Gran Fondo event was held for the second year featuring three fully supported rides of 28-mile and 45-mile coastal routes and a 100-mile inland route for more experienced riders.

In an effort to attract more women and bike shops to the festival, organizers introduced more women-specific activities and "Dealer Days" events for bike shops. "Dealer Days" included bike demos and demo rides on the Sea Otter courses led by top pro riders.

The newest race to be added to the lineup is Speed & Style, created by freeriding legend Jeff Lenosky. Adjacent to Speed & Style was the Big Air Bag offered by Camp of
Champions Mountain Bike Camp. It was an area where mountain bikers could practice aerial maneuvers without fear of bodily harm.

**Elections**

May 3, 2011 Special All Mail Ballot Election – Monterey Peninsula Water Management District vacancy: Tuesday, April 26 was the last day to request a replacement ballot be mailed out for the May 3 Special All Mail Ballot Election being held in Division 1 of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. After that date, any voter who needs a replacement ballot can still visit the Monterey County Elections Department in Salinas, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, May 3.

As of Monday, April 25, the Department has received a total of 1,611 voted ballots, for a 20% turnout so far for this election. The Elections Department suggests that voters who plan to return their voted ballot in the U.S. Mail do so no later than Thursday, April 28 to be sure it is received in time. Voters may also drop their ballot off in person at one of the drop locations in the District, as listed in their voting materials and on the Department’s website. Voters can verify the Department did receive their voted ballot by selecting the link “Was my Vote by Mail ballot received by Monterey County Elections?” from the Department’s home page. Additional information about the May 3 all mail ballot election can be found on the Department’s website under the link “Upcoming Elections.”

On a sad note, Elections has lost a dedicated and long-time poll worker. Ms. Betty Termaine passed away this last week. Betty was honored last year for being not only Monterey County’s, but the State’s eldest serving poll worker. Betty celebrated her 100th birthday in the fall of 2010, just before her retirement from her service as a poll worker through the Department’s Team Up for Democracy Program. Betty will be greatly missed.

**Emergency Communications**

The week of April 10th was proclaimed “Public Safety Dispatchers Week in Monterey County” by the Board of Supervisors in honor of National Telecommunications Week. The highlight of the week came with the presentation of the Dispatcher of the Year Award at the Monterey County Peace Officer’s Association annual “Support Personnel of the Year” awards dinner on April 13th.

Director Lynn Diebold proudly presented the award to Communications Dispatcher II Amy Maaske. Diebold also announced that Kim Parsons was named...
Supervisor of the Year. Additional awards will be presented to the following employees:

CTO (Trainer) of the Year        Joey Williamson
Customer Service Award         Aurio Esparza
Rookie of the Year              Sonia Vargas
Teamwork Award                  San Benito SO pursuit of an armed robbery suspect into and around Salinas

The Director’s Award for Outstanding Performance was awarded to Operations Supervisor Leslie Ragghianti for her work on the NGEN Radio Project and her selection as the Association of Public-Safety Communication’s Officials (APCO) Supervisor of the Year.

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