DATE: May 23, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of May 23, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: The Resource Management Agency’s Code Enforcement team shares data from a year of improvements, a Health Department collaboration with the Naval Postgraduate School receives notice in a peer-reviewed publication and a photo mix up gives us the chance to get reacquainted with an Animal Services volunteer.

RMA
The Code Enforcement Division of the Resource Management Agency was reorganized in July 2010. The team consists of a Management Analyst III, Code Enforcement Branch Chief, Code Enforcement Officer II, two Grading Inspectors, and three Office Assistants.

The team has streamlined the Code Enforcement processes using Ordinance No. 5122 adopted on January 13, 2009, but the greatest challenge has been the historical backlog of active cases. The active case log spans from 1997 to present day and the unit receives, on average, 40 new complaints per month.

The following data was collected for the period of July 2010 through April 2011.

Accomplishments:

- Case Count as of July 12, 2010 = 1,201 cases
  - District 1 = 0 cases
  - District 2 = 653 cases
  - District 3 = 145 cases
  - District 4 = 5 cases
o District 5 = 394 cases
o TBD = 4 cases

➢ Case Count as of April 30, 2011 = 1,015 cases
  o District 1 = 2 cases
  o District 2 = 525 cases
  o District 3 = 125 cases
  o District 4 = 2 cases
  o District 5 = 360
  o To be determined = 1

➢ Notable improvement in closed cases
  o Six Year Trending
    • FY05/06 = 71
    • FY06/07 = 53
    • FY07/08 = 48
    • FY08/09 = 59
    • FY09/10 = 205
    • FY10/11 (to date) = 372

➢ Improved accuracy, recording and completion of inspections
  o Completed 1,787 inspections

➢ Enhanced and standardized process of issuing the Notice of Violation, following up with a scheduled inspection, and, if not abated, issuing a Compliance Status Report. A Compliance Status Report forwards the case to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Process.

➢ Implemented the ALJ Hearing Process
  o 102 cases forward to the Administrative Law Judge for Hearing
    • June 2010 = 2
    • February 2011 Hearings = 4
    • March 2011 Hearings = 7
    • May 2011 Hearings scheduled = 8
  o Hearing Outcomes (examples)
    • Ordered compliance with Administrative costs of $1,963.
    • Ordered compliance with Administrative costs of $2,955. If order not followed, summary abate the nuisance.
    • Ordered compliance with Administrative costs of $11,649.82 to three County Departments. If order not followed, summary abate the nuisance.

During this fiscal year, the focus for Code Enforcement has been on realigning processes, establishing standards, utilizing Accela Automation to assist in case management, providing quality inspections and casework, and working with the public to understand building codes, zoning regulations, erosion and grading controls, and storm water requirements. Continuous improvement has been the forefront of our endeavors and the backlog of unresolved cases remains the team’s greatest challenge.
Health

A collaborative study between the Health Department’s epidemiology staff and the Naval Postgraduate School has been published this month in the scientific journal Statistics, Politics and Policy. The article, “Assessing the Early Aberration Reporting System’s Ability to Locally Detect the 2009 Influenza Pandemic,” showcases a two-year pandemic surveillance study of influenza patterns and symptoms in Monterey County.

Health Department Epidemiologists Krista Hanni, Susan Barnes and Kristy Michie participated in the study and are cited in the article. The collaborative effort provided an opportunity for staff to utilize local resources to assess the usefulness of changes to the biosurveillance system and determining improvements in its use in developing data about disease outbreaks.

Syndromic surveillance is a newly emerging application in the fields of public health disaster and bioterrorism preparedness. Publishing the results of this study may benefit other users of the syndromic surveillance system and help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with decisions on future modifications.

Health – Animal Services

Two weeks ago, we shared the story of a local youth group which donated items to the Animal Services Center and were given a tour by intern and Humane Educator Melissa Wolf. A photo mix-up resulted in us receiving not a photo of Melissa but of another important member of the Animal Services Center Team, Animal Care Technician Heather Kelley, who had just been named Employee of the Month at the shelter.

So to set things right, meet Melissa Wolf and friend Sherman, pictured below left. Below right, meet Heather Kelley, Employee of the Month at Animal Services Center, being congratulated on her award by a shelter guest.