DATE: May 9, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of May 9, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: Young donors to the Monterey County Animal Services Center get a day with the animals, Elections reports it has certified the recent All Mail Ballot, and the Parks Department says it’s time for triathletes at beautiful Lake San Antonio.

Health – Animal Services

The Monterey County Animal Services Center says a big ‘thank you’ to Daisy Troop #33007 from Mission Park in Salinas. This great group of girls spent a lot of time and effort raising funds and getting donations for much needed items for the shelter. In fact, they used all their cookie sale monies for the animals. Thanks to their efforts, the shelter has received food, pet toys, blankets and towels, items always needed to make the animals more comfortable.

Members of Daisy Troop #33007 wheel in their donations to the Monterey County Animal Services Center.

Last week, the girls brought their donations to the shelter and were treated to a tour and talk about animals.

Leading the tour and providing a wonderful educational program was the shelter’s dedicated intern, Melissa Wolf. Besides getting a tour of the facility and getting up close and personal with some of the lovable shelter dogs and cats, the girls were able to ask Melissa, who is in a Masters of Humane Education program, many pet and animal
questions. Melissa says the group was very interested in animal behavior, asked excellent questions and listened attentively. The girls also were shown the safe way to approach dogs.

Animal Services staff members say Melissa has been a valuable asset in their outreach efforts and they are fortunate to have her available to help work with the community.

Melissa has been working as an intern for the last year while pursuing her advanced degree. During this time, she has developed humane curriculum and lesson plans that meet state standards for K-9th grades within Monterey County schools, taught anti-dogfighting classes to North Monterey County students and coordinated presentations on the connection between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence to area law enforcement and nonprofit groups.

**Elections**

*May 3, 2011 Special All Mail Ballot Election* – The Special All Mail Ballot election to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors in Division One of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has been certified. The final election results are available on the Department’s website, along with the official Statement of Votes. General results can be found by selecting “Latest Election Results,” and the Statement of Votes can be found under the link for “Past Election Results.” All official certified documents will be forwarded on to the District for final adoption and seating of its new board member.

The Department participated in a pilot project to study a new method of “risk-limiting” auditing along with the Secretary of State and Professor Philip Stark, UC Berkeley. The study, conducted by Mr. Stark and Elections staff on Friday, May 6th, revalidated both the machine results and the Department’s 1% manual tally conducted the day prior.

A full description of the study as written by Mr. Stark can be found on the Department’s website under “Latest News and Postings.” See the May 9, 2011 link entitled “Report from Philip Stark on second risk-limiting audit under AB 2023.”

*November 8, 2011 School and Special District Elections* – The next scheduled election to fill positions on local school and special district boards will occur on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. The candidate filing period opens on Monday, July 18th and closes on Friday, August 12th. Anyone interested in the requirements for running for public office may review the Candidate’s Guidelines found under “Candidate Services.”

**Parks**

Two important events took place this month at Monterey County Parks.
**AVIA Wildflower Triathlons Festival**

"Ignite Your Passion" was the theme of the 29th Annual Wildflower Triathlons Festival which took place on April 29th-May 1st at Lake San Antonio. Long known as the ‘Woodstock of Triathlons’ for its rustic setting, this year’s event hosted more than 7,000 triathletes.

Top competitors from around the world participated in the Elite category; most of them are Olympic, World and Ironman champions. Athletic events included the Long Course, Olympic Distance and Mountain Bike Triathlon for a variety of age groups. Teams could participate in the Club or Collegiate competitions.

Besides racing, the event offered a festival area which included a Healthy Lifestyle Expo, Kid Zone, race clinics and live entertainment.

The AVIA Wildflower Triathlon Festival is produced by Tri-California Events, Inc. for the Monterey County Parks Department. Proceeds benefit the Parks Foundation of Monterey County.

**Jim Abelow Amphitheatre Dedication**

On May 5th, the Parks Foundation of Monterey County held a dedication ceremony for the recently upgraded amphitheatre at Toro Park. Located behind the Toro Park Environmental Center, the area is used to educate thousands of local elementary school students every year. The amphitheatre project was actually the focus of two separate Eagle Scout projects, the work taking place over the course of two years.

The Parks Foundation named the amphitheatre after Jim Abelow, a long-time supporter of Monterey County Parks and a former member of the Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Abelow’s family members were among the attendees at the event.

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