DATE:       June 20, 2011

TO:         Board of Supervisors

FROM:       Lew C. Bauman
            County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT:    County Administrative Officer's Report for the week of June 20, 2011

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: County Elections provides an update on voting rights, there is much to celebrate in the 2nd Supervisorial District as the long awaited Prunedale Improvement Project gets underway, and you'll want to buy a ticket from Relay For Life's Team Monterey County next year, as county staff team members sold the new car winning ticket to a fellow county employee!

Elections
Voting rights and the process for elections have significant legal protections, are protected by both the Federal and State Constitutions, and are administered under multiple state codes — Elections, Government, Education, Health and Safety, and Civil to name a few.

California's election law contains an entire division of penal provisions governing crimes relating to the conduct of elections under areas such as voter registration, the nomination of candidates, election campaigns, corruption of the voting process (including voters), and crimes relating to petitions and the gathering of signatures.

The Registrar of Voters, or County Elections Official, has the ministerial duty of accepting and filing official documents under the above listed codes, reviewing to ensure they meet the face of the law, and for administering the elections process that may be a result. In addition to voter registration forms, documents filed with the county elections official relate to resolutions from local governing bodies (schools, cities, etc.) scheduling an election, candidate nomination papers, documents relating to state and/or local
petitions, Public Records Act requests, and communications from state and federal agencies.

The County Elections Official is not an investigative or policing authority. This falls under the responsibility of the local police, Sheriff and District Attorney. For example, on Election Day, the Registrar of Voters works with the Sheriff’s Office to protect the voting process at the polls and the County Superior Courts to assist in any legal matters that may relate to voting hours. For investigations relating to the determination of whether or not a particular election law was violated, the County Elections Official’s partner in investigative matters is the District Attorney. When state issues are at stake, the Secretary of State’s Fraud Investigation Unit becomes county elections investigative partner. Working in partnership, the above divisions of state and local government have the authority and manpower to protect the voting process and administer investigations that may lead to the determination that a crime was committed.

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 18 and closes on Friday, August 12. Anyone interested in the requirements for running for public office may review the Candidate’s Guidelines found under “Candidate Services” on the Elections webpage. The Department will be collecting information on the number of seats, the word limit to the candidate statement, who pays for the statement, and the methodology for resolving a tie vote until early July.

General Office – The Department is currently reviewing submitted proposals for contracts to provide printing and mailing services for the Elections Department. The current vendor has been providing great service to the County for more than five years. The issuance of the Request for Proposals is an administrative function that may assist the Department in maintaining the best services for the best price.

**Child Support Services/Relay For Life Team Monterey County**

Cancer patients win when groups like Team Monterey County raise money for Relay For Life, but that doesn’t mean there can’t be a lucky someone out there who wins a big prize in the process.

This year, the big Relay prize was a new 2011 Honda, and the winner is…..Shelly Gales, a Child Support Officer with the Department of Child Support Services.

Shelly purchased six tickets, including the winning ticket, for the drawing for a new car from fellow Child Support Services employee Myra Barchacky.

[Image of Shelly Gales smiling behind the wheel of her new car, with text: Shelly Gales from Child Support Services is all smiles behind the wheel of her new car. Here she shakes hands with Sam Linder of Sam Linder Cadillac Honda in Salinas, who donated the car.]
“We are delighted that Shelly had the winning ticket,” says Stephen Kennedy, Child Support Services Director. “We have been participating with Team Monterey County since 2001 and are proud to raise money for research for the American Cancer Society.”

On Friday, June 17th, Shelly picked up the keys to her brand new 2011 Honda Civic LX at Sam Linder Cadillac Honda in Salinas. Meanwhile, Team Monterey County is still working hard. Fundraising will continue through August, and so far, the team has raised $7,000 for the cause.

**District 2**

It was a ceremony 30 plus years in the making for North Monterey County.

To mark the beginning of the Prunedale Improvement Project (PIP), local and state dignitaries, including Monterey County Supervisors Lou Calcagno, 2nd District and Simon Salinas, 3rd District, Assembly members Luis Alejo (D-28th District) and Bill Monning (D-27th District), joined residents and project partners to ceremonially turn the first dirt for the project earlier this month.

PIP is collaboration between Caltrans, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), and Monterey County. It is a series of major road projects between North Salinas and Echo Valley Road along State Highway 101 to improve safety on this often dangerous stretch of roadway. A map of the project is on the next page.

While motorists will need to get used to the road work and occasional closures along the route, many on hand for the groundbreaking say it’s a small price to pay for the improvements that will safeguard both locals and the hundreds of thousands of motorists who pass through the area.

Some local residents who made the call for improvements back in the late 1970s and were on hand to see the project finally get underway.

“This project is an investment in safety and an investment in our communities,” says Lou Calcagno, Monterey County 2nd District Supervisor and member of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County Board of Directors, who pointed
out that more produce trucks pass through that portion of the highway than anywhere else in the United States. "This is the result of years of hard work by a dedicated group of local citizens; I'm so pleased to see it underway."

Claudia Link, Aide to 2nd District Supervisor Lou Calcagno, holds a commemorative glass created to mark the groundbreaking ceremony.

Over the next three years, the landmark $209 million project will upgrade the 13 mile stretch of road to a four-lane freeway, build two new interchanges, a new undercrossing and overcrossing, modify one existing interchange and make a variety of other safety improvements.