DATE: July 4, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman
County Administrative Officer

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

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer.

This Week's Topics: Thanks to a new grant, the Monterey County Health Department is taking new steps in the fight to prevent suicide and there is new information about Assessment Appeals Fees that every county resident should know about.

Health
A recent grant from the California Mental Health Service Authority (CalMHSA) to the Monterey County Health Department’s Behavioral Health Bureau will be aimed at suicide prevention in the central coast region. Grant monies will be directed to the bureau’s partner agency, Family Service Agency of the Central Coast (FSACC), to expand suicide prevention services, including a social networking capability, to better reach young adults and access nationally credentialed suicide prevention resources.

“Suicide is a public health issue in Monterey County, where recent records show there are 12 suicide deaths per 100,000 people in the 15-24 age group,” says Behavioral Health Division Director Wayne Clark. “Both Monterey and Santa Cruz County’s Behavioral Health Bureaus will be providing technical assistance and support to the Family Service Agency during the implementation and evaluation process of this grant project.”

The three-year grant will fund the following projects:

- Enhance crisis response by obtaining accreditation from the American Association of Suicidology for the existing 24 hour crisis line.
- Implement internet based prevention efforts including the use of a user-friendly interactive website that will connect users to relevant and appropriate resources, as well as the use of social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare.

- Expand community outreach and education efforts.

- Expand suicide bereavement support services by increasing accessibility to in-person support groups and one-on-one support services.

- Improve program data collection and implement evaluation tools to rate the impact of suicide prevention education as well as internet-based and bereavement support services.

Suicide prevention services are available to anyone in crisis, in need of support or in need of information about how to support a friend or loved one who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. 1-877-663-5433 is the suicide prevention hot line that serves both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties 24 hours a day.

**Clerk of the Board**

The Clerk of the Board’s office is getting the word out about new information regarding Assessment Appeals for the 2011 season.

The filing period to submit an assessment appeal application for a regular assessment (based on January 1, 2011 lien date), is July 2, 2011 through November 30, 2011. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors approved Rules of Procedure for the Assessment Appeals Board on May 24, 2011. The rules complement state law and regulations, delegate certain administrative tasks to the Clerk of the Board, and provide clarity for applicants about procedural requirements.

A non-refundable processing fee of $40.00 per application was also established effective July 1st of this year. Applicants who would qualify for a waiver of court fees can submit a Request to Waive Processing Fee form together with the filing of their application. For more information, visit the Clerk of the Board’s website for Assessment Appeals Board forms.

All forms for 2011 will be posted on the website on July 2, 2011 and hard copies are available at the Clerk of the Board’s window at 168 West Alisal Street, First Floor. Salinas.

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