Monterey County Administrative Office
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Elections Reports Promotions, Voter Registration Drives

Monterey County Elections is pleased to announce the promotion of two staff members; both were selected through a competitive open recruitment process for their new positions.

Mary Kikuchi is the newest Elections Department Program Manager. Her area of responsibility is voter registration and National Voter Registration Act compliance. Ms. Kikuchi joined Elections in 2008 and served as Elections Services Specialist before her promotion. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Gina Martinez was promoted to the position of Assistant Registrar of Voters. She has been with the Department for more than seven years and holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Washington, Seattle.
The Department has been very busy preparing for the November 4th Election. September 23rd was National Voter Registration Day. The Department partnered with more than 50 local organizations to promote voter registration. Some of the highlights of this campaign included student-run registration drives at Alisal and Everett Alvarez High Schools and Hartnell College.

Many county departments, local organizations and community members also took action via social media with the message, “It’s National Voter Registration Day. Take 30 Seconds to register to vote.”

Election Day is a month away - it’s not too late to register!

Preparedness Campaign Ends with a Test

The Office of Emergency Services wrapped up a month of preparedness outreach and information with a test of the County’s emergency notification system, AlertMontereyCounty. Did you get the message?

The test took place Tuesday, September 30th at 12:45 p.m. With local media observing, Emergency Services staff tested the system by sending a message that went out to nearly 6,000
Monterey County residents. Those are the residents who signed up with the County to receive emergency messages.

AlertMontereyCounty is used to notify the public of important public safety information such as natural disasters, evacuations, wide-spread power blackouts, urgent law enforcement operations, and missing persons or kidnapped children. In the last year, the system has expanded its capabilities and is now able to notify residents of emergency situations and information though cell/VoIP numbers and via text messages and emails, all channels that were previously unavailable. The system even lets participants “subscribe” to various areas and types of alerts throughout the County in order to receive any that concern selected locations or topics.

Emergency Services says it is pleased with the results of its preparedness campaign, particularly the number of residents who have been signing up to receive emergency alerts. There have been 600 sign ups in the month of September!

"Being able to connect with Monterey County residents in so many ways is valuable to our overall preparedness," says Monterey County Emergency Services Manager Sherrie Collins. "Getting information to those who need it in a timely manner can sometimes be an obstacle, but technology gives us newfound abilities and advancements and testing the system ensures that it will be ready when we need it."

To register for emergency notifications or for more information about emergency preparedness in Monterey County, refer to the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services webpage and follow them on Twitter (@MontereyCoOES).

Environmental Health Compliance Workshops Increase Understanding about Regulations

The Environmental Health Bureau of the Health Department has many important tasks, but one of the most important is making sure local businesses and agencies follow the laws and regulations designed to keep our community and environment healthy and safe.

Rather than focus on just enforcement, staff has been putting a greater emphasis on education and outreach programs and growing the number of compliance information workshops it offers, so that those who must comply with these environmental regulations have a better understanding of the laws.
“We are committed to assisting our regulated community to comply with the many complicated environmental laws and regulations by helping them to understand the whys and hows of these laws,” explains Bruce Welden, Supervisor of Hazardous Materials Management Services. “The ‘why’ is that it is important to protect our community and environment, and the ‘how’ is offering education in how to comply.”

The latest compliance workshop was held last week in Salinas, an educational event now in its 10th year.

“We have good attendance at the event, and it’s a classic win-win for the Bureau and the community. The community benefits because better understanding and compliance with the laws means a cleaner and healthier community and environment. The Bureau benefits because by educating the public we can be more efficient in targeting inspections and oversight.”

The workshop offers a range of topics including regulations, emergency response, environmental impacts of hazardous materials, recycling, proper waste disposal and new electronic reporting requirements.

Welden says that most attendees want to know how they can comply with the laws and regulations in a reasonable and cost effective way. Environmental Health staff also put on compliance workshops in south Monterey County; these focus primarily on agricultural issues while the Salinas event focuses more on urban needs.