

# The CAO Weekly Report

The week of March 2, 2015



## *Monterey County Administrative Office*

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In this edition:

- County announces new banking partner
- Library launches its ‘branchlets’
- Lightning in a Bottle Festival proves a good partnership for Parks Department



## County Welcomes New Banking Partner

This week, Treasurer-Tax Collector Mary Zeeb ushered in a new disbursement bank for Monterey County.



**WELLS  
FARGO**

“For as long as anyone can remember, and some think for the last 100 years, the County has received banking and payment services from Bank of America” said Zeeb. “While we have always received excellent service, I felt it was incumbent upon me to explore other opportunities to make sure current banking products and costs were reflective of the market.”

After an RFP, lengthy interviews and intense negotiations, Wells Fargo was selected to stand alongside Bank of America to provide additional value and services to the County.

The implementation team, consisting of subject matter experts in departments and agencies throughout the county, worked diligently for over a year in preparation for this transition which went live Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

While most of the changes are “behind the scenes,” employees will notice one major difference: disbursements and paychecks will be drawn on Wells Fargo instead of Bank of America.

“This was a tremendous undertaking on the part of many individuals in the County including staff from the Treasury, Auditor-Controller, CAO’s Office, Information Technology, Social Services, Purchasing and the Monterey County Office of Education,” said Zeeb. “Everyone pulled together to make positive changes to our banking processes for the betterment of Monterey County. My hat is off to the team!”



## The Branchlets are Here: Library Launches Community Book Dispensers

Monterey County Free Libraries (MCFL) has launched its Branchlet program with the unveiling of two of the small book dispensaries last weekend. The branchlets are located in Castroville in the Moro Linda and El Cerrito Townhome complexes. They are the first of 30 branchlets which will be placed throughout the county.

You’ll recall that MCFL received an \$85,000 grant last year from the California State Library to establish these branchlets throughout the county. Branchlets are little container-style book dispensers that operate on the “take a book, leave a book” honor system. Similar little neighborhood libraries are popping up all over the world and are extremely popular.

The word “branchlet” was coined by MCFL staff, the project is called Branching Out. MCFL has been getting calls from residents who are interested in establishing branchlets in their neighborhoods.



Despite stormy weather, Librarian Jayanti Addleman (left), 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor John Phillips right) and CHISPA President Alfred Diaz-Infante (far right) cut the ribbon on a new branchlet at Moro Lindo. You can see children already lining up to borrow a book!

The first two branchlets are located in CHISPA housing sites and another four will be established at CHISPA developments in Gonzales and Greenfield.

MCFL serves an area of over 3,125 square miles and the branchlets, coupled with MCFL's already established 17 branch libraries, three bookmobiles and the library by



Branchlet ready for customers in El Cerritos townhome complex.

mail program, will allow for MCFL to reach Monterey County residents far and wide. The County's first librarian, Anne Hadden, would have loved the idea of the branchlets. Hadden was well known for her determination to reach all areas of Monterey County, even if it required traveling by burro or on foot.

"We have come full circle," says County Librarian Jayanti Addleman. "These are exactly like the deposit collections MCFL had around the County almost 100 years ago."

If you are interested in the branchlet program or would like to find out how to have one in your neighborhood, contact librarians Jenna Severson at 883-7542 or Courtney Amparo at 675-2209.



## Lightning in a Bottle Event a Positive Partnership for Parks Department



Lightning in a Bottle attracted 15,000 attendees last year.

You may have already heard that the Lightning in a Bottle music and art festival that had a its first outing at Lake San Antonio last Memorial Day weekend was such a success that it will be back again this year. You might be interested in knowing what makes this huge festival such a positive partnership for the Parks Department and for Monterey County in general.

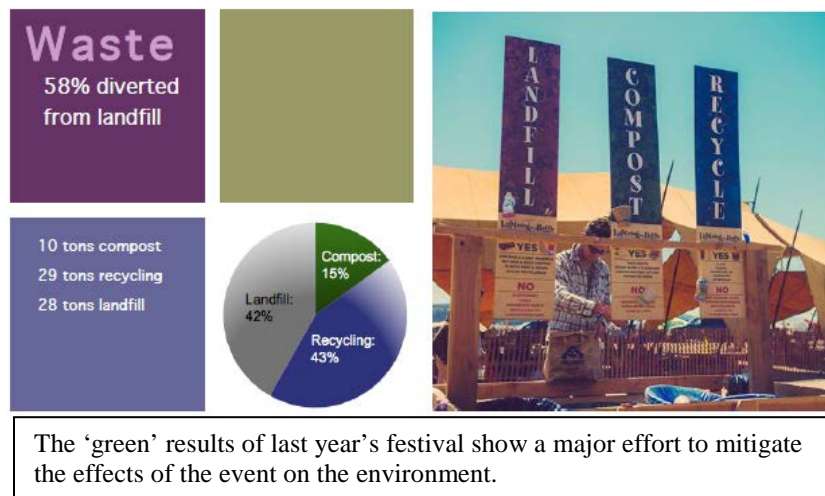
"The Parks Department is looking forward to the return of Lightning in a Bottle on Memorial Day Weekend," says Lavonne Chin, Events Manager for the Department. "The event is a good revenue source for

the department and a wonderful economic driver for the local community.”

At a time when regular water recreation activities at Lake San Antonio are down due to low lake levels, organizers of this event pay a significant event fee to bring more than 100 music acts to the lake recreation area over the Memorial Day holiday weekend and some 15,000 people are again expected to attend.

For the organizers, the remote and natural location allows for music to be played into the wee hours of the morning without annoying neighbors as well as promote the ‘green’ and holistic site of the event.

While there might be major concerns about so many people in one area for a festival (think Woodstock), Lightning in a Bottle is not your average event. This festival mixes electronic music with an emphasis on environmental sustainability, art and self-improvement.



One of the key philosophies of the event is that it wants attendees to “Leave it Better, Leave it Beautiful;” meaning leave the event with better tools for your life and leave the land more beautiful than you found it. For the former, there are activities throughout the event such as green workshops and a series of speakers lined up for a venue called “The Temple,” a sanctuary made of recycled and found objects, on topics such as sustainability, mysticism and spirituality. For the later, organizers have a tremendous ‘green’ program which promotes mitigating the effects of the large crowd through recycling, composting, and diverting waste from the event away from the local landfill.

Waste reduction efforts include:

- Waste station monitors to ensure proper sorting
- Secondary sorting at dumpsters
- Color-coded sorting signs at waste stations to educate attendees
- Color coded trash bags to keep waste clearly separated
- Sorting instructions printed in festival booklet
- Repurposing initiative for camping items left behind
- Unclaimed ‘Lost and Found’ items donated to Goodwill
- Fully compostable plates, cutlery, and cups required by all vendors
- Elimination of thousands of plastic water bottles through free water initiative

- Toilet paper dispensers caddies prevent wasteful use of toilet paper in porta potties

A local south county arts collective, Sol Treasures, also benefitted from the event. Organizers reached out to offer places for local artist to sell their work at the festival.

