



COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Artwork done by young men in the Monterey County Youth Center is seen at the Monterey Airport. (Photo by Kelli Udall)

County Notes

- > Looking for a volunteer opportunity? [Natividad Medical Center's Volunteer Auxiliary](#) has lots of fun and interesting ways you can help patients.

Youth Center Art Gives Visitors a Glimpse of Nature's Light

Travelers from around the world pass through the Monterey Airport each year. For nearly four months, those visitors were treated to a series of paintings featuring dazzling colors and depictions – works created by incarcerated youth at the Probation Department's Youth Center.

The exhibit is titled "Nature's Light." The bright, bold paintings of flowers, forests and mountains were created by young men at the Youth Center through the Arts as Healing Program, which gives youth new ways to explore

expression, discover hidden talents and most importantly, to experience success and feelings of worth in pro-social activities.



Students in the Arts as Healing Program work together on a mural project.

"This art work by our residents incarcerated at the Monterey County Youth Center, never ceases to amaze me." Says Probation Chief Marcia Parsons. "While rival gang members on the streets, these young men work shoulder to shoulder creating these beautiful paintings in the Youth Center. The display of their work at the Airport certainly adds to their sense of self-worth and feelings of value to the community."

This life-changing collaborative program has been in place since 2009 and recently was awarded the National Association of Counties 2015 Arts and Culture Award.

The murals created by youth have been showcased in six exhibits throughout the county including the

Airport Mezzanine Gallery during the last 13 months and were featured in Carmel Magazine. Youth Center Director Jennifer Butz says many of the youth involved in the program know that their work is being displayed around the county and is being praised, which it gives them a tremendous sense of pride and positive reinforcement.

The murals are now back home in the Youth Center dining room for the artists and others to enjoy.



Conflict Resolution Program in Place



Did you know that the County has developed a Conflict Resolution Program (CRP) for employees to address and resolve complaints and concerns that are not related to discrimination?

The Office of County Counsel along with the Equal Opportunity and County Administrative Offices have taken action and formulated a programmatic approach in identifying, processing and resolving conflicts with employees at their department level and before matters escalate to claims.

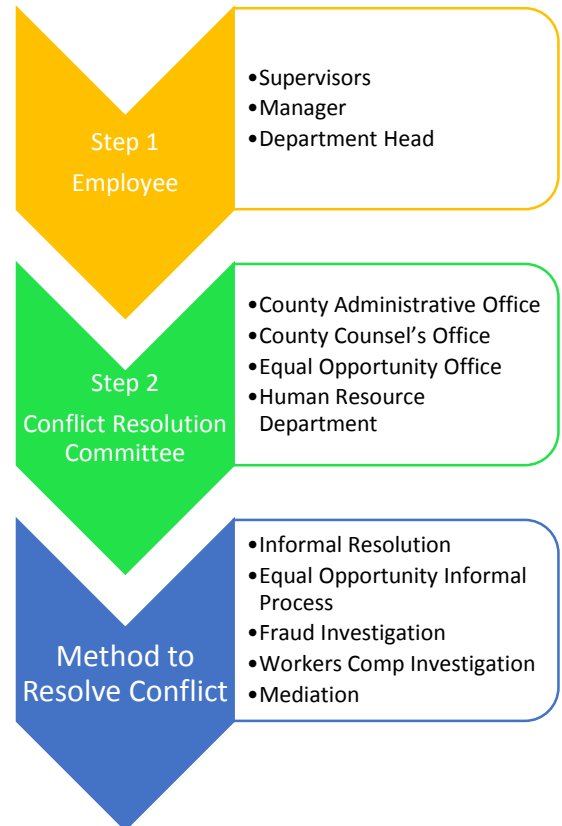
The process is intended to give employees an opportunity to confidentially raise issues that can be dealt with systematically while giving individuals a level of confidentiality. Please note: this process is not intended to replace any of the existing procedures that are currently in place for reporting issues of employee misconduct, employee evaluations or contractual grievances.

The graphic to the right illustrates the Conflict Resolution Process.

You can find out more about the program on the county website. To reach the Conflict Resolution Program webpage, visit the County's [Infonet webpage](#) and select 'I Want To' on the navigation bar, then 'Mediate a Dispute/ Conflict Resolution Program' in the drop down menu.

The webpage provides additional information on:

- Introduction on the Conflict Resolution Program
- Conflict Resolution Process
- Employee Responsibility
- Department Responsibility
- Administration of the Conflict Resolution Program
- Conflict Resolution Committee Responsibility
- Conflict Resolution Form



Ag Expo Focuses on North County Growers

A popular outreach program aimed at local growers, foremen and ranch supervisors brought nearly 200 workers to an Ag Expo and Seminar this week. What makes this event both popular and unusual is that it is conducted entirely in Spanish.

Each year, the Agricultural Commissioner, in collaboration with the California Strawberry Commission, puts on this program. This is the 18th annual event and it was held on March 2nd at the Salinas Sports Complex.



The Expo is geared for a specific group of growers and their employees: strawberry growers operating in North Monterey County, and has specific information to share. Those in attendance heard presentations on controlling erosion, which is the primary topic of the event and critical for growers, agencies and regulators. Over the years, additional topics have been added to the program such as the safe and effective use of pesticides, soil health and climate issues.

Expo presenters use fun and interactive skits to share information about pesticide use enforcement and personal protective equipment.

"The Ag Expo was created to provide outreach on erosion issues in North County and has expanded to include many other regulatory issues related to safety and resource protection," explains Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Bob Roach.

Staff from the Resource Management Agency participated as presenters and the Environmental Health Branch of the Health Department also participated and provided information to growers as part of the business-to-business expo.

