County of Monterey
Board Policy Manual

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Policy Category Government and Administration		

I. Purpose

a. To guide departments in properly and respectfully displaying the flag of the United States and other flags.

II. Policy

a. It is the policy of the County of Monterey to display the flag of the United States prominently where it may be viewed by all attendees at official County meetings, hearings, or events (Gov't Code, § 430). At a minimum, the flag of the United States shall be displayed in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Government Center at 168 West Alisal Street, Salinas, California. The flag of the State of California and of the County of Monterey may also be displayed in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

b. When displaying the flag of the United States indoors, the flag should be displayed to the left side of the stage from the audience's point of view. If other flags are also displayed, the flag of the United States shall always be placed in the position of honor, either by placing it to the far left of the stage from the audience's point of view or placing it in the center of a group of flags such that the flag of the United States is higher than any other non-national flag (See generally 4 U.S.C. § 7).

c. Both the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of California shall be prominently displayed during business hours upon or in front of major buildings and facilities owned, leased, or regularly used by the County (Gov't Code, § 431, subd. (a)).

d. The flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff on the following occasions:

i. By order of the President, usually upon the death of principal figures of the United States government, the governor of a state, or other officials or foreign dignitaries, or to commemorate other days of observance, such as:

September 11th	Patriot Day (half-staff all day) (36 U.S.C. § 144)
December 7th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (half-staff all day) (36 U.S.C. § 129)

ii. On the following dates pursuant to law without any order:

May 15th	Peace Officers Memorial Day (half-staff all day, unless Armed Forces Day) (36 U.S.C. § 175)
Last Monday in May	Memorial Day (half-staff until **noon**) (36 U.S.C. § 175)

On these occasions, the flag of the State of California shall be similarly displayed at half-staff.

e. The flag of the United States and the flag of the State of California shall be displayed at half-staff upon proclamation of the Governor to acknowledge the death of a present or former official of the state government or the death of a member of the armed services from California (4 U.S.C. § 7, subd. (m)).

f. County Flag. The County may adopt a flag in accordance with Government Code section 435. The County Flag should be flown or hung below or lower than the flag of the State of California.

g. The flag of the National League of Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Families (POW/MIA Flag) shall be flown by Proclamation of the Governor, typically the third Friday of September, also known as POW/MIA Recognition Day. The POW/MIA Flag shall be flown during business hours, at all County buildings or facilities where the United States Flag and the California State Flag fly, if the flag can be attached to existing flagpoles or other existing structures on which the United States Flag or California Flag fly (Mil. & Vet. Code, § 1831).

h. Flags other than the flags of the United States, the State of California, and the County of Monterey may be displayed when approved by the Board of Supervisors. If such approval is given by the Board of Supervisors, the Board shall specify where the other flag is to be displayed and for what period of time. Generally, locations should be places of prominence where the flags are least likely to be disturbed (flag poles or secured areas) and subject to appropriate etiquette. If a flag under this section is flown in Board Chambers, a resolution should be placed next to the flag to explain its presence.

i. The flag of the United States and the flag of the State of California shall be displayed at half-staff upon the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, in consultation with the Administrative Office and Office of County Counsel, who may direct flags displayed at County facilities be flown at half-staff upon the death of an official or person of significant public import, the death of a County employee while on duty, or the death of citizens occurring in a disaster of significant proportion.

III. Procedure

None.

IV. Review Date

a. This Policy will be reviewed for continuance by August 13, 2029.

V. Board Action

a. Legistar File Number: RES 24-149; August 13, 2024