Jose Huizar’s Slush Fund Exposed  
*Over $1 million used for staff salaries*

LOS ANGELES, CA (January 13, 2011) – After more than ten months of relentless pressure from community members, the media, and whistle blowers, Jose Huizar’s personal slush fund has finally been exposed.

Documents obtained by the Martinez campaign and a letter from the City Clerk’s office clearly outline that $1.04 million of the $1.4 million in CLARTS funds that have been in question have been used to directly pay staff salaries over the last three years; above and beyond the $1 million allocated to him by the city budget for staff salaries.

The CLARTS fund was originally established to mediate environmental impacts and serve other vital community interests.

“Instead of using these designated funds to serve community interests, Mr. Huizar used CLARTS as his personal slush fund to pay outrageous salaries to his current staffers and used City of Bell style tactics to hide the misuse of funds from the public,” said Eric Hacopian, Campaign Consultant.

The funds could have been used to prevent the Fire Department brownouts. The $1.04 million would have kept battalion 7, which serves El Sereno, Ramona Gardens, Rose Hill, University Hills, Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights fully staffed for over 3.5 months. The funds could have also paid for 12 more full time front line police officers in the streets of our communities.

“The most common concern I hear from the community is the lack of basic services, from potholes to graffiti removal, to tree trimming and fixing sidewalks. This money could have made a significant impact in improving the quality of life of residents of CD 14,” said Rudy Martinez.

“We suspect that the funds used for paying staff might have been illegally misappropriated, therefore we urge Mr. Huizar to show leadership and turn all the relevant documents on how these funds were dispersed to the Public Integrity Unit of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office,” said Eric Hacopian.

We are anxiously waiting for the individual breakdowns of who received these funds and for what purposes from the City Clerk’s office. The Clerk’s office indicated that they would release the information by Monday January 17, 2011.

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