Rudy Martinez Calls for Public Transparency on CD 14 CLARTS Funds

LOS ANGELES, CA (December 20, 2010) – It has been more than ten months since eastside local community newspaper The Voice requested a general over view and line-item expenditures for more than $1.2 million dollars from the Central Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station (CLARTS) funds and the office of Councilmember Jose Huizar has not yet provided the information requested. In accordance to the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. §§ 0.441 - 0.470) Freedom of Information Act Request, and the California Public Records Act (CPRA) (Government Code Section 6250 ET SEQ.) the information requested has to be provided within ten business days of the initial request. This is a clear violation of the law.

In a letter submitted to the Board of Public Works and to the City Controller’s Office on November 10, Spanish language newspaper La Opinion requested a line item expenditure report for the CLARTS funds motions labeled “transfer to council.” Neither offices responded and directed the reporter to the City Clerk’s office, who did provide a general overview of the fund expenditures, but not the line item report they were requesting. The Voice has not received any information and many community members are frustrated with the lack of public transparency regarding public monies in CD 14.

Members of the Boyle Heights and LA 32 Neighborhood Councils have been questioning the use of funds, believing that they are being used to subsidize salaries, underwrite costs for special events that promote Huizar’s image, and other purposes that do not provide a direct public benefit or services.

“Basic services in CD 14 are being cut, to the point where people have died because of lack of emergency response services and now we are facing brown outs. These funds could have been used to help keep those services available, to pave roads, cut trees and other services that are important to residents,” said Rudy Martinez.

“Mr. Huizar needs to be reminded that these are public funds and not his personal slush fund. The public has a right to know where and how their monies are being used. What is he trying to hide?” said Eric Hacopian.