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Bell Interim CAO Pedro Carrillo Announces Independent Financial Audit

State Controller John Chiang agrees to lead audit of the City of Bell finances and internal operations

CITY OF BELL, CA (July 27, 2010) – Signaling Bell’s renewed commitment to government transparency, accountability, and full public disclosure, Interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Pedro Carrillo called for an independent audit of the City’s finances and operations at a press conference held this morning at City Hall.

Carrillo was joined by California State Controller John Chiang who agreed to take the lead on performing an independent audit of Bell’s books.

“In the interest of transparency, accountability and establishing new standards in the City of Bell, I am calling for an independent financial audit of the City’s finances and internal operations,” said Carrillo. “State Controller Chiang is one of California’s foremost leaders in independent audits and government transparency, and I am committed to working with him so we can begin regaining the public’s trust and confidence in Bell again.”

State Controller Chiang will now be assigning his auditing staff to perform three separate inquiries: a quality control review of the private independent auditing firm’s financial report on the City of Bell; an audit of all federal and state funds received by the City of Bell to make sure they have been spent appropriately and lawfully; and a review of the City of Bell’s internal controls to ensure that the taxpayers know that there is a system of checks-and-balances that taxpayers are protected.

Controller Chiang also pledged to dig as deep as needed into the City’s finances to ensure the fiscal health of Bell is stable and identify any risks that threaten public resources.

Said Chiang, “As the State Controller, I want to move quickly to help the people that live here, work here, and raise their families here, restore their confidence that their city is spending its public funds in a fully accountable manner. That means taking a hard look at the books and addressing any risk to city finances in a fully transparent effort.”

For more information – Please contact the Public Info. Line (323) 923-2642 or go to www.bellcityclerk.org for the latest City of Bell Official Statements.