



BELL ASOCIACIÓN PARA FRENAR EL ABUSO

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

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BASTA denounces Meg Whitman's Cynical Attempt to Use Bell Corruption Scandal to Bolster Her Gubernatorial Campaign

Today, a "hit piece" by Gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman landed in the mailboxes of voters in Bell and other areas across Los Angeles County. The brochure was an attempt to link Attorney General and Gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown to "Bell-like" issues when he was Mayor of Oakland.

On the facts, the brochure stretches credulity by comparing salaries of administrators in Oakland, (pop. 800,000) making less than \$200,000 to the excesses of Bob Rizzo and company whose salaries all exceeded \$400,000 and were as much as \$1.5 million in a city of 40,000 residents, is ridiculous.

"We have a simple message for Meg Whitman. Don't take the suffering of Bell residents and use it for political purposes. Cease and desist!" said BASTA representative Denise Rodarte.

BASTA leaders approached the Office of Attorney General Brown within days that revelations of the salary excessive broke in the Los Angeles Times. The Attorney General's Office agreed with BASTA leadership that a criminal investigation was necessary and they have moved swiftly. Last week, Attorney General Brown announced that his office has subpoenaed extensive financial records and nine Bell city officials.

Rodarte explained, "We were very clear with the Attorney General's Office that we wanted this investigation to remain above politics. His office was gracious and agreed that complete objectivity was necessary to conduct a thorough and fair investigation. In the eyes of BASTA Jerry Brown has lived up to his words," Rodarte concluded, "Meg Whitman, on the other hand, is acting like a cynical, self-serving individual. Again, we ask her to stop using Bell as a campaign issue. YA BASTA!"

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