

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

August 2, 2016

**ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE**

Last week, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the mayor of South El Monte, Luis Aguinaga, agreed to plead guilty to a federal corruption charge, admitting to accepting bribes and other breaches of public trust. In addition, a recent audit criticized South El Monte for inadequately overseeing its contractors, allowing potentially fraudulent behavior to drain public funds from city coffers. Local officials such as South El Monte Councilmember Joseph Gonzales have brought this issue to the attention of state and local elected officials. These allegations demand a thorough and independent investigation into the extent of corruption within the municipal government.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Officer to send 5-signature letters to:

- California State Controller Betty Yee requesting a thorough review of the transactions identified by the Singer Lewak LLP audit and an assessment of the adequacy of the City’s administrative and internal accounting controls for safeguarding public assets and ensuring proper use of public funds; and
- California State Auditor Elaine Howle requesting a thorough investigation into improper governmental activities by City of South El Monte employees and an examination of the city as a high risk local government agency; and
- Any other appropriate state agency.

**AND FURTHER TO** direct County Counsel to report back to the Board with a summary of the findings of any such audits or investigations and a summary of the allegations contained in the federal plea agreement.

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SOLIS			_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS			_____
KUEHL			_____
KNABE			_____
ANTONOVICH			_____