

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL KICKS OFF  
\$360,000 GRANT WITH HALLOWEEN ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

**SACRAMENTO**— The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that it has been awarded \$360,000 from the Governor’s Office of Traffic Safety over a two-year period to reduce the availability of alcohol to persons under the age of 21 at large special events where alcohol is either sold or furnished. The ABC will begin putting those grant dollars to use Halloween weekend by sending investigators to help local law enforcement in Chico, Santa Barbara and San Francisco.

“This grant gives us the resources needed to reduce youth access to alcohol at large celebrations,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “160 Californians under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes during the year 2002, that is too great a loss,” Jolly said.

The grant will focus primarily on reducing underage drinking at special events, which could result in a reduction of youth-related traffic collisions and deaths. The program will also increase compliance with ABC laws by businesses that sell alcohol at these special events.

There are hundreds of large events held in California each year. The ABC will work with local police, colleges, community-based organizations and youth organizations such as Friday Night Live and the Youth Leadership Institute to crack down on underage drinking.

The ABC will use Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations in its effort to make these huge events safer. A Minor Decoy Operation involves minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempting to purchase alcohol from retail licensees. Under the Minor Decoy operation, the minor must be under the age of 20, must have the appearance of a minor, cannot wear clothes or jewelry that would make them look older, and must answer truthfully if asked their age.

Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations target adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a licensed business that sells alcohol and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The special events grant covers a two-year period and is funded through the Governor’s Office of Traffic Safety. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.