

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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HALLOWEEN WEEKEND ENFORCEMENT NETS HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS ABC HELPS LOCAL POLICE WITH ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS

SACRAMENTO— The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that Halloween weekend enforcement efforts in several California cities resulted in hundreds of arrests and citations by law enforcement agencies but resulted in no major incidents. The enforcement operations began Friday, October 29 and concluded Monday, November 1, 2004. The ABC had over 70 investigators involved in law enforcement operations in several different areas including the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Riverside, Inglewood, Santa Ana, Fresno, Bakersfield, Chico, and San Joaquin and Santa Clara Counties.

The ABC used money from a \$360,000 Special Events Grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to pay for most of the enforcement operations. The grant was awarded to the ABC to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors at large special events.

“ABC Investigators and many law enforcement officers from state and local agencies did a terrific job this weekend,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “The large special events in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and Chico did not have any major problems.”

18 ABC Investigators worked with local law enforcement in Santa Barbara. Police made 384 arrests and over 340 citations were written during the weekend, of those, ABC investigators issued 39 citations, physically booked six persons for various alcohol-related charges including public drunkenness and furnishing alcohol to minors. The ABC also assisted with numerous other arrests made by police.

20 Investigators worked alongside local authorities in Chico. The ABC made approximately 30 arrests and assisted with another 20. Charges included minors in possession of alcohol, public drunkenness and furnishing alcohol to minors.

There are hundreds of large events held in California each year. The ABC will continue to 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 Special Events Grant covers a two-year period and is funded through the California 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.