

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****John Carr (916) 419-2525****PR 04 -83****DECEMBER 16, 2004****ABC DECOY OPERATION NETS FOUR ARRESTS**

Covelo - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), with the support of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, arrested four people in an undercover operation targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors in Covelo, Mendocino County.

Utilizing a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), ABC and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department used the Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap programs to conduct compliance checks of licensed businesses that sell alcohol. The focus is to reduce alcohol availability to minors. In the Minor Decoy program a decoy, under the direction of an investigator enters retail establishments and attempts to purchase alcohol. Of the retail businesses the decoy entered in Covelo, no clerk sold to the decoy.

In the Shoulder Tap operation the decoy stands outside the business and solicits adult patrons entering to buy them alcohol. During the operation, three arrests were made with an additional arrest for an outstanding warrant. Two people were transported to the county jail.

The penalty for selling or furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$250 fine and 24 hours of community service.

ABC will continue to conduct minor decoy operations in Mendocino County and Covelo.