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ABC Honored by Governor Schwarzenegger for Help with Charities *Department Receives Spirit of California Award and Three Other Awards*

Sacramento – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger handed ABC Director Steve Hardy a special **Spirit of California** Award on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 thanking him and all ABC employees for their creativity and support of the California State Employees Charitable Campaign(CSECC).

The award was unique and was not given to all departments that participated in the effort that raised over 8 million, 700 thousand dollars in 2007. Hardy said the effort just shows what strong character ABC employees have by getting involved and giving to a variety of organizations that help fellow Californians who truly need assistance.

“In addition to the Spirit of California Award, ABC was honored with two Bronze Awards and a special Red Shoe Award because ABC employees increased their giving by over 20%”, Hardy said.

Hardy and Assistant Director Joseph Cruz shaved their heads on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at ABC Headquarters to help charities that benefit from the Campaign. “I am so proud of our employees,” said Hardy. “The quality of people working for this organization is impressive.”

ABC Chief Deputy Director Dave Goss, Assistant Director Dave Gill and Deputy Division Chiefs, Steve Ernst, Rick Ryan and Andrew Gomez received “high and tight” military cuts to also help the charitable effort. ABC employees challenged their bosses in early October by asking them to cut their hair if employees could raise \$2,000 in donations for CSECC.

The ABC effort was spearheaded by Inglewood District Administrator Karemeon Waddell Peterson, Trade Enforcement Unit (TEU) Supervising Investigator Alma Yamada and TEU Investigator Kathy Sandberg.

(CSECC) was established in 1957 to provide a single charitable fund-raising drive in the State community. The CSECC celebrated its 51st year providing California State employees the opportunity to utilize payroll deduction to support charitable organizations they feel passionate about.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.