

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

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ABC Promotes Steve Ernst to Assistant Director of Northern Division *Department also Promotes Chris Albrecht to Deputy Division Chief in Headquarters*

Sacramento – California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Director Steve Hardy, has named Steve Ernst as the new Assistant Director of ABC's Northern California Division and has named Chris Albrecht as the new Deputy Division Chief at ABC Headquarters in Sacramento.

Ernst replaces Dave Gill as ABC's Northern Division Assistant Director. Gill is a 24-year veteran of the Department who recently retired from state service.

"Steve Ernst's experience and skills as an administrator will be a big asset to the Department", said ABC Director Steve Hardy. "He will oversee daily operations of the twelve district and branch offices as well as the Special Operations Unit (SOU) in Northern California."

Ernst has been the Deputy Division Chief in ABC Headquarters where he oversaw the Departments' Training, Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) program, Trade Enforcement Unit, Internal Affairs, Licensing and Grant units.

He began his career in 1983 with ABC in the Panorama City office in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. In 1987 he promoted to Supervising Investigator and relocated to San Diego. In 1999 he became District Administrator for the San Diego office and in 2005 relocated to Sacramento where he became the Legislative Coordinator before promoting to Deputy Division Chief and then Assistant Director. Throughout his career he has served as a department firearms instructor, defensive tactics instructor, internal affairs investigator and academy instructor.

Mr. Ernst graduated from California State University Sacramento in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He has been married to his wife Myrna for 30 years and has 3 grown children.

Ernst currently resides in Rocklin California and spent over 20 years in Poway (San Diego County) where he raised his family and was involved in the community.

The Department has also announced the promotion of Chris Albrecht as the new Deputy Division Chief at ABC Headquarters, overseeing the Department's Training, Trade Enforcement, Internal Affairs, Licensing and Grants units. He will continue to serve as the Department's Legislative Officer until he is replaced in that role.

Albrecht grew up in the Bay Area and has been with the Department for 14 years. He began his career as an investigator in the Fresno District Office and has served in several District Offices and specialized units. Prior to his assignment as the Department's Legislative Officer in 2008, he served as the District Administrator for the Ventura/San Luis Obispo District Offices for approximately three years. Albrecht graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He resides in Sacramento.

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.