

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to a Minor *Decoy Operation Conducted in Salinas*

(Monterey County) - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited multiple individuals for selling alcohol to a minor during an August 23, 2010 enforcement operation. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of Investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the city of Salinas.

The clerks who sold to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage licenses of the businesses where alcohol was sold to a minor. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC worked closely with Sun Street Centers' Safe Teens Empowerment Project in Salinas (S.T.E.P.S.), a non-profit prevention youth organization promoting a drug and alcohol free life for area youth.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks statewide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for the operation was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration.

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