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PR 14-49**California Alcoholic Beverage Control Ramps up Enforcement Efforts for Halloween**
Prevention Organizations & CHP Support Enforcement Plan to Reduce Underage Drinking on Halloween

SACRAMENTO—The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that it will have agents out enforcing underage drinking laws in several communities throughout California on October 31 to help make Halloween celebrations as safe as possible.

“Too many young Californians under the age of 21 are killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes and incidents and we’re hoping enforcement efforts will prevent tragedies from occurring,” said ABC Director Tim Gorsuch. Enforcement will be broad based and agents will be checking on ABC licensed businesses, large parties and adults who furnish alcohol to minors. “By getting the message out now, we are hoping for increased compliance,” said Gorsuch.

The Department’s efforts are supported by a number of organizations who work together to prevent underage drinking. The California Friday Night Live Partnership, Saving Lives Drug and Alcohol Coalition, Alcohol Justice, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the California Highway Patrol are supportive of ABC’s enforcement strategies to make this Halloween a safe one.

There are many large Halloween events held in California each year and there will be some on Friday, October 31. The ABC will work with local police and colleges to reduce youth access to alcohol. ABC also reminds any adults of legal drinking age to designate a non-drinking driver so they can get home safely following celebrations where alcohol is involved.

ABC will use Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations in its effort to increase public safety. A Minor Decoy Operation involves minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, who attempt to purchase alcohol from retail licensees.

Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations are designed to reduce the number of adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years-old. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a licensed business that sells alcohol and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults buy alcohol, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.