

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TASK FORCE OPERATION NETS 10 ARRESTS IN MAMMOTH LAKES AND BISHOP**

Mammoth Lakes/Bishop - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), along with officers from the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, arrested 10 individuals on various alcohol violations during a two night task force operation Friday, March 4, 2005 and Saturday, March 5, 2005 in the cities of Mammoth Lakes and Bishop.

Officers arrested four store clerks for selling alcohol to minors as a result of a Minor Decoy Operation. The penalty for selling or furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$250 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 20 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

In addition to the Minor Decoy Operation, investigators also cited two minors for being in possession of alcohol, one minor for consuming alcohol in an on-sale premise, and one minor for false identification. The investigators and Mammoth Lakes police officers arrested one individual for driving under the influence and one individual on an outstanding warrant.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's cabinet.