

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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



CONTACT: John Carr  
(916) 419-2525

March 27, 2006  
PR 06-42

## **ABC Checks 14 Palmdale Liquor Outlets, Not One Sells Alcohol to a Minor**

**ANTELOPE VALLEY (PALMDALE)** – On Thursday March 23, 2006, Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), Van Nuys District Office, conducted a minor decoy operation for compliance, in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 14 retail licensees in the city of Palmdale, Antelope Valley, and not a single business sold to the minor.

“These businesses are helping to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “A 100% compliance was achieved in this operation and that is good news.”

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

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 nearly 16 percent.

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

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.