

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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



CONTACT: John Carr  
(916) 419-2525

April 6, 2006  
PR 06-45

## **ABC Cites 21 Individuals During Recent Decoy Operation In Chico**

**(Chico)** - Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have cited eight clerks in Chico for selling alcohol to a minor, 11 persons for furnishing alcohol to a minor and cited two minors for possessing false identification. The actions were the result of a three-pronged operation on March 17, 2006. One operation involved minor decoys under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators who attempted to purchase alcohol from 14 retail licensees in the city of Chico. There was also a Shoulder Tap operation where minor decoys asked 17 individuals over the age of 21 to buy alcohol for them. 11 adults over the age of 21 illegally purchased the alcohol for the minor decoys. Those 11 were cited for furnishing alcohol to a minor. In addition, undercover ABC investigators worked behind the counter at three licensed locations as part of a Cops In Shops operation and cited two minors who tried to buy alcohol with false identifications.

The clerks who sold to the minors 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 business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service. The minors who presented false identification face a \$250 fine and/or community service.

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

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. 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.