

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **ABC Receives Award as “Law Enforcement Agency of the Year”** *Neighborhood Market Association also Honors the ABC Director*

(San Diego) – The California ABC has been named “Law Enforcement Agency of the Year” by the Neighborhood Market Association, a coalition of over 2000 small businesses located in California, Nevada and Arizona. The Association also recognized ABC Director Steve Hardy as the “Law Enforcement Agent of the Year.”

The Neighborhood Market Association (NMA) presented the awards to Director Hardy on Friday, January 22, 2010 because of efforts by the ABC staff and Hardy’s individual efforts to assist small businesses in California.

“These awards represent the hard work of our ABC employees located throughout our great State,” said Hardy. “I am happy to accept the award on their behalf.”

ABC is the sole issuer of alcoholic beverage licenses in California and currently licenses over 80,000 businesses throughout the State. The department licenses and regulates all California businesses that sell, manufacture or distribute alcohol.

The award was given at the NMA banquet at the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley (San Diego). A video that included an interview with Director Hardy was shown. This year’s banquet theme was “We Are the World: Serving the Communities We Do Business In.”

“Congratulations to Director Hardy and the entire staff at the California Alcoholic Beverage Control. Director Hardy and the entire department are the perfect modern day example of how individuals and organizations could serve the community while maintaining a healthy small business climate throughout California. The small business community is fortunate to have Director Hardy and his leadership team at the helm,” said Mark Arabo, President & CEO of the Neighborhood Market Association.

The Neighborhood Market Association is headquartered in La Mesa and has been in existence for over 15 years.

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

