

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**Four Arrested for Purchasing Alcohol and Giving it to Minors***ABC and Cal Poly Police Conduct Decoy Operation to try to Reduce Underage Drinking*

**(SAN LUIS OBISPO)** – Investigators from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and officers from the Cal-Poly University Police Department arrested four suspects on January 23, 2010, during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of San Luis Obispo. Three persons were arrested for furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor and one person was arrested for being a minor in possession of a false identification card.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap program is designed to prevent underage drinking by holding accountable those adults who purchase alcohol for individuals less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way that he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults decide to purchase the alcohol for the minor, the peace officers 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.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

During the operation, forty-six adults were contacted by a minor decoy and four agreed to illegally buy alcohol for the minor decoy.

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.