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California ABC Ramps up Enforcement Efforts for Holiday Season

SACRAMENTO—The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will have agents working with local law enforcement in several cities throughout California to help make the holiday season as safe as possible.

“Too many Californians are dying in alcohol-related tragedies and we’re hoping that enforcement efforts will prevent tragic incidents from occurring,” said ABC Director Timothy Gorsuch.

Enforcement operations will focus on ABC licensed businesses and at large public celebration events where alcohol is sold or consumed. “By getting the message out now, we are hoping for increased compliance,” said Gorsuch. “ABC licensed establishments play a huge role and can help by doing their part to check ID’s and not serving obviously intoxicated patrons.”

ABC will use a number of enforcement tools including Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations, Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) inspections and also work undercover in various operations in the effort to increase public safety.

Minor Decoy Operation involves minors under the direct supervision of the agents, who attempt to purchase alcohol from retail businesses.

Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations address the problem of adults who purchase alcohol for persons who are younger than 21. These operations involve minors who ask adults to buy alcohol for them. If the adults buy alcohol and give it to the minor, agents arrest and cite them. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

ABC also reminds adults of legal drinking age to designate a non-drinking driver to get people home safely following celebrations involving alcohol.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.