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Over 275 Locations Have Been Checked in Southern California during the Last Month to Boost Safety and Reduce Youth Access to Alcohol

27 locations visited in Kern County Desert Communities

(Kern County) –Agents from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted IMPACT operations on June 8 in the communities of California City and Boron in an effort to increase safety. The operation is just one of dozens that have been completed throughout Southern California in Kern, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties during the past month.

IMPACT is an education and prevention operation where ABC Agents and local law enforcement check on licensed premises that sell alcohol. IMPACT stands for Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies.

27 locations were inspected in the Kern County communities of California City and Boron. Agents have also made visits to licensed businesses in the San Diego communities of La Mesa and Coronado with more visits scheduled in San Diego County later this month.

Agents visited 24 locations in the San Bernardino County communities of Big Bear Lake and Big Bear City.

On Thursday, June 12 ABC Agents and Long Beach Police Officers visited over 40 locations. Other operations have been conducted in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Hollywood, Bell Gardens, Bell, Cudahy, South Gate, Century City, Culver City and Huntington Park in the past week.

Operations have also been done in the Orange County cities of Garden Grove, Los Alamitos, Laguna Beach, Orange, Brea, Anaheim and Tustin. A total of 62 ABC licensed businesses were inspected in Orange County.

"The timing is good," said ABC Director Timothy Gorsuch. "Students are out of school and more folks are driving on the highways and taking vacations. ABC wants to remind licensees of how critical it is for them to check identifications and not serve patrons who are intoxicated. This can help keep the highways safe and also increase youth safety when many of them have more free time now that schools are out for the summer months."

The IMPACT program teams ABC agents with local police officers who visit licensed establishments in a given area. The primary objective of the program is to educate licensees

about the various ways they can participate in reducing alcohol-related crimes such as sales to underage and obviously intoxicated persons.

IMPACT teams remind licensees of the responsibilities and accountability associated with the sale of alcoholic beverages. This is accomplished by identifying areas of non-compliance and providing crime prevention information.

The focus is to educate rather than to enforce. Even though the teams are prevention oriented, members may take action against any major violations observed during the inspection/visits.

Merchants have accepted the program and its philosophy because they are being offered an opportunity to identify weaknesses in their alcoholic beverage sales system and to correct deficiencies without penalties.

Local communities endorse the program as it improves the relationship between law enforcement and merchants. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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