

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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# **BINATIONAL OPERATION SAFE CROSSING TO MEET MEMORIAL DAY REVELERS AT THE BORDER**

- WHO:** **San Diego Police Department**, Southern Division, Border Crime Suppression Team; **Maddy Morris**, from the office of **Supervisor Greg Cox** of the County Board of Supervisors; **Maximo Garcia**, **Tijuana City Councilmember**; along with officers from **National City Police Department**, **Chula Vista Police Department**, **San Diego County Sheriff's Department**, **California Highway Patrol**, **US Navy Shore Patrol**, **Probation** and **Alcohol Beverage Control** will participate in southbound and northbound operations.
- WHAT:** Press conference announcing **Operation Safe Crossing**—a multiagency enforcement operation at the San Ysidro/Tijuana and Tecate border crossings Friday and Saturday to stop underage youth crossers who are going into Mexico to drink alcohol. The binational effort to curb binge drinking includes Tijuana City Councilmember Maximo Garcia, who will discuss the effectiveness of new laws prohibiting “all you can drink” and “ladies night” specials. Later that evening, law enforcement teams will set up at both the southbound and northbound pedestrian border crossings to meet crossers. A complimentary effort also will be occurring on the Tecate border, where Potrero Sheriffs deputies will be at the port of entry to try and prevent underage youth from crossing into Tecate to drink alcohol.
- WHEN:** **10 a.m., Friday, May 28, 2004**
- WHERE:** **San Ysidro Port of Entry, pedestrian walkway southbound**, just north of turnstiles
- WHY:** San Ysidro is a traffic pipeline in which an average of 40,000 vehicles and 40,000 pedestrians each day cross into Mexico and the United States. Every weekend, thousands of young people will enter Tijuana to party. This Memorial Day, in an effort to curb underage youth drinking and the problems associated with it, San Diego Police will be checking IDs, turning away youth under 18 years old not accompanied by a guardian, detaining those with false identification and enforcing curfew laws. Youths and other community volunteers will distribute leaflets highlighting Mexican laws and offering recommendations for a safe visit to Tijuana. Military Shore Patrol also will be checking “chits,” or authorization from their unit or command to enter Mexico. For those returning, upon entering the northbound pedestrian crossing, teams will enforce alcohol and public safety laws and arrest intoxicated pedestrians. Police expect incidents of drunken driving, public intoxication and underage drinking, but will try to stop it. In Tecate, local officials there will be simultaneously conducting a similar operation at their port of entry to curb youth drinking.

*Note to reporters: Follow-up coverage available that night from 10 p.m. to midnight during law enforcement activities. One-on-one interviews available immediately following press conference. Spokespersons for the Tecate region will be available by phone for interviews.*