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California Lottery Receives Last-Minute Claim For \$38 Million San Diego SuperLotto Plus® Ticket

SACRAMENTO – Late Thursday afternoon, just before closing, a California Lottery player came into Lottery’s San Diego office to fill out a claim packet for the \$38 million jackpot from the April 30th SuperLotto Plus draw. Thursday, October 27th, is the day the prize claim period was set to expire.

California Lottery has a robust process to vet claims for large prizes ahead of declaring anyone a winner.

“Our investigative process for big winners is rigorous and thorough, which means it can take weeks or even months, depending on the circumstances,” said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. “Because of that, we probably won’t know for quite some time whether the person who came in yesterday is indeed the rightful winner of the \$38 million prize. If so – we will make that announcement once the vetting process is complete.”

If the claim is determined to be incomplete or invalid, the cash value of the prize – which is \$22.9 million and is sometimes referred to as the “lump sum” – will go to California public education. The California Lottery has raised more than \$1 billion just in unclaimed prizes since Lottery tickets first went on sale in 1985.

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The California Lottery’s mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transferred to public education totaled more than \$1.88 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education’s overall budget. However, this funding is largely discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. As the jackpots continue to grow, the California Lottery would also like to remind players to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

