700 North Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95811 calottery.com



## PRESS RELEASE

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 11, 2023 Email: <u>PIO@calottery.com</u> Twitter: <u>@calotterypress</u>

## Southern California Mega Millions® Player Wins \$3.97 Million; No One Hits Jackpot!

**SACRAMENTO** – A lucky <u>Mega Millions</u> ticket sold in Los Angeles County is now worth nearly \$4 million following last night's big draw, with the anticipated jackpot of \$1.1 billion. Someone bought that winning ticket, which matched five correct numbers, at Park's Liquor on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Clark Avenue in Hacienda Heights.

Millions of California Lottery players got in on Tuesday's game, hoping to win that gigantic jackpot, but it didn't happen here or anywhere else. With no top prize winner across the United States, **the jackpot now rolls to an estimated \$1.35 billion** for the next drawing on Friday. The cash value of that prize – also known as the lump sum – is projected to be nearly \$708 million!

The climbing jackpot also is boosting sales for more than <u>23,000 Lottery retail partners</u> across the state, and those skyrocketing sales figures spell <u>big bucks for public education</u> in California. As of 8AM today, the California Lottery had raised an estimated \$90 million for public schools, kindergarten through the university level.

"We hear often from teachers, administrators, and even students how helpful Lottery funds are for a school's bottom line," said Carolyn Becker, California Lottery spokesperson. "Lottery money is largely unrestricted and helps pay for programs and services that students might not otherwise have. Raising a little extra cash for schools is the whole reason we exist, and we're very proud of our contributions."

Lottery funding is dispersed by the State Controller's Office, and the exact amounts for each district are based on average daily attendance formulas for K-12 and community colleges and by full-time enrollment for higher education and other specialized institutions. The public can see how many dollars have been distributed at the local level – by district or county – <u>using this interactive map</u> on the California Lottery website.

The Hacienda Heights liquor store that sold the ticket worth \$3.97 million will get a bonus of nearly \$20,000, thanks to the big win. The California Lottery will not know the identity of the winner until they come forward to claim their prize and their claim packet, including the winning ticket, is vetted and verified by internal security review teams. The winner has 180 days from the date of the draw to come forward.

Mega Millions draws happen on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8pm PT, with the entry period closing each night at 7:45pm PT; any tickets purchased after that are eligible for the following draw.

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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.

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