

TO: Commission Streamlining Task Force

FROM: Jamey M. Schmidt

RE: Keep the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC)

DATE: October 6, 2025

I am writing to seek your support to reverse your decision to eliminate the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC).

I am honored to have been twice appointed to the SDDTAC for 2023-2025 and 2025-2027, serving in Seat 5 (research/medical institution). I am a San Francisco resident, the Senior Director of Clinical Research at Sutter Health, a Principal Investigator studying the workplace impact of sugar-sweetened beverages, a registered dietitian, a mother, and a wife. Both personally and professionally, I am deeply aware of the burdens of diet-related diseases.

Proposition V Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax (SDDT)

In 2016, San Francisco voters passed Proposition V, establishing the SDDT—a one-cent-per-fluid-ounce tax on the distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages. This tax is levied on distributors, not consumers. Since its implementation on January 1, 2018, it has generated over \$85.6 million in revenue for the City's General Fund.

Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC)

Proposition V also created the SDDTAC, charged with making funding recommendations to improve health outcomes in communities most impacted by nutrition-sensitive chronic diseases and disproportionately targeted by the sugary drink industry. The SDDTAC ensures that investments prioritize culturally relevant, community-led solutions by a cross-sector committee of sixteen dedicated individuals bringing a broad and diverse breadth of expertise and experience.

SDDTAC: Programs Developed by Community Members to Prevent Disparities

Your evaluation of SDDTAC did not take into consideration the impact it has made on limiting health disparities associated with diet-related, chronic diseases. A portion of the funding recommendations required community members to design and implement the program that best serves them. This is why these programs and community based organizations were so impactful. The scope of SDDTAC far exceeds the scope of the recommended Food Security Task Force. Your recommendations would make these community contributions obsolete.

Funding has Eliminated Dental Sealants for at Risk Kids- Increasing Disparities

The SDDTAC has funded oral health and dental sealants for preschoolers in the Mission, Bayview/Hunters Point, Tenderloin, and Chinatown. Data collected and analyzed by SDDTAC has shown year over year that BIPOC toddlers and kindergartners have increased caries and cavities when compared to Caucasians and Asians. The impact of eliminating SDDTAC and ignoring the recommendation has resulted in eliminating the \$395K in programming to prevent disparities in oral health. Take a minute and think about dental pain. It is difficult, even impossible to eat and/or sleep. When a child has to go to the physician or emergency department, school is missed, a parent/guardian must sacrifice a day of work, and there is an expenditure of a preventable cost to healthcare.

Reconsider your Recommendation

San Francisco is recognized as being a leader in soda tax policy in the United States. Eliminating the legislatively established SDDTAC—or subsuming its budget into another task force— minimizes the agency of the sixteen committee members and the community voices we carry and therefore diminishes our near decade-long data-driven, evidence-based, and community informed recommendations.

The SDDTAC plays a vital role in ensuring recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax revenue are invested equitably, transparently, and effectively. This committee meets quorum every month and is an active committee that engages the community. I strongly urge you to recognize the ongoing value of this committee and to preserve its essential role in advancing health equity across our city.

Thank you for your consideration.