



Thursday, October 9, 2025

**Keep the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee**

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Dental Society (SFDS) to strongly urge you to continue the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC). In 2016 the Dental Society board voted to support Proposition V, the legislation that established the one-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks distribution and established the SDDTAC to provide recommendations on allotment of the tax revenues. Our support was based on the direct relationship between sugary drink consumption and dental cavities and the understanding that the tax revenues would be returned to communities through programs that supported prevention and mitigation of the health effects of sugary drink consumption.

Since 2016 SFDS members and executive staff have attended many SDDTAC meetings and observed the allocation recommendation process. The Committee has always acted to ensure that the tax revenues are used transparently, equitably, and in ways that advance community health and wellbeing. SDDTAC allocations prior to 2021 provided funding for 3 distinct community-centered oral health programs that measurably increased access to preventive dental care.

The SDDTAC was created by the will of the voters following Proposition V's passage. The recommendation to eliminate the SDDTAC would undermine public trust and voter confidence and the intent of the legislation approved by San Franciscans. We have witnessed the SDDTAC playing a vital role in ensuring accountability and in elevating the voices of the communities most impacted by sugary drink consumption.

The Commission Streamlining Task Force's recommendation that the Food Security Task Force or City staff absorb the duties of the SDDTAC may not take into account the wide scope of city agencies funded by the sugary drinks tax outside of the health department including Recreation & Park, PUC, SFUSD, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development as well as community-based organizations. It is precisely because strategies to prevent and mitigate the impacts of sugary drink consumption are broad and cross-cutting that the composition of the SDDTAC, as written in the original legislation, mirrors the same diversity. The SDDTAC is a unique structure for accountability, and we urge the Task Force to honor the will of the voters and keep the SDDTAC as an advisory body of transparency, equity, and community engagement in our city's public health efforts.

Sincerely,

Irene Hilton, DDS, MPH  
President, San Francisco Dental Society

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