

From: [Schmidt, Laura](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Re: Protect the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC)
Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025 12:00:15 PM

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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

I am a professor whose research focuses on nutrition-related chronic disease writing to **strongly urge you to preserve the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC).**

Between 2009 and 2016, I worked closely with the SFBOS, with Supervisors Scott Weiner and Eric Mar, on crafting and passing the San Francisco soda tax. Members of my team at the UCSF Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute worked throughout low-income communities in San Francisco to educate citizens about the harms of sugary beverages and the need for sound public health policies. A major factor in these communities' support for the tax during the 2016 election was the idea that a group of San Francisco's citizens would form the SDDTAC to distribute proceeds of the tax in ways that would serve the health needs of their communities.

The SDDTAC was created by the will of the voters following Proposition V's successful passage in November 2016, which established a one-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks distributed in San Francisco. The Committee's role is to ensure that these revenues are used transparently, equitably, and in ways that advance community health and wellbeing.

Peer-reviewed studies in the medical literature show that the "cash register" effect of soda taxes is a small part of why they work. Equally important is the use of tax proceeds to meet prevention goals that serve the community, such as tap water promotion, school-based nutrition reforms, and community education.

The recommendation to eliminate the SDDTAC would undermine public trust and voter confidence in the intent of the legislation approved by San Franciscans. The SDDTAC plays a vital role in ensuring accountability and in elevating the voices of communities most impacted by health inequities. It plays a vital role in fulfilling the original goals of the soda tax: to close the gap in chronic disease disparities citywide.

I 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,

Professor Laura A. Schmidt PhD
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University of California at San Francisco