

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** SDDTAC  
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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

The University of California (UC) Research Consortium on Food, Beverages and Health respectfully submits this comment to the Commission Streamlining Task Force. We write to **strongly urge you to preserve the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC).**

Formed in 2018, the Consortium works to decrease consumption of sugary beverages and to increase consumption of healthy alternatives such as water, throughout the UC system as well as at state and national levels. Our ad hoc group, consisting of faculty across the UC campuses who are nationally prominent in diverse disciplines, conducts and disseminates cutting edge research in areas relevant to the discussion on ultra-processed foods. Members have been important contributors to the policy, practice and evaluation of sugary drink excise taxes around the U.S.

We are aware that a major factor in San Francisco 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.

Peer-reviewed studies in the scientific 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. It is the SDDTAC that has the interest and the expertise to recommend SSB excise tax revenues in SF.

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.

**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 San Francisco's public health efforts.

Sincerely,

The University of California Research Consortium on Beverages and Health

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