

Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee

MINUTES

August 19, 2026

5:00pm

25 Van Ness, 6th Floor, Room 610

San Francisco, CA 94102

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order / Roll Call - [discussion and action] Meeting called to order at 5:05pm
SDDTAC members present: Chester Williams, Clara Obstfeld, Monica Ferrey, Abby Cabrera, Laura Urban, John Maa, Alesandra Lozano, Jennifer LeBarre, Shoon Mon, Saeeda Hafiz, Tiffany Kenison, Priscilla Rodriguez

SDDTAC members absent: Jamey Schmidt, Gabriela Castellanos Rumbo, Prasanthi Patel
Excused absences – Gabriela Castellanos Rumbo and Prasanthi Patel
John motions to approve excused absences for Gabriela Castellanos and Prasanthi Patel. Abby seconds. 9 votes, motion passes.
Public: Kaela Plank, Kim Wong, Molly Devinney
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of Minutes for Previous (June) Meeting [Action]
John motions to approve minutes. Chester seconds. Clara and Jennifer abstain. 10 votes, motion passes
4. Review and Consideration of Regular Agenda [Action]
Chester motions to approve agenda. Abby seconds. 12 votes, motion passes.
5. General Public Comment – No public comment
6. DPH Staff Report [Discussion and Possible Action]
 - a. SDDTAC member updates: seats 6, 11, 13, and 14
 - Seat 6 – youth, Shoon Mon – last SDDTAC meeting, since changes to in person meetings and moving out of state; expresses thanks for being a part of the SDDTAC
 - Seat 11 – oral health seat, Linda Kuo resigned from seat, staff working with DPH leadership to fill the seat
 - Seat 13 – DCYF seat, currently filled by Clara Obstfeld
 - Sea 14 – RPD seat, currently filled by Monica Ferrey
 - b. SB 707 Brown Act revisions – changes to the Brown Act require SDDT meetings to be held in person and the full committee makes the final vote actions.
7. Community Based Action Research Presentation by Molly Devinney, In-Advance [Discussion and Possible Action]

Molly presented In-Advance's results of their community-based action research. In-Advance's project phases include: (1) workgroup and community action research, (2) coalition building and wider stakeholder engagement, and (3) policy change. They coordinated a total of 1,120 surveys and 13 focus groups (225 participants) with SDDTAC's priority populations via collaboration with

community-based organizations. Topics discussed and questions related to soda tax awareness and perception. Molly reviews and highlights results specific to respondents from priority populations. She concludes presentation with policy recommendations derived from community-based action research results related to the existing soda tax and potential policy changes. In-Advance will be working on a 1-2 pager of research results that can be shared widely.

Member suggest considering spending more focus on communities impacted by sugary drinks and building a coalition.

Member suggest doing more outreach to other parts of the city. People want services and resources but do not about it.

Member shares that SDDT priority populations recommend for the soda tax allocation, has already been or is currently funded, and what the SDDTAC recommends. This work illustrates the gap and push for continued advocacy.

Member shares that the people that need to be the most aware of the tax, are most at risk. Suggests a comparison between cities that have soda taxes to identify what is happening and could be done.

Member suggests that the message framing should be that soda tax is a general tax. Messaging should include a percentage of people who are aware of the tax and some of the facts on what the tax has funded in communities, opportunity to give people information for a dedicated tax. The illustration of 10 years of budget recommendations has never been fully followed by city leadership. Identify where there was alignment and where there hasn't been.

8. SB 707 Brown Act Guidance on Teleconference Meetings for Subsidiary Bodies [Discussion and Possible Action]

Staff provide an overview of SB 707 Brown Act revisions that all public bodies are required to meet in person. Subsidiary bodies (subcommittees) can meet via teleconference (virtual) but the SDDTAC is required to authorize and vote on it. Staff share the eligible pathways for subsidiary bodies to meet virtually and the timeline. Brown Act Teleconferencing Paths:

- **Path 1: Eligible Subsidiary Bodies.** Purely advisory and cannot take final action. The meeting must identify a physical location in the city with staff present, allow two-way remote public participation, and require remote members to appear on camera except when medically or technologically infeasible
- **Path 2: Just Cause.** Childcare needs, certain medical situations, military service, or official travel. Remote attendance must be announced publicly, is limited per year, and requires an in-person quorum at a single noticed location. Meetings must allow real-time remote public participation and follow the disclosure and minute requirements in Section 54953.8.3.

Abby motions to add to the SDDTAC September 16, 2026 meeting agenda to vote for path 1 for subsidiary bodies (subcommittees) to meet via teleconference. John seconds. 11 votes. Motion passes.

9. Future of the SDDT Infrastructure Subcommittee [Discussion and Possible Action]

Chair presents the purpose of the SDDT infrastructure subcommittee and its current status of the subcommittee having only 1 member. Subcommittees are listed in the SDDTAC bylaws, and each member is required to sit on at least 1 subcommittee. Most if not all infrastructure subcommittee activities have been or are tasked to backbone staff.

Jennifer motions to add to the September 16, 2026, SDDTAC meeting agenda, agenda item for discussion and action on sunseting the infrastructure subcommittee. Alesandra seconds. 11 votes.

10. SDDTAC Budget Recommendations Process Survey Results [Discussion and Possible Action]

Staff thank members for completing the SDDTAC budget recommendations survey. 11 members completed the survey. The origin of the survey was raised from co-chairs, that there hasn't ever been an evaluation after budget recommendations are completed. Because of the accelerated budget recommendations time and two budgets submitted, it was recommended to conduct a survey. Staff share highlights of the survey result outcomes.

Member shared that the budget will not change for the upcoming years, so the bridge plan is/was a good idea that was backed up with data and important for the SDDTAC to stick to our values and be strategic.

Members discuss how oral health continues to not be a priority for the city, despite making it a priority for this committee. Important to message and uplift the lack of oral health allocations through the years. Members share that most do not see the impact of oral health on whole health and its long-term impact.

11. SDDTAC Implementation Plan 2026-2031 Updates [Discussion and Possible Action]

Staff share with members that the feedback from the May SDDTAC meeting was collected and gathered and will be filtered and added to the implementation plan and identify who will be lead for each of the activities. The purpose is to ensure that members' expertise and ideas help shape the SDDTAC's future work and reduce the need to recreate steps year to year.

Next steps will be to identify roles for SDDTAC members individually and through subcommittees to drive specific components of the plan forward.

12. Subcommittee Updates [Discussion and Possible Action]

a. Co-Chair - scheduling meeting with DPH leadership to identify alignment with the committee's priorities; recent presentation to CavityFree SF on committee's oral health priority; chairs to work on roadmap/playbook for advocacy, if others are interested in helping, inform co-chairs.

b. Infrastructure - did not meet

c. Community Input - did not meet due to lack of quorum

d. Data & Evidence – discussed SB 707 pathways for subcommittees to meet virtually, presentation from DPH Center for Data Science on SDDT 2026 data brief data collection.

13. Committee Member Proposed Future Agenda Items [Discussion and Possible Action] – 2 minutes

- Review In-Advance draft one pager
- SDDT Infrastructure subcommittee sunset vote
- SDDT subcommittees vote on meeting via teleconference
- Review timeline/process for SDDTAC budget recommendations
- Review of health disparities

14. Announcements [Discussion and Possible Action]

- Saeeda – SFUSD student art posters will be on MUNI buses; 10 buses will have artwork displayed on outside of buses.

- Shape Up SF Coalition is celebrating its 20-year anniversary throughout the month of September. [Promote event details](#) that will be featured on the [coalition's 20th anniversary website](#).
- Priscilla – [Unofficial Food Security Task Force meeting on August 26, 2026](#) at 1:30-2:30pm, agenda will include updates on Biennial Food Security and Equity report, acknowledge the work of the food security task force and updates on the Office of Food Security Coordination Legislation.
- DPH hosting two community engagement meetings for the 2nd iteration of the Biennial Food Security & Equity Report, to be published next year. Meetings on [September 29th 1-4pm](#) and [October 27 1-4pm](#).

15. Adjournment [Action]

Saeeda motions to adjourn. Clara seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 7:16pm.