

5/3/21

Mayor London Breed  
City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Breed:

We, the undersigned, are writing to respectfully request that you adopt, in full, the recommendations of the Sugary Drink Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC) into the budget you will propose to the Board of Supervisors for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23<sup>1</sup>.

The anticipated \$9.5 million in unallocated soda tax revenue and the recommendations for how to spend those funds represent an important opportunity to progressively target the revenue from the soda tax to improve the health of populations that are disproportionately impacted by soda consumption and diet-related disease while also responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This was the focus of the SDDTAC during its deliberations. Many of us attended the committee's meetings and can attest to the robust public comment from members of the community, attention to detail and in-depth discussion of various alternatives by the sixteen member advisory committee.

While the city was facing a notable budget deficit of more than \$115 million due to COVID-19 updated projections show an anticipated \$125 million surplus. This surplus and the additional support from the Federal Economic Relief Bill places San Francisco in a much better financial position than previously expected. With these funds, our coalition is even more staunch in our support of the SDDTAC's recommendations.

We strongly support the recommendations of the SDDTAC not only because they would provide funding to programs that improve community health with an equity lens, but also because it is important that the soda tax revenue be spent in a way that is guided by the committee established by voters when the tax was passed at the ballot in 2016.

We respectfully ask that you incorporate 100% of the SDDTAC's allocation recommendations into your budget and that you will continue to support the committee as it tracks implementation and expenditure of the tax revenue.

Sincerely,

**Cissie Bonini**, Executive Director, Vouchers 4 Veggies - EatSF

**Katie Ettman**, Food and Agriculture Senior Policy Associate, SPUR

**Dr. John Maa**, Board Member, American Heart Association Bay Area Division

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<sup>1</sup> Final SDDTAC Budget Recommendations for FY 21-22 and FY 22-23, March 2021, Page 15:  
[https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/SDDTAC/2021\\_SDDTAC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_and\\_Recommendations.pdf](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/SDDTAC/2021_SDDTAC_Annual_Report_and_Recommendations.pdf)

**Ileana Mar**, Executive Director, Urban Sprouts

**Sarah Nelson**, Executive Director, 18 Reasons

**Steve Pulliam**, Market Manager, Heart of the City Farmers' Market

**Jamie Stark**, Executive Director, Farming Hope

CC: Ashley Groffenberger