



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

February 16, 2022

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

Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Dear Mayor Breed and Board Members:

In accordance with Article XIII B of the State Constitution, attached is the resolution establishing the City and County's annual appropriations limit for FY 2021-22. We estimate City and County appropriations are approximately \$5,431 million below the state-mandated appropriations limit.

#### Background

Article XIII B of the State Constitution provides that annual appropriations of the City and County of San Francisco that are funded from "Proceeds of Taxes" may not exceed the City and County's appropriations limit. This limit is equal to the prior year's limit adjusted for changes in population and cost of living.

Our computation of proceeds of taxes is in accordance with California Government Code Section 7900 and conforms to "Article XIII B California Constitution Appropriations Limit Procedure Guidelines for California Counties" prepared by the County Accounting Standards and Procedures Committee (See Exhibit A).

## Annual Appropriations Limit Adjustments

Each year the City and County of San Francisco adjusts its appropriations limit based upon two factors: population growth and the cost of living as determined by California Government Code. Population growth is determined using either the change in San Francisco City and County population or the change in the nine Bay Area counties. According to the California Department of Finance, between January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, San Francisco City and County population declined by 1.70% and the Bay Area counties declined by 0.64%. The maximum growth factor, -0.64%, is used in the calculation. Cost of living is determined using either the change in California per capita personal income or the increase in the local assessment roll due to the addition of non-residential new construction. The change in per capita income for fiscal year 2020-21 is 5.73%, while the local assessment growth in 2020 due to non-residential new construction is 18.57%. The fiscal year 2021-22 increase in local assessment growth is used in the appropriations limit calculation (See Exhibit B).

## Adjustments to Proceeds of Taxes

There are certain appropriations that are excluded from proceeds of taxes, as allowed by Article XIII B. The following exclusions are factored into our calculation of Net Proceeds of Taxes:

- (1) \$291.5 million is excluded as bonded indebtedness (Article XIII B, Section 9(a));
- (2) \$120.2 million is excluded as the federal mandate for Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes (Article XIII B, Section 9(b)); and,
- (3) \$178.3 million is excluded under the determination of “qualified capital outlay” (Article XIII B Section 9(e)).

## Adjustments to the Appropriations Limit

Article XIII B allows voters to approve an increase to the appropriations limit for up to four years. In the past four years, voters approved eight measures that included increases to the appropriations limit: the Tax on Cannabis Businesses (Proposition D-November 2018), the Homeless Gross Receipts Tax (Proposition C-November 2018), the Traffic Congestion Mitigation Tax (Proposition D-November 2019), the Vacancy Tax (Proposition D-March 2020), the Parcel Tax for San Francisco Unified School District (Proposition J-November 2020), the Real Estate Transfer Tax (Proposition I-November 2020), the Executive Compensation Tax (Proposition L-November 2020), and the Business Tax Overhaul (Proposition F-November 2020). This adjustment raises the FY 2021-22 appropriations limit by \$1,744.8 million.

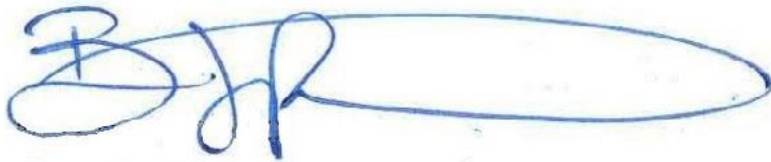
### 3 | FY 2021-22 Appropriations limit

City and County Appropriations are under the Limit

The appropriations limit for FY 2021-22 is \$10,105,172,121. We estimate that appropriations subject to limitation will be \$4,673,861,914. Thus, the Controller projects that the City and County will be \$5,431,310,207 below its limit in the current fiscal year.

It is the Controller's responsibility to monitor this appropriations limit each year for compliance. If the sum of adjusted appropriations for two consecutive fiscal years exceeds the sum of the appropriations limits for those two fiscal years, the excess must be returned to the taxpayers in the two subsequent fiscal years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Rosenfield', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller

#### Attachments

cc: Ashley Groffenberger, Mayor's Budget Director  
David Chiu, City Attorney  
Jon Givner, Deputy City Attorney  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Harvey Rose, Budget Analyst