Boulder soda tax

Projected revenue cut in half

Boulder plans how to spend funds

By Alex Burness
Staff Writer

Revenue from Boulder's recently enacted sugary-drink tax should be distributed among 16 different community groups and agencies, the city Health Equity Advisory Committee recommends.

But the pot of money those 16 will share may be considerably smaller than originally expected, as the city has revised projected revenue for the tax down to about $1.5 million a year — roughly half of what was expected.

"When we originally did the projections of $3 million a year it did not include the current exemptions," said Cheryl Pattelli,. the city's chief financial officer, in an email Thursday.

The exemptions she cited are for cocktail mixers, which were spared after liquor stores petitioned the city to be exempt from the tax, a two-cents-per-ounce levy on distributors of most sugar-sweetened beverages. The council was sympathetic to the argument that most people aren't getting fatter or harming their own health outcomes by downing daiquiri or margarita mix.

Also, Pattelli noted, the

See TAX, 9A