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## **Editorial: Needed: A peas treaty**

### **Does council know beans about gardens?**

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Back in November, when a Sacramento City Council committee mulled a proposal to restrict the growing of vegetables in front yards, this page urged the council to give peas a chance.

Since then, numerous local organizations and garden activists have taken up the cause of peas. Dozens are expected to converge on an April 3 meeting, where the full council is expected to take up a revision to the city's front yard landscape ordinance that remains unnecessarily hostile to veggies.

As amended in November, the proposed ordinance would restrict the growing of vegetables and nontree fruits to no more than 30 percent of a front yard, with no plants higher than 4 feet.

Water-sucking lawns? Fine.

Rose bushes that demand pesticides? Go ahead. Nuke your yard.

But a beautiful flowering trellis of legumes? No way, say the yard cops. Apparently, they don't want our city to showcase Native American plants, such as corn and tomatoes. They don't give a hill of beans about the burgeoning movement known as edible landscapes.

Lauren Hammond and Robbie Waters are the Ozzie and Harriet of this yard policing crusade. Fearful that dried-up corn stalks will soon replace green grass, they originally supported a restriction on vegetables to 20 percent of a front lot. At a council committee meeting in November, Sandy Sheedy persuaded the two to agree to 30 percent. To his credit, Steve Cohn refused to support this fake peas treaty and voted against the revised ordinance.

The full council should now follow Cohn's lead. As long as property owners maintain their plants -- particularly Sacramento's magnificent trees -- the City Council shouldn't be acting as a botanical Big Brother.

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