

Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 17.68.010 as Recommended by the City of Sacramento Planning Commission on January 11, 2007

Sacramento Citizens for Sustainable Landscapes respectfully requests that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance amending Section 17.68.010 as recommended by the Planning Commission, which deletes Subsection (A) (1) (c), as it arbitrarily restricts vegetables and fruits in diversified landscapes. (Full text below)

SECTION 1.

Section 17.68.010 of Title 17 of the Sacramento City Code (the Zoning Code) is amended as follows:

- a. Subsection (A) (1) of section 17.68.010 is amended to read as follows:
 - A. Landscaping Requirements in Setback Areas.
 1. Single-Family and Two-Family Residential—Front and Street Side.
 - a) Setback Area Paving Restrictions. A maximum of forty (40) percent of the required front setback area may be paved for off-street parking and driveways. An additional maximum of ten (10) percent of the front setback area may be paved for walkways or uncovered patio use. A maximum of forty (40) percent of the required street side setback area may be paved for off-street parking, driveways, walkways or uncovered patio use; however, this requirement does not apply to that portion of the street side yard located behind a fence that is in compliance with the street side fence requirements set forth in Chapter 17.76 of this title.
 - b) Landscape and Maintenance Requirements. Notwithstanding subsection (A)(1)(a) of this section, the remaining unpaved portion of the setback areas shall be landscaped, irrigated and maintained. The landscape may include grass, annuals, perennials, ground cover, shrubs, trees, and any design elements such as planters, rocks, mulch, or similar elements when integrated as part of the landscape. However, only living vegetation may be used as a primary ground cover; no cement, brick, artificial turf, or other non-vegetative products such as plastic plants or flowers may be used for this purpose. All landscaping materials shall be mowed, trimmed, and/or maintained as often as necessary to prevent overgrowth and blight. No junk, debris, or other similar materials shall be stored in the landscaped setback area.

~~c) Vegetable and Fruit Restrictions. No more than thirty (30) percent of the landscape setback area may be devoted to the growing of vegetables and/or fruit. This limitation shall not apply to fruit trees. Fruit and/or vegetable plants shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.~~

~~c) d)~~ Height Restrictions for Landscaping Located in the Clear Zone. All landscaping located within the clear zone for driveways and corner lots, as set forth in Section 17.76.010 of this title, shall not exceed four (4) feet in height, except that trees exceeding four (4) feet in height shall be allowed if the tree is maintained free of branches five (5) feet above the finished grade, as defined in Section 15.88.050 of this Code.

~~d) e)~~ Vehicle Parking Requirements. Vehicles, including but not limited to automobiles, boats, campers, trailers, and other recreational vehicles must be parked on a paved surface, as provided for in Section 10.44.010 of this Code. Such vehicles are not permitted to be parked within the landscaped setback area.

b. Except as specifically amended by subsection (A)(1) above, the provisions of section 17.68.010 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.