



The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / [Opinion](#) Metro B6

Editorial: Victory for veggies

See? The council does know beans...

- Published 12:00 am PDT Tuesday, April 10, 2007

There's some good news for Sacramento front yard gardeners: The City Council has declared a peas treaty.

Until last week, it appeared the council might approve an ordinance that would have restricted the growing of vegetables and fruit trees to no more than 30 percent of a front yard, with no plants higher than 4 feet.

Such an ordinance would have effectively banned tomato plants, beans and peas in front yards because, as everyone knows, it is hard to keep these plants lower than four feet with Sacramento's bountiful growing conditions.

Thankfully, wiser heads of cabbage prevailed. By an 8-1 margin, the council decided to delete a subsection of the landscaping ordinance that would have taken a weed-whacker to veggie gardens. Only Councilman Robbie Waters voted against the motion.

In a previous editorial, we described Waters and Councilwoman Lauren Hammond as the Ozzie and Harriet of this yard-cop crusade. On reflection, it appears Harriet was already making a break from Ozzie. She voted for the peas treaty.

This decision doesn't mean corn tassels and dead tomato plants will soon be blighting neighborhoods. Landowners are obligated to maintain their yards and remove weeds and dead shrubbery. Yet the botanical Big Brother has been beaten back. Kudos to all garden activists who campaigned for the cause of peas.