



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Code Enforcement Division

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1231 I Street, Suite 400
SACRAMENTO, CA

95814-2977

PH 916-808-5948
FAX 916-808-7722

April 29, 2005

Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Landscaping Requirements in Setback Areas

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-wide.

RECOMMENDATION:

Code Enforcement was requested to draft an ordinance to amend Sacramento City Code Chapter Section 17.68.010 A. Landscaping Requirements in Setback Areas. This revision in the current ordinance will allow greater flexibility in the planting of setback areas and more clear enforcement of the ordinance. Therefore, it is recommended that the Law and Legislation Committee review and approve the attached ordinance amending Sacramento City Code Sections 17.68.010 A. to be forwarded to City Council.

**CONTACT PERSONS: Max B. Fernandez, Director Area 1, 808-8183
Ron O'Connor, Code Enforcement Manager, 808-8183**

FOR COMMITTEE MEETING OF: May 17, 2005

SUMMARY:

This report is in response to the request that the current ordinance relating to landscape requirements in setback areas be amended. The current ordinance (see Exhibit A-dirty) specifies that the landscaped setback areas in single-family and two-family residential zones shall be irrigated and maintained with "*primarily low ground cover or turf*" and that "*only living vegetation may be used as ground cover.*" The draft ordinance (Exhibit B-clean) proposes that the setback areas which require landscaping shall be irrigated and maintained with "*living vegetation.*" The amendment provides adequate regulation

by continuing to require that the setback landscape be irrigated and maintained. It does not, however, specify that this must be done with mostly low ground cover or turf (as per the existing ordinance).

BACKGROUND:

Questions regarding the regulation of landscape in residential setback areas were brought to the attention of the Code Enforcement Division of Neighborhood Services Department. The concerned voices of the City's residential communities and Sacramento gardeners expressed the need for clarification and possible amendment of the existing ordinance. Therefore, the attached ordinance amendment was drafted to better serve the City's residents and gardeners. The amendment will help property owners and gardeners to comply with this City Code by being more flexible while still achieving aesthetically pleasing landscapes. Staff requests review of the proposed ordinance amendment by the Law and Legislation Committee for referral to City Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report has no fiscal implications at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report is not considered a project and therefore has no potential for an effect on the environment as stated by the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15061 (b) (3)).

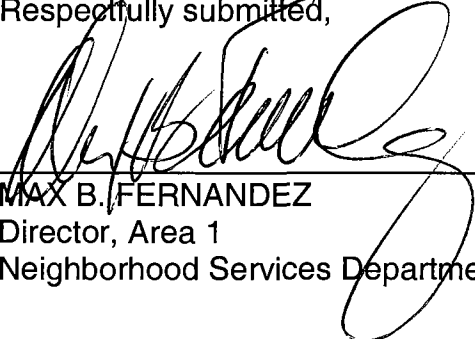
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This report is consistent with policies associated with the City's goal to enhance and preserve the neighborhoods.

E/SBD:

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,



MAX B. FERNANDEZ
Director, Area 1
Neighborhood Services Department

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



KEN NISHIMOTO
Deputy City Manager

Attachments

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ORDINANCE NO.

EXHIBIT A

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.68.010 (A) OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS IN SETBACK AREAS

SECTION 1.

Section 17.68.010 (A) of the Sacramento City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. Single-Family and Two-Family Residential - Front and Street Side. A maximum of forty (40) percent of the 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 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 17.72 of this title. The remaining portion of the setback areas shall be landscaped, irrigated and maintained with ~~primarily low ground cover or turf. Only living vegetation may be used as ground cover.~~ Vehicles, including but not limited to autos, boats, campers, trailers, and other recreational vehicles, are not permitted to be parked within the landscaped setback area; they must be parked on a paved surface.

DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:

DATE ENACTED:

DATE EFFECTIVE:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

ORDINANCE NO. _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

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ORDINANCE NO.

EXHIBIT B

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.68.010 (A) OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, RELATING TO LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS IN SETBACK AREAS

SECTION 1.

Section 17.68.010 (A) of the Sacramento City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

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DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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DATE ADOPTED: _____

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