California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

**Minutes**

Friday, March 19, 2021

9:30 AM – 11:40 AM

Held on Zoom

1. **Call to Order -** *Acting Chair Tiffany Meyer, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection*

Chair introduced herself and described the objectives of the meeting. Roll was called, and committee members and advisors were afforded time to briefly introduce themselves and their interest in the Committee.

Committee Members: *all voting members were present*

* Department of Water Resources (**Clayton Guiraud**)
* Department of Parks and Recreation (**Daniel Walsh**)
* Department of Fish and Wildlife (**Richard Lis**)
* Department of Conservation (**Janine Bird**)
* Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)
* Native American Heritage Commission (**Christina Snyder**)
* California State Library (**Greg Lucas**)
* California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

Ex-Officio Members:

*Present*

* Department of Transportation (Jeanie Ward-Waller and **Amar Azucena Cid**)
* Select Committee on Native American Affairs (**Assembly-member James C Ramos**)
* Legislative Black Caucus (**Jannel Jackson** *for designee TBD*)
* Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (**Jacob Fraker** *for designee Senator Susan Eggman*)

*Absent*

Latino Legislative Caucus (Assembly-member Luz Rivas); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (Assembly-member Ash Kalra); Legislative Women’s Caucus (designee TBD)

Federal Advisors:

*Present*

* United States Geological Survey (**Carol Ostergren**)
* United States Forest Service (**Rich Spradling**)

*Absent*

United States Bureau of Land Management (designee TBD); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (designee TBD); National Park Service (designee TBD)

Emeritus Advisors: *all emeritus advisers were present*

* **Jim Trumbly**, former Chair, retired State Parks
* **Will Patterson**, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Non-committee guests: Wade Crowfoot; Avital Barnea; Jane Schafer-Kramer; Jennifer Runyon; Matthew O’Donnell; Sue Tyson; Kira Healey (recording minutes); James Pearce (Technology facilitator)

1. **Introductions**

CNRA Secretary, Wade Crowfoot, welcomed the new committee members and shared context for the existence of the committee, the recent additions to its membership and the new charter and procedures

CalSTA Deputy Secretary Avital Barnea, spoke on behalf of the California State Transportation Agency Secretary, David S. Kim, to confirm support for advancing racial equity, justice and inclusion through the work of the committee.

1. **Charter Overview & Committee Procedures** - *Acting Chair Tiffany Meyer, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection*

* Brief history of the Committee – *Jim Trumbly, former Chair, retired State Parks*

Emeritus advisor Trumbly discussed the history of geographic naming boards and committees in the state of California, their place within the Federal process, the current committee’s past processes and the research involved, and shared stories of several cases from his time as a voting member.

* Overview of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names – *Jennifer Runyon & Matthew O’Donnell, U.S. BGN*

US BGN researcher Runyon discussed the history of geographic naming in the United States, the makeup of the federal committee, and its processes. She gave an overview of the Principles, Policies and Procedures which govern their process and inform the work of the CACGN committee members in researching the naming of California geographic features. Runyon also described the end product of the work, as entered in the US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), and the use of the database.

* Geographic name change proposal application and vetting process – *Acting Chair Tiffany Meyer, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection*

Chair described the name change proposal vetting process completed by the CACGN after it is approved for review by the BGN, including the tracking of case progress up to the point of a vote and the subsequent submission of the committee recommendation to the BGN for decision.

* Committee member roles and responsibilities – *Tiffany Meyer*

Chair provided a clear overview of what committee members will be asked to do during their term, and reminded members that the committee provides recommendations to the BGN based on their parameters, but does not make final decisions on name changes.

1. **Preparations for Future Committee Meetings** - *Acting Chair Tiffany Meyer, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection*

Chair gave an overview of pending and potential cases for the next meeting, and asked committee members to reserve the full days for the tentatively scheduled meetings in May and August.

* + Meeting #2 - tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 7
  + Meeting #3 - tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 13

1. **Chair opened the floor for questions and comments from the committee members.**