

CALIFORNIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Department of Conservation
801 K Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California
9:30 A.M.

1. Call to Order at 9:35 a.m.

Attendance

Members present: Wanish, Meyer, Chambers, Patterson/Morrison, and Veisze

Advisors present: Ostergren, Steber

Visitors present: Anita Carney

2. Approval of minutes for July 13, 2011 meeting

The minutes were approved electronically without change.

3. Consideration of Names Proposals on Pending Quarterly Lists

Review List 396

Region IV (Veisze)

Roosevelt Point

Veisze and National Park Service officials were able to visit the proposed site, which is the only unnamed feature in proximity to where President Roosevelt and John Muir likely camped in 1903. The visit provided several crucial facts. The original coordinates given for the proposed site were wrong; the correct coordinates were confirmed by Yosemite staff. The feature is now conclusively established as a "point," visible from the valley floor. The location of Sentinel Creek is incorrectly mapped on the Half Dome quadrangle as confirmed by LIDAR and Yosemite staff. It actually passes right by the proposed site. Judge William Alsop joined the conversation by telephone and supported the new information provided. Alsop will amend his original proposal to the USBGN to correct both the coordinates and the creek location. A correction to the Half Dome quadrangle will also be proposed by Steber.

A recommendation for approval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends approving the proposed change for the reasons cited here. Yea 5, No 0.

- *Significant contribution in conformance with Policy III, Section II, USBGN. Roosevelt is the only documented sitting president to have visited Yosemite. He was responsible for the recession of the site to national park land, providing permanent protection and expanding the park to include Yosemite Valley in 1906, a direct result of his 1903 visit to the area.*

- *Although Roosevelt Point is in a wilderness area, the proposal meets criteria for exceptions, which include an educational or interpretive purpose; a link to a visit, activity, incident, or resource that has direct association with the feature; and conformance to all other NPS and USBGN policies on commemorative names.*
- *The proposed site and name are comparable with the event. The legacy of the individual and the 1906 expansion of the park will allow interpretation and education given the geographical association of the proposed site with the actual location of their camp.*
- *Public safety should not be an issue for visitors to the site. The Pohono trail is approximately 200 meters from the site.*
- *Placing the name on maps will not compromise rules on spatial arrangements (clutter).*

Review List 404

Region V (Chambers)

Lucky Bastard Canyon

Local usage is noted on San Diego County Sheriff's Department maps. Original proposal carried a typo in the coordinates; land status determined to be partially in Anza Borrego State Wilderness and partially BLM. Seven other "bastard" names appear in the GNIS. The definition of "derogatory" is central to this proposal; National Board Policy 2, Section 3: to be offensive, the name must be directed to a specific racial, ethnic or religious group. Based on this definition, the name is vulgar rather than derogatory.

A letter from Thomas Zale, BLM, indicated he does not believe the name is in good taste, would be perceived as derogatory, and will cause offense; it serves no public purpose. Kathy Dice, Anza Borrego Superintendent, indicated she would probably say no, expressing concern that park visitors would find the name offensive. She suggested using a Spanish name or the Spanish translation of "lucky bastard" as an alternative. Veisze recommends passing on the alternative name idea in the recommendation.

Meyer noted the system for informal names used in CalFire for local searches; the Sheriff's Department is likely to continue to use this as an informal name. The Department appears to be the lone supporter for the name.

A recommendation for disapproval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends disapproving the proposed change for the reasons cited here. Yea 5, No 0. The alternative name idea should be included with this recommendation.

- *No local support for the name.*
- *This was an incident rather than an associated death.*

- *Administrative agencies in the local area recommend disapproval.*

Review List 405

Region III (Meyer)

Ogilvie Island

The ephemeral nature of the island/sand bar remained at the heart of the discussion. USGS geomorphologist Jaffe indicated that the island is still building, but an increased tidal prism between low and high tides could cause it to disappear; it could also last decades. Eric Mruz echoed the same opinion. Runyon indicated that the ephemeral nature is not something that makes or breaks a decision as the name will stay on the map.

It was confirmed with the County Acting Planning Manager that Mr. Ogilvie was indeed a county employee. Other means of commemoration were not acceptable to the Refuge.

Meyer has received support from the San Francisco National Wildlife Refuge and San Francisco Bay National Estuary Reserve and no objection from State Lands Commission. No tribal objections have been received. San Francisco Bay Citizens Committee and Santa Clara County provided strong support.

A recommendation for approval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends approving the proposed change for the reasons cited here. Yea 5, No 0.

- *Local support from the refuge, county, and other local boards and groups familiar with the individual.*

Review List 407

Region II (Wanish)

Butterfly Creek

This proposal has been withdrawn by the proponent and will be re-filed with the name Black Miner Creek. USBGN has contacted local historical societies, but has no answers yet on mining activity in the area. Some evidence exists of a “Nigger Creek” hydraulic mine in the area. Evidence exists that a 1991 county highway map and GNIS show the name as Negro Creek. The county has indicated no problem with the use of Negro. Veisze recalls the precedent from the 1960s that changed all forms of Nigger to Negro.

Defer consideration until a later time and additional information is received.

Region III (Meyer)

Dufer Point

The name is proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation's Central California Area Manager with support from other USBR officials. Local usage is Government Point. Dufer was the individual credited with drafting plans to revitalize a rundown area, creating more public access and recreational improvements at Lake Berryessa despite litigation by a local tribe, which they lost.

Support for the change comes from Napa County, Congressman Mike Thomas; the Boating Task Force is willing to change name in their next edition; Fish and Game is neutral on the change – Dufer also worked with them.

An agency commemorating one of its own employees generally is not accepted by USBGN. There is no evidence of this person transcending his work at the agency. Local usage is for another name in USBR documents.

A recommendation for disapproval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends disapproving the proposed change for the reasons cited here. Yea 5, No 0.

- *Agency commemorating one of own without recognition beyond agency*
- *Local usage is for another name*

Region III (Meyer)

Fossil Point

Defer consideration until a later time.

Adjourned at 12:35 pm and resumed at 12:55 pm for a working lunch.

Region V (Chambers)

San Gabriel Mountains

Chambers summarized the lengthy history of BGN action defining the extent of this mountain range, especially in 1927 when it was named and extents described, and in 1937 when the description was amended for clarity, and the re-confirmation of the names and extents in the 1950s and 1960s. Chambers discovered that the "Description" in the GNIS "Feature Detail Report for: San Gabriel Mountains" was different than the 1937 amended description and very ambiguous. He contacted Jennifer Runyon at the BGN and pointed out the discrepancy. Runyon confirmed the discrepancy and had it corrected.

BGN sent letters out to numerous sources seeking opinions. Nearly all respondents were opposed to the proposed extending of the San Gabriel Mountain Range, including California State Geologist, John G. Parrish, Ph. D, PG. Doctor Parrish stated in a letter to Lou Yost of the BGN, that the "California Geological Survey does not believe that the proposal to extend the name San Gabriel Mountains northwestward beyond Highway 14 and the Soledad

Canyon area is supported by the topographic setting, the geologic composition, or the historic and current name usage..”.

Nearly all respondents echoed this sentiment.

US Forest Service (USFS) – Officially opposed. Joan Steber forwarded an email to Chambers from Randall J. Gould, USFS Minerals and Geology, explaining why the USFS is opposed.

County of Los Angeles has no opinion.

Chambers contacted local historians. One letter from a historian on US Forest Service letterhead suggests the range ends at Soledad Canyon; Steber will check on this source. In talking to individuals from the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, they seemed to be very aware that the San Gabriel Mountains stopped at the Soledad Canyon. In general, some historians knew where the subject range extents are, and some did not. Opinion on the extension varied.

Examples of local usage of the extended boundaries provided by the proponent as found on various websites including the following were :

- Friends of the River, Wild and Scenic River map Resources Agency, Mountains and Rivers website – cut and paste name on graphics, but does not agree with area as shown on another agency map
- Maps from Professor Norris, Pomona - maps cited are too general; verbally indicated to Chambers that definition should not be changed
- UCLA field trip guide – uses Norris map also

A recommendation for disapproval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends disapproving the proposed change for the reasons cited here. Yea 5, No 0.

- *Expert opinion of the California State Geologist and Dr. Jacobson is there no reason for change.*
- *USFS does not support change.*
- *Historical usage of extent since 1927.*

Review List 408

Region IV (Veisze)

Clem Nelson Peak

Defer consideration until a later time.

4. Current Items and Activities of Interest

- a. Paul Veisze will assume the chair's duties from Barbara Wanish
 - i. Any records from the last 7 years should go to Wanish

- ii. Wanish received well-deserved kudos for “able service and record keeping” as did the California Geological Survey for their active agency support of the CACGN.
- b. Sara Morrison is the new DGF member.
 - i. Will Patterson would like to continue as an Advisor, and Google Earth guru.
 - ii. Carol Ostergren asked about having the Intertribal Council of California as a contact. Wanish indicated that California defers tribal contact to the USBGN for the first contact with all tribes within 50 miles; more ably facilitates replies. The Native American Heritage Commission is on the roster for a representative.
- c. Discussion period request was withdrawn by Steber..
- d. COGNA changed from fall 2012 to spring 2013 in Minneapolis, April 30-May 4.
- e. Media contact on Alexander Valley was quick; reasons for CACGN recommendations need to be prepared by end of meeting so that they can be provided to USBGN immediately and available for media if required.
- f. Mount Andrea Lawrence is being re-proposed by Senator Boxer. The bill passed through the Senate on October 29, 2011, but has received no further activity.

5. Time and place of next meeting

July 18, 2012 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m. in CGS Headquarters conference room, 801 K Street, Sacramento, 12th floor, unless otherwise noticed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.