

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

MINUTES

January 20, 2016

Department of Conservation
801 K Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California

1. Call to Order—9:30am

Attendance-- *Members:* Guiraud; McCrea; Meyer (Chair); Morrison; Veisze;
Advisors: Crocker; Ostergren; Wanish; Trumbly; Spero;
Guests: Spradling, Silva (Minutes)

2. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of July 15, 2015

The 7/15/15 Minutes were approved electronically by the committee.

3. Introduction/Announcements

- 2016 COGNA Conference in Reno NV: May 3-7. Registration is \$200. Wanish, Ostergren and Trumbly are interested in going.
- Roster update. Passed around for updates.
- Soon to be released cases:
 - a. Bartholomew Peak, Fresno, resubmittal, on Forest Service land.
 - b. Tubsinte Hill, San Francisco County
 - c. Nawani Peak – Santa Rosa Island, Santa Barbara County

4. Consideration of Names Proposals on Pending Review Lists

Review List 416

Region II (McCrea)

Damalung Lake, Delmooh Valley, Delunga Peak, Seshme Creek,

McCrea stated that he has heard from one Sierra County representative regarding name change for Damalung Lake, and they were against it. Portola Historical Group is against the proposal. There has been no return contact from Plumas County or interested Native American parties. NAHC has been solicited to help contact the Maidu tribe. Also working with Ca Dept Parks and Rec archeologist Denise Jaffke to contact Maidu. Jim Spero suggested talking to a non-bias linguist for an opinion on whether “Squaw” is derogatory. Jim Trumbly pointed out that the American Indian Movement (ALM) claims that the word is derogatory, yet other tribes say it’s not. So it’s a case by case situation, thus the importance of getting the local tribe opinion. Other concerns were that the unfamiliar proposed names could potentially be a safety issue, and also that the original names are referred to in some books.

Deferred: Waiting for Plumas NF and Maidu opinion.

Review List 420

Region II (McCrea)

Entin Peak

McCrea provided background, review of his consultation efforts, and geographic overview of the site. Located in the Squaw Valley Recreational Area, the proposed naming of an unnamed peak is to commemorate a ski patrol member named Andrew “Eskie” Entin, who lost his life in the line of duty. It was suggested that the nickname could be a better proposed name. It was learned that the name has been in local use for 6-7 years and that a petition was circulated in support of the name and 1000’s of signatures were gathered. Trumbly pointed out that there is another peak in that same area called Billy’s Peak that was named after a Search and Rescue (SAR) that died on the job. Squaw Valley Ski Patrol have offered no input on the proposed feature name. It was noted that 1) nicknames are the norm for naming convention in the area, and 2) although there is local prominence for the name, there is no state or historic prominence.

Deferred. Waiting for USFS and Squaw Valley Ski Resort opinion.

Review List 420

Region IV (Veisze)

Smatko Peak

This proposed peak is located in the Sequoia National Forest. Dr. Andrew J. Smatko was a mountaineer, Farquahar Mountaineering Award winner, co-author of the Mountaineers Guide to the Light Sierra, and an early member of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. The name Smatko Peak was originally proposed for a summit in the Golden Trout Wilderness, and there is some evidence that location is already referred to by the hiking community as Smatko Peak, including on the summitpost.org Web site.

As the new proposed summit is located in a national forest, the committee is deferring consideration until Forest Service input can be provided.

Deferred. Waiting for USFS and Native American opinions.

Review List 420

Region III (Meyer)

Wiinahmin Hill

Meyer provided the background and research for this naming of a previously unnamed hill in San Francisco, on the border of San Mateo County, very close to the Cow Palace. The proposed name means “bird” in the Rammaytush Ohlone language, one of only 104 known words in that language. Meyer consulted with Alan Leventhal who is an archeologist/ethnohistorian from SJSU and linguist familiar with the Ohlone language, and he noted that the archeologist Richard Levy never spoke to tribes, he just published Harrington’s notes, so his reference

is mediocre. An official letter was provided by the Muwekma Ohlone tribe that “Wenahmon Huyah” is the more correct spelling of the word. The City/County of San Francisco provided a letter stating that they have no formal position on the proposal.

Meyer recommended disapproval, and Veisze seconded. CACGN voted to recommend disapproval (5-0). No overriding reason to name the feature. Spelling is not the same as what was recommended by Ohlone Language Committee (Wenahmon). No discernable direct connection between the proposer and the name.

Review List 421

Region V (Guirard)

Alberhill Canyon

This approximately 3.3-mile-long valley is proposed to be named Alberhill Canyon in association with the historical mining community of Alberhill, which lies close to the mouth of the valley, near Interstate 5. The canyon is in the hills to the north of town. Almost all of the canyons south of I-5 are named, but very few to the north are named. The stream that flows through the canyon is known informally as Alberhill Canyon Creek. As development is increasing in the area of Alberhill, creating the potential loss of the small town, the proponent feels that naming the canyon would memorialize the name.

Guirard recommended approval, and McCrea seconded. CACGN voted to recommend approval (5-0). The naming would save the place name, and improve safety for SAR and wildfires.

Review List 421

Region V (Guirard)

Dorn Ridge

Guirard provided background. This 1.6-mile-long ridge is located partially within Angeles National Forest. The name honors Walter Dorn (deceased) who was active in the nearby community of Green Valley. The proponent is Mr. Dorn’s grandson. There was no response from the county or local Native American tribes. The town of Green Valley was not asked about the proposed name. As the feature is partially located within National Forest boundary, deferral is recommended until Forest Service is able to comment. It was pointed out that there are an abundance of other named features in this area, and that there is no evidence of the type of contributions that the honoree had in the area. The onus is on the proposer to demonstrate the influence that he had on the area (i.e. Fire Department or conservation positive impact?).

Deferred. Waiting for USFS opinion and further evidence of impact in area.

Review List 421

Region III (Meyer)

P'da Hau

North Fork P'da Hau

South Fork P'da Hau

This proposal is for a name change from the current “Garcia River” to P'da Hau. The Garcia River enters the Pacific Ocean just north of Point Arena. According to the proponents, who are members of the Community Council of the Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, “p'da hau” is the original Pomo Indian name for the river. The name of the Garcia River comes from Rafael Garcia, owner of a land grant in the area in the mid-1800s but he didn't stay in the area for very long, and its usage can be traced back to 1943, when it appeared on USGS topographic maps. The river flows through several jurisdictions, including the Manchester-Point Arena Rancheria and into the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument (Bureau of Land Management). The local BLM field officer submitted a letter supporting the proposal but the Washington office overrode the local opinion of not supporting the proposal. Meyer recommends deferral to the next meeting to allow for more study and input from local and state agencies.

Deferred. More local input needed from County, Ca State Parks and Rec.

Review List 422

Region II (McCrea)

Racoon Creek

This is a proposal to change the name of Coon Creek to Racoon Creek, which flows within the Hidden Falls Regional Park in Placer County. The usage is not considered to be derogatory. More information needed.

Deferred. Will be contacting BGN to inquire why this proposal was resubmitted.

BGN agreed with all previous CACGN Recommendations.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

CACGN will meet on 7/13/2016 at the Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, 12th floor, Sacramento, California. 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.