

CALIFORNIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Department of Conservation
801 K Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, California
9:30 A.M.

1. **Call to Order at 9:32 a.m.**

Attendance

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

Advisors present: Trumbly, Hawkins,

Visitors present: Pete Downs

2. **Approval of minutes for January 19, 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 contacted Yosemite National Park again to clarify their position on the location. Park service staff has not yet been able to visit the actual proposed site to check visitor accessibility issues. Trumbly met with William Alsop in July and viewed a photo of the site. While there is a commanding view, it is not the elevation of either Glacier or Taft, but would commemorate the only sitting president to visit Yosemite. He also indicated that a friend, the former president of the Yosemite Association, made the original proposal with approval of the Association. The friend has since died (in the park). Veisze noted that an exception to the rule of no new names in wilderness areas or some other point to consider may be necessary, but he would not let this proposal go away. *Defer for national park staff visit to site.*

Review List 401

Region III (Meyer)

Alexander Mountain

Meyer checked further into potential safety and navigation issues with fire and safety personnel. CAL FIRE's division chief in the area indicated no problems with multiple names as they tag them with alternate names in their GPS system. Summing up, Meyer found no strong case for changing the Black Mountain name to Alexander Mountain for the following reasons:

- Currently and historically, the name Black Mountain is used extensively.

- The change is controversial among local jurisdictions; some supported, others did not.
- No direct association of the feature with pioneer Cyrus Alexander.
- Multiple features named Black Mountain in Sonoma County pose no confusion among public safety providers.
- Commercial implication to the name in that an application has been made to create an Alexander Mountain wine appellation.

Discussion focused on the National Board guidelines relating to permanency of name and local usage. *A recommendation for disapproval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends disapproving the proposed change for the reasons cited above. Yea 5, No 0.*

Review List 404

Region IV (Veisze)

Wünüpü Peak

The renaming of this feature is proposed to change a current name considered derogatory by some. The diacritics in the name are admissible because they are part of the Roman alphabet in use in the U.S. and because they tend to fall away in vernacular usage. The Paiute language, from which this name is drawn, has an active language preservation effort. The Big Pine/Paiute tribe was initially unaware that they could submit their own alternative name proposal and supported the name Clem Nelson Peak for this feature. The tribe and the Nelson family have amicably agreed to support this name for commemoration elsewhere. The Clem Nelson name originally appeared on List 402 and was withdrawn in response to the tribal proposal before CACGN consideration.

This feature is one of two peaks separated by a saddle; the other peak is named with an indigenous name. The feature is not a strongly prominent peak, but meets the criteria of a summit. Other controversial names in the area (Squaw Flat, Squaw Springs) will be recommended for change later. Veisze noted that he has rarely seen such extensive documentation from a tribe. Given the strong tribal support, the withdrawal of the previously proposed Nelson name, and lack of other responses to requests for input, the name is recommended for approval. *A recommendation for approval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends approving the proposal. Yea 5, No 0.*

Region V (Chambers)

Lucky Bastard Canyon

Uncertainty over the exact coordinates (two different sets) and land status for the feature still exist (the canyon appears to be 60% federal land and 40% state land). This is a new name for an unnamed feature. Chambers reported that the local sheriff patrol maps do use

this name. The definition of “derogatory” is central to this proposal; Trumbly pointed to National Board Policy 2, Section 3. To be offensive, the name must be directed to a specific racial, ethnic or religious group. Given the need to resolve the discrepancies in the coordinates and verify the details about the person rescued, Chambers recommended deferring action. Hawkins will check with the local BLM field office as well. *Defer for further research.*

Review List 405

Region III (Meyer)

Ogilvie Island

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. The critical question for this proposal whether the feature is permanent. Expert opinion from Bruce Jaffee, a USGS oceanographer/geomorphologist, is that it may last decades, but that permanency of the feature is not clear. Trumbly provided a historical perspective on naming approaches. California tends to equate the magnitude of the individual with the magnitude of the feature. To consider any commemorative name in a national park area, the name should be nationally important, or have national recognition or reputation in field outside of California. This is not as strong on BLM or Forest Service areas. Another possibility for the Refuge to consider would be to commemorate the individual by a trail or building name rather than a physical, topographical feature that requires Board approval. Meyer will check with Jenny Runyon on precedents for naming potentially ephemeral features and with State Lands on the rationale for naming any of these islands. *Defer for further research.*

Region V (Chambers)

Ned Douglass Hill

The topographical feature is rapidly being overtaken by Hemet’s city limits; it is owned by the Metropolitan Water District and La Habra Land District. The Board of Geographic Names contacted Hemet, Riverside County, and local Indian tribes. The County opposed the name, but without reason given. A local historian could find no written references to the hill. Local support appears to be nil. Members discussed National Board Policy III guidelines for commemorative names, which require having a long-term association with feature or providing significant contribution to the area. Given that the person has only four years’ association with the area, this guideline is not met. *A recommendation for disapproval was moved and seconded with all confirming that CACGN recommends disapproving the proposal. Yea 5, No 0.*

Review List 406

Pine Creek proposal has been withdrawn.

4. Current Items and Activities of Interest

a. Items of interest:

Sam Clemens Cove, Nevada – BGN set to not approve the change.
Mount Andrea Lawrence – The proposal died, but was reintroduced by Barbara Boxer as a House Resolution using the second route to naming topographical features.

Trumbly described several new place name resources by Peter Browning: *Place Names of Sierra Nevada* (Third edition, 2011) and *Yosemite Place Names* (Second edition, 2005), and *Tahoe Beneath the Surface*, Scott Lanksford, Sierra College Press.

Trumbly also noted his concern that 15' quadrangles, which are supposed to contain records of changes based on local authorities and field research are being destroyed or lost in warehouses. These are a valuable part of the BGN review and confirmation by state boards.

b. CACGN recommendations and [BGN decisions]

i. Quarterly Review List 392

Region II (Wanish) - Sharsmith Peak

Recommended disapproval [BGN Not approved, Feb. 17, 2011 meeting.] After languishing since 2004, the person was honored in some other way.

ii. Quarterly Review List 404

Region II (Wanish) - Seamus Creek

Recommended disapproval. [BGN agrees with CACGN.]

iii. Quarterly Review List 403

Grainger Spring (Meyer) –recommended approval.

Many Graingers in the area; they once owned the land. [BGN agrees with CACGN.]

c. **Review List 407** (due out this week)

According to Jenny Runyon, this new list will include a change application for the San Gabriel Mountains that would extend its range much farther west, across Interstate-5 into Ventura County. Two mountain passes now define the range. Part of the argument for the change is based on a geologic definition of the mountain range. Antelope Valley Conservancy is making the proposal.

5. Time and place of next meeting

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 p.m.