

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

MINUTES

July 13, 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; Trumbly; Wanish; Spradling,
Ferguson
Guests: Silva (Minutes), Sal Martinez, proponent for Pomo Tribe
P'da Hau proposal, was on the phone.

2. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of January 20, 2016

The 1/20/16 Minutes were approved electronic by the Committee.

3. Introductions / Announcements

- a. Chair transition: Morrison will assume chair position on January 1st, 2017. Meyer will remain on the committee.
- b. Report by Wanish on the 2016 COGNA Conference in Reno, NV May 3-7.
- c. Soon to be released: Nisenan Valley (Squaw Valley), Daou Mountain.

4. Consideration of Names Proposals on Pending Review Lists

Review List 416

Region II (McCrea)

Damalusung Lake, Delmooah Valley, Delunga Peak, Seshme Creek,

McCrea stated that he learned of a website for Native American contacts, and was able to correspond with the Greenville Rancheria (Maidu) representative. They have already begun the process of changing some of the names from Squaw to Maidu names, including sites that the Washoe have not identified.

The USFS has identified a total of 10 features in the area named Squaw. No response from the Plumas or Sierra NF for the 4 proposed changes. The USFS has been contacted and are engaged, so we are anticipating a response by the 1/17 meeting.

Deferred pending USFS opinion

Review List 419

Region IV (Veize)

Liebre Twins

This proposal was recommended for disapproval by the CACGN in July 2015, but the Proponent has asked the committee to re-review it. The application (location) of the original name is long-standing. There was discussion of the possibility of a variant *location* for the subject name. There is a hiking trail that goes to the currently named peak. No new information since the last vote.

Veize recommended disapproval for safety reasons and permanence of name. CACGN voted to recommend disapproval (5-0).

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 learned that the name has been in local use for 6-7 years and that a petition was circulated in support of the name. Squaw Valley Ski Patrol have offered no input on the proposed feature name. Placer County likes the proposed name change and there is much local support. As the feature is on USFS land, and the national lands require national name recognition or military service, it might be more appropriate to memorialize Mr. Entin with a plaque or trail, but not a geographic feature.

CACGN deferred pending USFS 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, 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 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.

CACGN deferred pending USFS opinion

Review List 421

Region V (Guirard)

Dorn Ridge

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. It was noted that there are an abundance of other named features in the area, and that there is no evidence of the type of contributions that the honoree had in the area. As the feature is partially located within National Forest boundary, deferral is recommended until Forest Service is able to comment. Spradling pointed out that ridges usually get a singular point named, and that it's possible that the grandson is commemorating a former USFS employee, and if this is the case then the USFS will require a Brief from the chief.

CACGN deferred pending USFS opinion

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, who was given a land grant in the area in 1844 for his service in the Mexican military. Garcia build the first sawmill in the area at Allen Gulch and had a vacation home in the area, but the Garcia family settled and ran cattle on his Marin County land grant. Garcia sold the Mendocino land to Don Jose Leandro Luco in 1854 after land disputes due to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848). Some historical sources (Fradkin 2011) claim that Garcia and local ranchers used local Indians as slaves and violently raided villages to acquire them.

Proponent Sal Martinez, representing the Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, stated that Garcia's bad treatment of the Native Americans has given the name a negative connotation. Further, he pointed out a 1908 map showing the name P'da Hau for the local village.

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).

Meyer noted the varying opinions of the many jurisdictions in the affected area:

Against:

Conservation Fund (because of safety and signage)

No response:

BLM HQ, Manchester State Park, other Native American tribes in the area.

For:

Manchester-Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians (proponents), Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Potter Valley tribes, Little River Band of Redwood Valley Rancheria, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, and the Point Arena City Council. Also, the Ukiah BLM branch supports the name changes.

No Opinion:

Manchester State Park, Other tribes.

Trumbly stated that the Garcia River place name is one of the oldest place names in California, and has established local usage. Local support doesn't negate the fact that the name has wide usage beyond the community. Also, the name itself isn't derogatory. Could perhaps make a recommendation for a name variant, but proposal is for name change.

Proponent Martinez noted that the river name was originally P'da Hau, but was changed by white settlers and so should be returned to its old name to improve Native American positive awareness and give back a sense of identity.

NOAA representative Ferguson noted that Garcia River is on an 1888 chart, and that there is no safety issue or POI.

Proponent Martinez was asked to leave the meeting during the voting.

Meyer recommended approval, and Veisze seconded. The vote was (2-3), so there was not a majority vote for approval, so the CACGN recommends disapproval. There was concern of losing the long established and historical permanence of the current, long standing name (1888), and the name was not found to be technically derogatory.

Guiraud had to leave the meeting early, so there were 4 voting members for the remainder of the cases reviewed.

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 origin of the name is unknown. The usage is not considered to be derogatory, and has been in use since 1851. Sutter County is against the name change, and Placer County has no comment. Congressman Gallagher is against change.

McCrea recommended disapproval, and Veisze seconded. CACGN voted to recommend disapproval (4-0) to maintain historical usage, and the name was not found to be derogatory.

Review List 423
Region IV (Veisze)
Bartholomew Peak

Deferred pending USFS opinion

Review List 423
Region III (Meyer)
Nawani Peak

This unnamed 1,573-foot summit is located on Santa Rosa Island, one of the five islands in the Channel Islands National Park. Located in Santa Barbara County and Channel Islands National Park. Proponent is a Park Service employee, but the Park Service is not involved.

CACGN deferred. Waiting for more research. Confirmation is needed on management designation (wilderness/non wilderness), use of the name by the correct native America group, and that it's a different peak that is locally known as Vail Peak.

Review List 423
Region III (Meyer)
Tortuga Creek

The name has been in local usage for approximately 15 years.

CACGN deferred. Need to get main land owner opinion. Recommending CA State Parks to conduct a land survey to identify whether the creek crosses State Parks property.

Review List 423
Region III (Meyer)
Tubsinte Hill

There is no supporting information for this proposal, and there has been no local government or tribe input.

Meyer recommended disapproval, and Veisze seconded. CACGN voted to recommend disapproval (4-0). No overriding reason to name the feature and no local support.

Review List 424
Region III (Meyer)
Esselen Peak

This peak is located in wilderness.

*CACGN **deferred**. Waiting for proponent to respond with justification to exception to Wilderness Policy. Waiting for USFS response.*

Review List 424

Region III (Meyer)

Wenahmon Huyah

This proposal was resubmitted with an adjustment to the spelling of the name based on a letter that CACGN received from Chochenyo Ohlone consultant that claimed that the original spelling of the word was incorrect. However, there was no local government or tribal input for the updated proposal name, and no proven connection between the feature and the name.

*CACGN recommends **disapproval** (4-0). No overriding reason to name the feature. No local support.*

Time and Place of Next Meeting

CACGN will meet on 1/18/2017 at the Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, 12th floor, Sacramento, California. 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.