

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

August 13, 2021

Virtual Webinar

Sacramento, California

10:00 A.M. – 3:10 P.M.

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

Committee Members: 5 of 8 voting members were represented

Present

- ✓ Department of Water Resources (**Mary Simmerer**)
- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (**Daniel Walsh**)
- ✓ Department of Fish and Wildlife (**Richard Lis**)
- ✓ Department of Conservation (**Amy Loseeth**)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)

Absent

California State Library (Greg Lucas); Native American Heritage Commission (Christina Snyder); California African American Museum (Susan Anderson)

Ex-Officio Members:

Present

- ✓ Legislative Black Caucus (**Nick Fletcher** for Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.)

Absent

Department of Transportation (Amar Azucena Cid); Select Committee on Native American Affairs (Asm. James C. Ramos); Latino Legislative Caucus (Asm. Luz Rivas); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (Asm. Ash Kalra); Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (Sen. Susan Eggman); Legislative Women's Caucus (TBD)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Geological Survey (**Carol Ostergren**)
- ✓ United States Bureau of Land Management (**James Barnes**)
- ✓ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (**Jeffrey Ferguson**)
- ✓ United States Forest Service (**Rich Spradling**)

Absent

National Park Service (Amanda B. Kaplan)

Emeritus Advisors:

Present

- ✓ **Will Patterson**, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Absent

Jim Trumbly, former Chair, retired State Parks; Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources

Non-committee guests: Jenny Runyon; Pam Martin; Sue Tyson; Kira Healey (recording minutes)

2. Approve Minutes for May 7, 2021 meeting

Minutes were distributed and approved electronically following the previous meeting.

3. Introductions / Announcements / Business

- Roster was circulated electronically with agenda. Members were asked to confirm their information is correct.
- Referring to offensive names during meetings – For cases to change a derogatory or offensive name, members will use the name once when introducing the proposal in a meeting, and then refer to it only by the generic feature type (e.g.- the butte, the creek, the peak) or the proposed new name for the feature
- Negro Bar case update (Freedom Bar/Black Bar) - CACGN recommended to disapprove the Freedom Bar proposal at the October 2019 meeting due to California State Parks (managing agency) opposition and request for time to work with community to identify a more fitting name. CACGN supports a name change and put the case on standby while waiting for input from CA State Parks.
 - from State Parks member – Parks is still meeting with local stakeholder groups to select new naming options to present to the Ca State Parks Director. The agency expects to submit a new name proposal for this feature in the fall.
 - Consensus from stakeholder meetings has been that interpretation and lack thereof has been the largest factor in the misunderstanding of current name.

4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since May 7th, 2021

Chair announced the decisions made by the US BGN based on the recommendations of the CACGN

Source: geonames.usgs.gov > Domestic Names > Action List; 2021.07.09; Accessed 2021.04.06)

Proposed Name	Feature Type	County	Review List	BGN Decision Date	Case Status
Leonard Creek	Creek	Sierra	434	6/10/2021	approved

5. Names proposals on Pending Review Lists for Consideration

***Following committee discussion of each proposed name, public comments will be accepted for up to three minutes.*

County	Proposed name	Current name	BGN list #	Assigned member
Plumas	Damalusung Lake	Squaw Lake	416	Christina Snider
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				
Plumas	Delmooah Valley	Squaw Valley	416	Christina Snider
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				
Plumas	Delunga Peak	Squaw Valley Peak	416	Christina Snider
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				
Plumas	Seshme Creek	Squaw Queen Creek	416	Christina Snider
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				
Alameda	Oakland Hills	n/a	428	Tiffany Meyer
Deferred – Due to lack of information from the proponent Boundaries of proposal are poorly defined, and proponent has not been responsive to request for clarification. It is unclear which communities would be directly affected and need to be included in outreach. BGN is considering pulling the current proposal, clarifying the proposed boundaries with proponent. Case would be relisted using the new expanded tribal outreach policy for initial outreach.				
Nevada	Johnson Canyon	Negro Canyon	434	Susan Anderson
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				
San Bernardino	Oak Springs	n/a	436	Mary Simmerer
Deferred – More research is needed. Unnamed, unincorporated area with a small cluster of homes and businesses (approx. 15) along a dirt road. Proponent states 100 years of local use, and assigned member found proposed name on several local businesses, campgrounds, and a road. County states no legal authority and has no official opinion but does not object. US Forest Service has no opinion. Bureau of Land Management supports name. Notes: Members want to know about proponent's connection to area, any commercial name usage concerns, and connection to / conflict with "Oak Spring". US BGN advisor confirmed the official name of the nearby spring is singular (recorded 1981). Potential need to contact proponent and confirm official name proposal should be plural. US BGN advisor on interpreting their policy on commercial aspect of name proposal: If this name were approved for the community and placed on usgs maps and or google maps, would it inherently increase the business visibility? Is it there to promote the businesses or is the proponent simply trying to recognize a name that he claims is already in local use?				

San Bernardino	Paac Küvüḥü'k	Squaw Tank	437	Christina Snider
Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.				

----- Morning Break was taken 10:50-11:13 -----

Napa	Doak Creek	To Kalon Creek	437	Tiffany Meyer
<p>Deferred – More research is needed, and newer Committee members need more time to review documentation and letters of support and opposition.</p> <p>Assigned member gave brief history of previous naming review and recommendation approved by US BGN in 2017. BGN has agreed to review its previous decision based on expanded policy for reviewing proposals containing trademarked names. County Board of Supervisors, Assemblymember and Senator still support existing name. Current trademark owners contend that “To Kalon” is a brand and not a place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicting name proposal of Doak Creek for a tributary of To Kalon Creek was released on the same review list, by previous To Kalon Creek proponent, Graeme MacDonald – proposals cannot be considered separately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carmelite House supports name Doak Creek for a currently unnamed tributary of To Kalon Creek. County has not commented on the tributary name. <p>Assigned member presented research on David Doak for proposed commemorative name – local landowner, banker and investor, built cherry orchard and mansion in area (currently a Carmelite House of Prayer – donated by later owner). Personal character is questionable; wife divorced him and got a restraining order.</p> <p>Proposal supported by several wineries. Local government and Carmelite House do not support change.</p> <p>Notes: Acting chair advised that Committee could decide to uphold previous decision, or vote to recommend or disapprove the name change.</p> <p>Public comment: 3 minutes allowed to each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graeme MacDonald (To Kalon proponent) – 4th generation Napa Valley grape grower. States that Mondavi did not buy or inherit To Kalon trademark; it was granted commemoratively in the 80s. To Kalon has long historical record of land association, and among the letters of support he received were ones from Constellation Brands and Mondavi winery. Added that Doak had history of displacing First Nations peoples from other land holdings in California. • William Merone (Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP) – Counsel for Constellation Brands, Inc., which owns the trademark on the name To Kalon and is proponent of name change to Doak Creek. States that evidence in their submitted documentation contradict statements made in meeting and cites long history of use of Doak Creek name. Merone refers to US BGN Principles Policies and Procedures, stating To Kalon violates current trademark rules and referring to commercial use court decisions. States that letters of support for To Kalon name from Mondavi were from individuals without authority. • Lonette Merriman (Robert Mondavi Winery) – Supports Merone's statements. Attests that enthusiasm and local support for To Kalon name do not amount to consent from 				

authorities. States that To Kalon is long standing trademark, only resurrected by Mondavi in 80s

Los Angeles	Howe Arch	n/a	439	Greg Lucas
<p>Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance. No response from Board of Supervisors or tribes, Park Service does not support naming.</p>				
Alpine	Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah	Jeff Davis Creek	440	Amy Loseth
<p>Deferred – To contact proponent and USFS about “generic” of Wa Tah vs Creek. Name supported by Board of Supervisors and US Forest Service. Governor supports a name change. Notes: Advisor recommends asking proponent to change “generic” feature type from Wa Tah to creek, very few precedents for use of non-English terms and may be difficult to understand for public. Assigned member will contact proponent. US BGN advisor notes that they are becoming much more lenient on the standardization of generic feature types and are approving many native names when they come to a vote. Member asked if Forest Service approval was for the term Wa Tah, USFS advisor didn't think it had been considered to change to creek and follow up is needed.</p>				

----- Lunch Break was taken 12:04-1:00 -----

Marin	Elk Creek	n/a	440	Richard Lis
<p>Deferred – Need to follow up with local tribes and research local usage further. No response from Board of Supervisors or tribes, No opinion from NOAA. Some historic use of name in area, also referred to by variations of Tennessee Valley Creek. Recent published use is primarily by Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Notes: Members noted that Tennessee Valley is popular hiking spot and researching sources and groups in that vein may be useful. US BGN noted that a GIS specialist with the local Parks Service (Golden Gate) is the proponent. They were already using the name and needed to make it official. Local Miwok tribe may be submitting counterproposal, so US BGN is holding for that and recommends working with NAHC member for tribal outreach. Parks Service is aware of the need for more vetting and input, and may withdraw the proposal if a native name is proposed or local support is for a different name.</p>				
Riverside	Menifee Hills	n/a	440	Amy Loseth
<p>Deferred – More research is needed. Unnamed ridge in the city of Menifee (named for Luther Menifee, early settler and miner in the area). Proponent cites local usage and a recent subdivision built on the east side of the ridge called Menifee Hills. No response from County, City is in favor. Notes: Name is commemorative, and Chair recommends researching Luther Menifee to determine his character and local impact. Trails indicate recreational usage, so further research can be done on local name usage.</p>				

El Dorado	Sawyer Falls	n/a	440	Daniel Walsh
<p>Voted (for 0 /against 5 /abstain 0) Recommendation: DISAPPROVE</p> <p>No opinion from USFS, no response from tribes, County Board of Supervisors does support name. Feature located on private property and name commemorates landowner.</p> <p>Notes: Property was not primary residence and family did not have significant local engagement or lasting contributions to the area. No negative associations were found. Advisor noted that just ownership of property for approximately 60 years is not a compelling reason to name an unnamed feature and several members voiced agreement. Committee viewed maps of area to see proximity to Forest Service property and potential for public access.</p> <p>(lost one member due to technical difficulties during discussion; returned to vote when difficulties were resolved)</p> <p>Recommendation basis: No compelling connection of commemorative name to region and lack of engagement from local agencies and tribes.</p>				
San Mateo	Aramai Point	n/a	441	Mary Simmerer
<p>Voted (for 5 /against 0 /abstain 0) Recommendation: APPROVE</p> <p>Local tribes, City of Pacifica, and Pacifica Historical Society are all in support of name. BLM Supports. Feature located on private property and name commemorates landowner.</p> <p>Notes: Feature located in city of Pacifica with a little bit managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Long History of the Aramai in the area.</p> <p>(assigned member lost due to technical difficulties; returned to present/discuss/vote later in meeting when difficulties were resolved)</p> <p>Recommendation basis: Overwhelming city, county, and federal government, as well as local organization support and no opposition received.</p>				
El Dorado	Gasparini Creek	Gasparni Creek	441	Susan Anderson
<p>Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.</p>				
San Bernardino	Risler Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	442	Mary Simmerer
<p>Deferred – Assigned member not present due to technical difficulties. Committee did not have sufficient time to return to case after difficulties were resolved.</p>				
Imperial	Chesed Hills	n/a	443	Greg Lucas
<p>Deferred – Assigned member not in attendance.</p> <p>Notes: BLM California has no opinion – BLM advisor noted there is slight possibility that feature extends into Mexico, but very little if any. BLM El Centro Field Office consider the entire range to be called Pilot Knob, and recommend that CACGN consult with the Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe and other local tribes regarding the proposal because they consider the landform to be sacred.</p> <p>After note: BGN would need a formal statement from Pat Mahoney, as the BLM member on the U.S. BGN, stating that the entire hills may already be considered Pilot Knob. CACGN BLM member thinks it may constitute local usage, as no formal determination has been made. Source of confusion may be BLM management area Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern which covers a substantial portion of the landform.</p>				

Tuolumne	China Creek	Chinaman Creek	443	Tiffany Meyer
<p>Deferred – Need input from County Board of Supervisors. Small, remotely located creek with a name that is considered offensive. USFS is proponent of China Creek proposal, in response to previously proposed name change to James Wong Howe Creek (commemorative name with no local connection). Early outreach responses were somewhat mixed as to whether current name is offensive.</p>				
Tuolumne	James Wong Howe Creek	Chinaman Creek	440	Tiffany Meyer
<p>Deferred – Need input from County Board of Supervisors. Small, remotely located creek with a name that is considered offensive. Proposed name is commemorative, but there was no local connection with honoree.</p>				
Nevada	Granite Face Lake	n/a	443	Richard Lis
<p>Deferred – More research is needed. Unnamed reservoir, proponent lives outside California and his reason for naming the unnamed feature is unclear. Member intends to research the land ownership, local usage, and public access. County is in favor. Notes: Advisor noted that the feature is large enough to merit naming on private land, and non-commemorative name makes it less likely to be a frivolous proposal. CSL research staff recommend checking with PG&E, since they manage Fordyce Lake a few miles upstream. BLM Advisor determined that the land is owned by Krump Limited Partnership (proponent name is Krump).</p>				
Tuolumne	The Duke	n/a	443	Daniel Walsh
<p>Voted (for 0 /against 5 /abstain 0) Recommendation: <u>DISAPPROVE</u> No response from County Board of Supervisors, No opinion from USFS. Unnamed summit on edge of wilderness area. Proposed name commemorates actor John Wayne. US BGN asked for justification in overriding their Wilderness Area naming policy and proponent said it was a fitting tribute to the adventurers setting off from nearby Kennedy Meadows lodge. Notes: Connection between honoree and the area was not strong. Research found many racist statements by honoree, especially in regard to native peoples. Advisor noted that movements toward renaming the Orange County airport named after Wayne for the same reason. Recommendation basis: Lack of overriding need for naming a feature with direct proximity to a wilderness area, no compelling connection or positive influence of honoree on the area, and concerns about honoree's negative views of non-European people.</p>				

6. Names proposals on Pending Review Lists to be introduced and assigned

***Case assignments are subject to change following committee meeting discussion*

County	Proposed name	Current name	Proposal release date	BGN list #	Assigned member
<i>No new California proposals have been released by the US BGN since the last CACGN meeting, so no new cases were introduced or assigned.</i>					

7. Time and place of next meeting: December 8th, 2021 @ 9:30 A.M. –
Location to be confirmed

Proposed Spring meeting date: March 25th, 2022 @ 9:30 A.M. -

Approval of Minutes for August 13th Meeting

Notes and edits made by committee members will be incorporated into the final minutes. Next to your name below, please indicate that you have reviewed the minutes and noted any corrections that need to be made, and that you are voting to approve the minutes with your corrections.

California African American Museum Susan Anderson	[Approved by email; 9/28/2021]
California State Library Greg Lucas	[No corrections received; No vote recorded]
Conservation Amy Loeth	Approved; 9/28/2021
Fish and Wildlife Richard Lis	Approved October 4, 2021
Forestry and Fire Protection Tiffany Meyer	[Approved prior to distribution]
Native American Heritage Commission Christina Snider	[Abstained by email; 9/30/2021 – was not present on 8/13]
Parks and Recreation Daniel Walsh	Approved; 9/14/21
Water Resources Mary Simmerer	Approved; 10/01/2021

Minutes approved by [virtual quorum 10/4/2021]