

CACGN Case Digest

May 7, 2021 Meeting

Full text of name change proposals summarized below can be found on the associated US BGN Quarterly Review List at https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=geonames_web:review_lists

Cases in progress:

County	Proposed name	Current name	Proposal release date	BGN list #	Assigned member	Current Status
San Bernardino	Risler Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	December 31, 2020	442	Clayton Guiraud	
San Bernardino	Alfalfa Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	October 8, 2019	437	Clayton Guiraud	WITHDRAWN in support of Risler Buttes
Napa	Doak Creek	To Kalon Creek	October 8, 2019	437	Tiffany Meyer	
Napa	Doak Creek	To Kalon Creek (tributary)	October 8, 2019	437	Tiffany Meyer	
San Bernardino	Oak Springs	n/a	July 3, 2019	436	Clayton Guiraud	
Nevada	Johnson Canyon	Negro Canyon	February 4, 2019	434	Janine Bird	Pending USFS input
Sierra	Leonard Creek	n/a	February 4, 2019	434	Janine Bird	Pending USFS input
Alameda	Oakland Hills	n/a	June 30, 2017	428	Tiffany Meyer	
Plumas	Damalusung Lake	Squaw Lake	March 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird	Pending USFS and tribal input
Plumas	Delmooh Valley	Squaw Valley	March 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird	Pending USFS and tribal input
Plumas	Delunga Peak	Squaw Valley Peak	March 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird	Pending USFS and tribal input
Plumas	Seshme Creek	Squaw Queen Creek	March 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird	Pending USFS and tribal input

Risler Buttes (Pickaninny Buttes):

Proposal to change the name of Pickaninny Buttes in Lucerne Valley in San Bernardino County to Risler Buttes, in response to an earlier proposal to change the name to Alfalfa Buttes

(Review List 437-withdrawn). The name would commemorate early settlers Lee William Risler and Agnes Jean Jackley Risler, who according to the proponent, arrived in the area in 1909. Family members still reside in Lucerne Valley - adjacent to the buttes which they still own.

Alfalfa Buttes** (Pickaninny Buttes):

Proposal to change the name of Pickaninny Buttes in San Bernardino to Alfalfa Buttes. The proponent does not state why he believes the name should be changed, presumably due to the term "pickaninny," which is considered by many to be an offensive reference to a small child of African descent or a small child with dark skin.

**this proposal has been withdrawn in support of Risler Buttes (Review List 442)

Doak Creek (To Kalon Creek):

Proposal to change the name of To Kalon Creek in Napa County, submitted by an attorney on behalf of Constellation Brands, Inc. which objects to the use of "To Kalon", a trademark they own. BGN has agreed to revisit its previous naming decision.

The proposed name Doak Creek refers to David Perry Doak, a banker and industrialist who built a mansion near the stream between 1917 to 1921.

Doak Creek (To Kalon Creek - tributary):

Proposal to name a 1.6 mile-long tributary of To Kalon Creek, near Oakville in Napa County, Doak Creek (proposal conflicts with that of Constellation Brands, Inc). The name would commemorate David Perry Doak, a banker and industrialist who had a mansion built near the stream between 1917 to 1921.

The proponent states "the Doak Creek name was previously misapplied to multiple unnamed streams in the area including To Kalon Creek located approximately 0.5 miles north and an unnamed stream located approximately 0.6 miles south."

Oak Springs (unnamed):

Proposal to make official the name Oak Springs for a small unincorporated community in southwestern San Bernardino County, ten miles south-southeast of Apple Valley, at the site of a spring named Oak Spring. The proponent reports that the proposed name has been used for 100 years to refer to the area, is used in several business names, and believes that establishing an official name for the community will distinguish it from the larger town of Apple Valley. A number of photos online show the name Oak Springs on handmade signs in the area, though published use was not found in County records.

Johnson Canyon (Negro Canyon):

Proposal to change the name of Negro Canyon, a 1.2-mile-long valley in Nevada County, to Johnson Canyon. The name is intended to commemorate Albert Johnson, a well-known and respected resident of the area during the late 1800's. The proposed name Johnson Canyon is already in use by the Truckee Donner Land Trust, which in 2006 purchased 280 acres in Negro Canyon.

Leonard Creek (unnamed):

Proposal to name a 2.1-mile-long tributary of the North Yuba River, in Sierra County and the Tahoe National Forest, Leonard Creek. The name would commemorate Dr. J. Paul Leonard (1901-1995), a president of San Francisco State University who developed the university's Sierra Nevada Field Campus located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the mouth of the stream.

Oakland Hills (Berkeley Hills):

Proposal to make official the name Oakland Hills for an 8-mile-long range in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The proponent states that the name refers to the section of the range officially named Berkeley Hills. The section of the range proposed as Oakland Hills largely lies within the city limits of Oakland. She noted that the range closer to San Leandro is named San Leandro Hills. The name Berkeley Hills would then be restricted to the northern portion of their current extent.

Damalusung Lake (Squaw Lake):

Proposal to change the name of Squaw Lake in Sierra County. The origin of the existing name is not known, but it has been used on the USGS topographic maps since 1891. The proposed name Damalusung Lake means "star eye" in the Washoe language. According to the proponent, this lake, when viewed from a distant mountain top, resembles a star eye. He notes that the lake is within the ancestral lands of the Wei-mei-fi (Northern Washoe).

Delmooh Valley (Squaw Valley):

Proposal to change the name of Squaw Valley in Plumas County. The existing name has been used on the USGS topographic maps since 1950. The proposed name Delmooh Valley means "flat grassy place" in the Washoe language. According to the proponent, this is a place of food source for the Northern Washoe.

Delunga Peak (Squaw Valley Peak):

Proposal to change the name of Squaw Valley Peak in Plumas County. The existing name has been used on the USGS topographic maps since 1950. The proposed name Delunga Peak

means “rock pile” in the Washoe language. According to the proponent, there are natural resources on this summit that provide important traditional and utilitarian uses to the Washoe Tribe.

Seshme Creek (Squaw Queen Creek):

Proposal to change the name of Squaw Queen Creek in Plumas County. The existing name has been used on the USGS topographic maps since 1893. The proposed name Seshme Creek means “blue camas creek” in the Washoe language. According to the proponent, this is a place of food source for the Northern Washoe.

Unassigned Cases:

County	Proposed name	Current name	Proposal release date	BGN list #	Assigned member
San Bernardino	Paac Kūvŭhŭ'k	Squaw Tank	October 8, 2019	437	
Los Angeles	Howe Arch	n/a	April 15, 2020	439	
Alpine	Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah	Jeff Davis Creek	July 10, 2020	440	
Marin	Elk Creek	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	
Tuolumne	James Wong Howe Creek	Chinaman Creek	July 10, 2020	440	
Riverside	Menifee Hills	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	
El Dorado	Sawyer Falls	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	
San Mateo	Aramai Point	n/a	October 5, 2020	441	
El Dorado	Gasparini Creek	Gasparni Creek	October 5, 2020	441	
Imperial	Chesed Hills	n/a	April 5, 2021	443	
Tuolumne	China Creek	Chinaman Creek	April 5, 2021	443	
Nevada	Granite Face Lake	n/a	April 5, 2021	443	
Tuolumne	The Duke	n/a	April 5, 2021	443	

Paac Kūvūhū'k (Squaw Tank):

Proposal to change the name of Squaw Tank, a small reservoir at the western end of the Hexie Mountains in Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR) in San Bernardino County, where the proponent serves as Superintendent. The existing name has been used on the USGS topographic maps since 1944, but is not on the most recent edition. According to the proponent, Paac Kūvūhū'k is a Serrano word meaning "watering hole" and the Serrano people were indigenous to the area. He reports that the name Paac Kūvūhū'k was suggested by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, one of the tribes to which the Serrano people belong, after park management consulted with the fifteen Native American communities traditionally associated with JOTR.

Howe Arch (unnamed):

Proposal to make official the commemorative name Howe Arch for an approximately 30-foot-wide unnamed arch on the southwest slope of Ballard Mountain in Los Angeles County. It commemorates Robert Howe, an outdoorsman who, according to the proponent, first describe the arch in 1939. The proponent reports that the name Howe Arch is used by local hikers and arch enthusiasts.

Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah (Jeff Davis Creek):

Proposal to change the name of Jeff Davis Creek, a 2.8-mile-long tributary of Pleasant Valley creek in Alpine County, to Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah. The stream is located in Mokelumne Wilderness in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. "Da-ek Dow Go-et" is translated as "saddle between two points", and the generic "Wa Tah" is from the Washoe language and means "water." The proponent is the chair of a constituent band of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California, and the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and Governor Gavin Newsom support the effort to change the existing name.

Elk Creek (unnamed):

Proposal to make official the name Elk Creek for a 2.4 mile-long stream that flows into the Pacific Ocean in Marin County. The proponent is a GIS Specialist with Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA) and wishes to make the name official for Federal mapping and believes there should be no local opposition. The stream has been known by at least four names: Elk Creek, Elk Valley Creek, Tennessee Creek and Tennessee Valley Creek. The valley was labeled Elk Valley on USGS maps until 1954 when it was shown as Tennessee Valley; a 1961 BGN decision officially changed the name.

James Wong Howe Creek (Chinaman Creek):

Proposal to change the name of Chinaman Creek, a 3.7-mile-long tributary of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County. The proposed name would recognize James Wong Howe,

born Wong Tung Jim, who was the first minority cinematographer admitted to the American Society of Cinematographers and mentored other minorities in the profession.

The proponent was asked if Mr. Howe had any association with the stream or with Tuolumne County, and was also advised that the BGN prefers surnames only; she did not respond.

Menifee Hills (unnamed):

Proposal to name an unnamed ridge 2 miles long and 1.5 miles wide in The City of Menifee in Riverside County. The name refers to the City of Menifee, which was named for Luther Menifee Wilson, one of the first settlers of the area, who in 1883 discovered a significant local quartz lode. The proponent reports that one of the summits on the ridge is locally called "Menifee Cross Hill" due to the presence of a white cross at its peak. A subdivision named Menifee Hills was recently built on the east side of the ridge.

Sawyer Falls (unnamed):

Proposal to name a 250-foot long falls located along Glen Alpine Creek in El Dorado County and on private land within the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The name is intended to commemorate the proponent's parents, Robert Lee Sawyer, Jr. and Alice Olson Sawyer, who in 1967 acquired two acres of land overlooking the falls. The land is still owned and used by the family.

Aramai Point (unnamed):

Proposal to name a 20-acre cape in the City of Pacifica in San Mateo County. The name would recognize the Aramai people, who inhabited the area around the cape prior to and during the Spanish settlement of the region. The Aramai were a distinct tribe of the Ohlone who lived in two villages near the cape for over 3,000 years.

Letters of support were received from the Mayor of the City of Pacifica, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the Pacifica Historical Society, and the president of the San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition.

Gasparini Creek (Gasparni Creek):

Proposal to correct the name of Gasparni Creek, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of Brush Creek in El Dorado County, to Gasparini Creek. According to the proponent the stream was named for Giuseppe Gasparini (her Great Grandfather), who was a Swiss immigrant who homesteaded along the stream until around 1934. Mr. Gasparini's land claim was shown on the 1895 Punnett Brothers Map of the County of El Dorado, California with the proposed spelling; the stream was not named.

Chesed Hills (unnamed):

Proposal to name a range, 1.75 miles long and 1.4 mi. wide, with an elevation of 891 feet, located in the southeastern corner of Imperial County. The proponent proposes the Hebrew word that represents the "loving kindness of God towards humanity." He states that his church community prays on ground in physical locations; while praying they noticed that the hill they were gathered on had no name and they wished to propose one.

Pilot Knob is the second-highest summit in the range; historical use of the name referred to the entire range, but based on USGS maps and the GNIS entry, the range is unnamed and Pilot Knob refers only to the second-highest peak.

China Creek (Chinaman Creek):

Proposal to change the name of Chinaman Creek, a 3.7-mile-long tributary of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County. The stream is located in Stanislaus National Forest and the change is proposed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

This is a counterproposal to James Wong Howe Creek (Review List 440), and states "Our proposal in no way seeks to minimize the cinematography achievements of Mr. Howe, but he did [not] have any association or make any contribution to the area per USBGN Policy III. Our proposal seeks to retain the historical and cultural reference to the Chinese immigrants' contribution to the area"

Granite Face Lake (unnamed):

Proposal to name an approximately 5-acre unnamed reservoir in Nevada County and within a private inholding in Tahoe National Forest. The reservoir is on North Creek upstream from Fordyce Lake. The name refers to the steep granite slope adjacent to the northeast side of the reservoir.

The Duke (unnamed):

Proposal to name an unnamed 7,390-foot summit in Tuolumne County and within Stanislaus National Forest along the boundary of the Emigrant Wilderness. The name would commemorate actor John Wayne, born Marion Robert Morrison. The proponent reports that Wayne was a member of a fraternal organization whose members have visited the nearby Kennedy Meadows hunting and packing station for the past quarter century, and that the name "is a fitting tribute to all cowboys and guides who work at the station."