

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

March 10, 2023

Virtual Webinar

Sacramento, California

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Contents

Contents	1
1. Call to Order – Chair Richard Lis, Department of Fish and Wildlife	2
2. Approve Minutes for November 18, 2022 Meeting	3
3. Introductions / Announcements / Business.....	3
a) Federal Legislation: Update on Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405.....	3
b) State Legislation: Update on AB2022.....	4
4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since November 18, 2022.....	4
a) Proposed Name: Risler Buttes	4
b) Proposed Name: Lake Marie.....	5
c) Proposed Name: Avi Kwalal	5
d) Proposed Name: mee muku creek	5
e) Proposed Name: Sue-meg Point.....	5
f) Proposed Name: Woodson Bridge	5
g) Proposed Name: Loybas Hill.....	6
h) Proposed Name: Mi-tenek Hill.....	6
i) Proposed Name: Yokuts Valley	6
j) Proposed Name: Wootona	6
k) Proposed Name: Bear Mountain	6
5. Name Proposals on Pending Review Lists for Consideration	7
a) Proposed Name: James Wong Howe Creek / China Creek.....	7
b) Proposed Name: Menifee Hills	7
c) Proposed Name: Oakland Hills	8
d) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk*	9
e) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk Creek*	9
f) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii*.....	9
g) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii Creek*	10
h) Proposed Name: Black Miners Bar.....	10
i) Proposed Name: Pinkston Slough.....	11
j) Proposed Name: Middle Ranch Reservoir.....	12

k) Proposed Name: Loybas Hollow	12
l) Proposed Name: O’Haniel Creek	13
6. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced.....	14
a) Proposed Name: Blue Bear Mountain	14
b) Proposed Name: Hidden Heart Falls	14
c) Proposed Name: Salamander Creek.....	14
7. Time and Place of Next Meetings:.....	14
Proposed Summer meeting date:.....	14
Proposed Fall meeting date:	15
8. Adjourn	15

1. Call to Order – Chair Richard Lis, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Roll was called.

Committee Members: 8 of 8 voting members were present

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 Loeth**)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (**Raymond Hitchcock**)
- ✓ California State Library (**Rebecca Wendt** and **Jamie Romas** for Greg Lucas)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

Ex-Officio Members:

Present

- ✓ Legislative Black Caucus (**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); Tribal Advisor to the Office of the Governor (Christina Snider); California Natural Resources Agency (Geneva E. B. Thompson, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs); Legislative Women’s Caucus (TBD)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Geological Survey (**Carol Ostergren**)
- ✓ United States Forest Service (**Rich Spradling**)

Absent

- ✗ United States Bureau of Land Management (James Barnes); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jeffrey Ferguson); National Park Service (Amanda B. Kaplan)

Emeritus Advisors:

Present

- ✓ **Jim Trumbly**, former Chair, retired, State Parks

Absent

- ✗ Will Patterson, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources

Non-committee guests:

Jenny Runyon (US Geological Survey and US Board on Geographic Names [US BGN]);
Heather Witzens (recording minutes)

2. Approve Minutes for November 18, 2022 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.

a) Federal Legislation: Update on Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405

Jenny Runyon provided an update.

SO 3404 is complete; the names of 643 natural features nationwide that previously contained the word “Sq__” have been changed; the names of five populated places (two in California) were also changed. All name changes have been updated in the federal Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). People have been asking about whether the name of the Sq_ Valley post office in Fresno County will be renamed. The associated populated place was just renamed from Sq_ Valley to Yokuts Valley, but since the post office still carries the Sq_ name, the residents must still use the derogatory name for their mailing address. The United States Postal Service is working on this change.

SO 3405 addresses all other derogatory words contained in names of features nationwide. The initial meeting regarding this requirement took place in early December. Three subcommittees have been formed. The first subcommittee will address policies and procedures for implementing the order. The second subcommittee will focus on federal administrative features such as national parks and national forests, which are normally outside of the US BGN's purview. The third subcommittee will research and vote on replacement names.

b) State Legislation: Update on AB2022

The chair provided an update. A subcommittee has been formed and is drafting a policies and procedures document. This legislation has two components – address all remaining Sq_ names in California by 2025; and address other derogatory/offensive names. An internal meeting was held on February 22 to provide an update on the subcommittee's progress to all CACGN staff. The draft policies and procedures document will be reviewed by CACGN, then released for public review; federal partners have also offered to review. The subcommittee's process is somewhat paralleling the SO 3405 subcommittee's process.

The Native American Heritage Commission member provided further details. An online survey has been created that will allow jurisdictions to identify all Sq__ names in their jurisdictions, which they are required to do by July 1, 2023. A statewide webinar introducing the survey will be held in late April for all 57 counties and 478 incorporated cities. The subcommittee is also working on a tribal consultation policy that will also be available for public review. A CACGN Staff Services Manager position is also being created to assist with AB2022 implementation.

4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since November 18, 2022

- Items *4f-4h* are for the same populated place in Tehama County.
- Items *4i-4k* are for the same populated place in Fresno County.
- Sources: [DNC Review Lists by U.S. Board on Geographic Names > Action List](#); 2023.02.10; Accessed 2023.03.08; [Official Replacement Names for Sq_](#) by USGS; Accessed 2023.03.09; CACGN meeting 2023.03.10.

- a) Proposed Name:** **Risler Buttes**
- Feature Type: Summit
 - County: San Bernardino County
 - Review List: 442
 - BGN Decision Date: December 8, 2022
 - Case Status: ***Approved***

- b) Proposed Name: Lake Marie**
- Feature Type: Lake
 - County: Placer County
 - Review List: 445
 - BGN Decision Date: March 9, 2022
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- c) Proposed Name: Avi Kwalal**
- Feature Type: Ridge
 - County: Imperial County
 - Review List: 446
 - BGN Decision Date: December 8, 2022
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- d) Proposed Name: mee muku creek**
- Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Marin County
 - Review List: 448
 - BGN Decision Date: March 9, 2022
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- e) Proposed Name: Sue-meg Point**
- Feature Type: Cape
 - County: Humboldt County
 - Review List: 448
 - BGN Decision Date: December 8, 2022
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- f) Proposed Name: Woodson Bridge**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Tehama County
 - Review List: 448
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Disapproved in favor of Loybas Hill (item 4g)**

- g) Proposed Name: Loybas Hill**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Tehama County
 - Review List: 449
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- h) Proposed Name: Mi-tenek Hill**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Tehama County
 - Review List: 449
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Disapproved in favor of Loybas Hill (item 4g)**
- i) Proposed Name: Yokuts Valley**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Fresno County
 - Review List: 448
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Approved**
- j) Proposed Name: Wootona**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Fresno County
 - Review List: 449
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Disapproved in favor of Yokuts Valley (item 4i)**
- k) Proposed Name: Bear Mountain**
- Feature Type: Populated Place
 - County: Fresno County
 - Review List: 449
 - BGN Decision Date: January 12, 2023
 - Case Status: **Disapproved in favor of Yokuts Valley (item 4i)**

5. Name Proposals on Pending Review Lists for Consideration

Following committee discussion of each proposed name, public comments were accepted for up to three minutes each from proponents and public officials, and for up to two minutes each from the general public.

- a) **Proposed Name:** James Wong Howe Creek / China Creek
- Current Name: Chinaman Creek
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Tuolumne County
 - Review List: 440 / 443
 - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Waiting on additional proposal(s).

Notes: Two proposed names for same feature are being considered together, with a third proposal anticipated. The Oakland Lodge chapter of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has offered to submit an additional proposal.

- b) **Proposed Name:** Menifee Hills
- Current Name: n/a
 - Feature Type: Ridge
 - County: Riverside County
 - Review List: 440
 - Assigned Member: Amy Loeth
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _7_ / against _0_ / abstain _1_*
 - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

Recommendation basis: City council supports proposed name; proposed name is already in use locally; no tribal recommendations for alternate names were received. One member abstained due to feeling that sufficient outreach has not been conducted with tribes and the public.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Feature is an unnamed ridge near the city of Menifee, which was named after Luther Menifee Wilson, a local prospector. The feature is on privately owned land but is often used by the public for recreation. There is some local usage of proposed name. Member has attempted tribal outreach (via email) at least four times. From her initial outreach in July 2022, she received a response from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who stated they would defer to the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians and Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians. Member then reached out to the latter two tribes, who initially expressed interest, but have not responded to further inquiries.

The Native American Heritage Commission member stated that the two tribes in question are large, federally recognized tribes and that the “two-two-two” rule is often considered to be best practice for tribal communications: two phone calls, two emails, and two certified letters. However, it appears that reasonable outreach effort has been made regarding this case.

- c) Proposed Name: Oakland Hills**
- Current Name: n/a (Berkeley Hills area)
 - Feature Type: Range
 - County: Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
 - Review List: 445 (*relisted from 428*)
 - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _0_ / against _8_ / abstain _0_*
 - Recommendation: ***Recommend Disapproval***

Recommendation basis: Area is too large and not well-defined; too many conflicting local names in use, no public or tribal input received.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Area is very large, spanning multiple local jurisdictions, and is and poorly defined. The proposed boundaries of the feature overlap with the Berkeley Hills, and BGN research defines the boundary area differently than Wikipedia. The proposed boundaries are also problematic because one ridge splits into several within the proposed area. The proponent has not offered clarification regarding the proposed boundaries. Currently, many different names are used locally for the feature, usually based on where the speaker lives. Many outreach attempts have been made to cities, tribes, other jurisdictions; no feedback received.

Another member stated she feels the proposal is not necessary and it spans too many jurisdictions to choose one name. Another member grew up in the area and stated that the proposed boundaries extend too far north and that they encompass inappropriate areas. Another member also lived in the area and reiterated that local usage varies widely, yet the locals seem to be comfortable with that.

---- Morning break was taken from 11:10 – 11:25 ----

- d) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk***
- Current Name: Little Stonewall Peak
 - Feature Type: Summit
 - County: San Diego County
 - Review List: 446
 - Assigned Member: Daniel Walsh
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Additional research and outreach is being conducted.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Proponent is local resident who wishes to remove an offensive commemorative name from four features, two peaks and two creeks, on California State Park land. State Parks has contracted with local graduate student to research proposed names. Researcher has received input from the Museum of San Diego and is working with Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy to receive additional input.

The Native American Heritage Commission member stated that there are 12 federally recognized tribes in the area and offered to follow up with some of those tribal chairpersons.

****4 cases (items 5d–5g) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.***

- e) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk Creek***
- Current Name: Little Stonewall Creek
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: San Diego County
 - Review List: 446
 - Assigned Member: Daniel Walsh
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Notes: See item 5d, above.

****4 cases (items 5d–5g) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.***

- f) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii***
- Current Name: Stonewall Peak
 - Feature Type: Summit
 - County: San Diego County
 - Review List: 446
 - Assigned Member: Daniel Walsh
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Notes: See item 5d, above.

***4 cases (items 5d–5g) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.**

- g) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii Creek***
- Current Name: Stonewall Creek
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: San Diego County
 - Review List: 446
 - Assigned Member: Daniel Walsh
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Notes: See item 5d, above.

***4 cases (items 5d–5g) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.**

- h) Proposed Name: Black Miners Bar**
- Current Name: Negro Bar
 - Feature Type: Bar
 - County: Sacramento County
 - Review List: 448 (*relisted from 435*)
 - Assigned Member: Susan Anderson
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Additional research and outreach is being conducted.

Notes: Assigned member provided an update. Work related to this name change is currently ongoing. There has been debate for many years regarding the name of this feature. Last year, State Parks temporarily changed name for day-use area to proposed name. Concerns that current name is derogatory, yet there is desire to recognize African American contributions to area. Member's museum and State Parks are collaborating on heritage effort, bringing in researcher and working with community to build scholarly foundation that can provide input on final name. This proposed name is for the geographic feature, not the park; permanent recommendation for geographic feature forthcoming. Hoping to wrap up case this year.

Another member asked to clarify that the intent is to wait for permanent parks name before recommending a name for the geographic feature (new proposal will be required for any name different from current proposal).

The Native American Heritage Commission member provided input. He lives near the feature and thinks Black Miners Bar is not a good permanent name; carries associations to original derogatory name. Offered to assist with outreach. Name should be positive representation of history.

Assigned member explained new name will be based on scholarly research of history of area, research which has never been extensively conducted before. Developing interpretive history of African Americans for State Parks.

- i) **Proposed Name:** **Pinkston Slough**
- Current Name: Black John Slough
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Marin County
 - Review List: 448
 - Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _8_ / against _0_ / abstain _0_*
 - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

Recommendation basis: Commemorative name honoring an important and deserving member of the community; local support; proposed name would be consistent with the recent renaming of a nearby road to Pinkston Road.

Notes: Assigned member provided case summary. Feature is in unincorporated Marin County in the Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area which is managed by California Department of Fish & Wildlife. John Henry Pinkston was of African-Caribbean descent and was born into slavery in 1827 in the Dominican Republic. After slavery was abolished there, he moved to the Marin County area in 1844 and became a business owner; he also served as a mediator between the Coastal Miwok and Mexican/American settlers. The city of Novato has already renamed a nearby road from Black John Road to Pinkston Road. Member received letters of support from the District 5 supervisor and the District 12 assemblyperson. Outreach to CDFW resulted in verbal support from the Bay Delta regional manager. City of Novato could offer no opinion in time for this meeting. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) took no position, and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria expressed a neutral opinion of the proposed name.

A member expressed concern that no one will know who John Pinkston was unless an interpretive history is presented for him. Historians and artists are needed to convey the history. Another member pointed out that this public record can help support the acknowledgement of the history of the proposed name.

---- Lunch was taken from 12:13 – 1:15 ----

- j) Proposed Name: Middle Ranch Reservoir**
- Current Name: McGee Lake
 - Feature Type: Reservoir
 - County: Los Angeles County
 - Review List: 448
 - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _8_ / against _0_ / abstain _0_*
 - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

Recommendation basis: Change name that causes confusion and is a safety concern. Proposed name is already used widely. Support from Southern CA Edison, Santa Catalina Island Conservancy, LA County, and LA County Fire Department.

Notes: Assigned member provided case summary. Feature is 40-acre reservoir that was built in 1925 by the Wrigley family. Sometimes called Thompson Reservoir. Thompson Dam area is owned by Southern California Edison; rest of reservoir owned by Santa Catalina Island Conservancy. Current name comes from Army Corps of Engineers in 1980s, but it is unclear as to how they chose that name.

Reservoir supplies water to City of Avalon; general plan refers to it by the proposed name. Proposed name also used in Avalon Fire Department plan. Proponent states locals also refer to it by proposed name. Proponent is from LA County Fire Department; concerned that current name causes confusion during emergency events since current name is not used locally. Supported by Southern CA Edison, Santa Catalina Island Conservancy, LA County, and LA County Fire Department.

Gabrieleno or Kizh/Tongva and Chumash tribes historically inhabited the area and had some villages on the islands. Regularly boated to islands. No official response from local tribes thus far. Phone conversation with tribes conveyed they might not be interested because the feature is manmade and has no historical connection to their people.

- k) Proposed Name: Loybas Hollow**
- Current Name: Table Hollow
 - Feature Type: Valley
 - County: Tehama County
 - Review List: 449
 - Assigned Member: Amy Loeth
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _8_ / against _0_ / abstain _0_*
 - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

Recommendation basis: Tribal and county support; consistent with AB2022.

Notes: Assigned member provided case summary. Feature was formerly named Sq_ Hollow. S.O. 3404 Task Force chose Table Hollow as replacement name due to proximity to Table Mountain (6 miles northwest). Proponent is Tribal Chairman of Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians; feature is on private land near Paskenta land. Loybas means young lady in Wintuan language. Tribal support; consistent with directives of AB2022. County Board of Supervisors provided verbal support of name. Have not reached out to landowner.

One member stated she sees the proposal as correction of the error made by the Task Force, who failed to consider tribal input. Another member stated that the proposed name is a rebuttal to the offense of the original (Sq_) name.

- I) Proposed Name: O'Haniel Creek**
- Current Name: n/a
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Humboldt County
 - Review List: 449
 - Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Additional tribal feedback desired. Also want clarification on extent of local usage.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Feature is a tributary to Redwood Creek. Ownership split between 6 owners, private and public. Whilkut Tribe was historically present; however, the tribe lost many of its members due to conflict and displacement by Gold Rush settlers, and the remaining members of the Whilkut tribe were sent to live on the Hupa reservation. Proposed name has been previously published and honors O'Haniel Bailey, a member of the Whilkut tribe who died in 1912. He was known as entrepreneur and businessman, and owned land downstream from mouth of feature.

No official feedback regarding the proposed name has been received from tribes or landowners, although proponent feels landowners are supportive. Informally supported by County Board of Supervisors.

The Native American Heritage Commission member stated that after the Whilkut tribe was decimated, its remaining members merged with the Hupa tribe to the west, so the Whilkut tribe no longer exists. Maybe it would be more appropriate to name the feature after this tribe as a whole rather than an individual member.

Some members agreed that they would be more comfortable with naming the feature after a group rather than an individual. Other members stated that would require a new proposal, which may not come forward, and that there are many other unnamed features in the area that could be named after groups.

U.S. BGN representative suggested that the committee could suggest to proponent to submit Whilkut name for another tributary, which would tie O'Haniel to the tribe.

6. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced

- Source: [Quarterly Review List 450](#) by U.S. Board on Geographic Names; 2023.02.06; Accessed 2023.03.09.

a) Proposed Name: Blue Bear Mountain

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Summit
- County: Siskiyou County
- Review List: 450
- Proposal Release Date: February 6, 2023
- Assigned Member: Amy Loeth

b) Proposed Name: Hidden Heart Falls

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Falls
- County: Riverside County
- Review List: 450
- Proposal Release Date: February 6, 2023
- Assigned Member: Susan Anderson

c) Proposed Name: Salamander Creek

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Stream
- County: Humboldt County
- Review List: 450
- Proposal Release Date: February 6, 2023
- Assigned Member: Greg Lucas

7. Time and Place of Next Meetings:

Proposed Summer meeting date:

August 4, 2023, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Proposed Fall meeting date:

November 3, 2023, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.