

# California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

## Minutes

Friday, May 7, 2021  
Virtual Webinar  
Sacramento, California  
9:32 A.M. – 2:58 P.M.

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

Roll was called, and committee members and advisors were afforded time to briefly introduce themselves.

Committee Members: *7 of 8 voting members were represented*

#### *Present*

- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (**Daniel Walsh**)
- ✓ Department of Fish and Wildlife (**Richard Lis**)
- ✓ Department of Conservation (**Janine Bird**)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (**Christina Snyder**)
- ✓ California State Library (**Rebecca Wendt** for Greg Lucas)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

#### *Absent*

Department of Water Resources (Clayton Guiraud)

Ex-Officio Members:

#### *Present*

- ✓ Department of Transportation (**Jessie Garcia** and **Jeanie Ward-Waller** for Amar Azucena Cid)
- ✓ Legislative Black Caucus (**Nick Fletcher** for Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.)
- ✓ Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (**Jacob Fraker** for Sen. Susan Eggman)

#### *Absent*

Select Committee on Native American Affairs; Latino Legislative Caucus; Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus; Legislative Women's Caucus

Federal Advisors:

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

Emeritus Advisors:

- ✓ **Jim Trumbly**, former Chair, retired State Parks
- ✓ **Will Patterson**, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Non-committee guests: Jenny Runyon; Matt O'Donnell; Tom Negrete; Pam Martin; Sue Tyson; Kira Healey (recording minutes);

## **2. Approve Minutes for March 19, 2021 meeting**

Minutes were distributed electronically following the previous meeting. Chair called for verbal approval. Moved and seconded. Minutes approved.

## **3. Introductions / Announcements / Business**

- Chair announced that a roster and contact list would be circulated to committee members electronically during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>, and asked that members confirm their information or reply with changes.
- Chair provided a brief walkthrough of the CACGN website (<https://cacgn.ca.gov/>). Will be updated with upcoming meeting links and agendas, and minutes will be posted once approved. Currently contains Committee charter, roster, historical minutes and agendas, as well as summary details of name change proposals currently under review. Website is still under construction.
- Chair recapped the case review process that was announced at the introductory meeting, covering from when a proposal is submitted to US BGN to when the Committee votes on whether to recommend approval/rejection by the US BGN. Cases will be arbitrarily assigned to Committee members using an alphabetical list of their agency names for assignment order. Cases and assigned members will be announced at Committee meetings, and members will be able to trade cases based on interest or existing contacts among relevant stakeholders after they are introduced. Chair reminded members that the Committee is advisory only, and is required to follow the naming guidelines of the US BGN as laid out in their Principles, Policies, and Procedures document.
- Other
  - US Board on Geographic Names has asked if states would be interested in receiving a list of general derogatory names, and will be organizing a national meeting to determine how to move forward with that. In the past the name review process has been reactive to proposals, this may enable a shift to a more proactive process in the future.

## **4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since February 5th, 2020**

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

Source: [geonames.usgs.gov](https://geonames.usgs.gov) > Domestic Names > Action List; 2021.02.12; Accessed 2021.04.06)

Proposed Name	Feature Type	County	Review List	BGN Decision Date	Case Status
Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain	summit	Alpine	430	7/9/2020	Approved
Dog Slobber Creek	stream	Humboldt	435	3/12/2020	Disapproved
Lundbar Creek	stream	Humboldt	437	3/12/2020	Approved
Sentinel Rock	summit	Alpine	435	7/9/2020	Approved

----- Morning Break was taken 10:26-10:32 -----

## 5. Names proposals on Pending Review Lists for Consideration

\*\*Ongoing case assignments that were worked on under previous CACGN structure

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

County	Proposed name	Current name	Proposal release date	BGN list #	Assigned member
San Bernardino	Risler Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	Dec. 31, 2020	442	Clayton Guiraud
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Assigned member not in attendance. Chair introduced case to new members, and case summaries were read. County has no official opinion.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Members want to know who originally named the Buttes (region did historically have many African American settlements), who the honorees in the proposed name are and how do they factor into the history of the area, who were the stakeholders contacted by the assigned member. Committee viewed map of area to see size and location of feature – Butte is quite small</p>					
San Bernardino	Alfalfa Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	Oct. 8, 2019	437	Clayton Guiraud
<p><b>Was withdrawn by proponent in favor of Risler Buttes</b></p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Committee noted that this proposal may have been a better choice for the feature, were it not withdrawn.</p>					
Napa	Doak Creek	To Kalon Creek	Oct. 8, 2019	437	Tiffany Meyer
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Assigned member felt they needed to review case material before introducing the case for a vote. 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. Stated that there is too much in depth documentation to fully review in meeting. Will provide documentation to Committee members for review and consideration for a future meeting. County Board of Supervisors, Assemblymember and Senator still support existing name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b> Advisor asked if CACGN could choose not to revisit the naming decision. Assigned member stated that it had already agreed to the review, but that it is possible the Committee would recommend upholding BGNs previous decision. Member noted that many of the lengthy supporting letters submitted by the law firm representing the trademark</p>					

owners were largely character attacks on the previous proponent. Trademark owners contend that "To Kalon" is a brand and not a place.

**Public comment:** 3 minutes allowed to each

- Graeme MacDonald – Proponent of previously approved name, To Kalon. Family has lived along the creek since 1954. Geologist who assisted with his proposal was not paid to do so. States that among the letters of support he received for his proposal were ones from trademark owners Constellation Brands and Mondavi winery.
- 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. Merone refers to a letter submitted in May 2020, containing 1600 pages of exhibits, as well as one in March 2021 with a copy of a Federal Court decision regarding commercial use of the trademark of To Kalon – "it is not primarily geographically descriptive"

San Bernardino	Oak Springs	n/a	July 3, 2019	436	Clayton Guiraud
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Assigned member not in attendance. Chair introduced case to new members, and case summary was read. Area is quite small and has few occupants. County has no official opinion.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Members want to know how much of the covered area is owned by proponent. Advisor questioned whether it should be dismissed as an administrative name, but US BGN staff states that unincorporated areas are under BGN purview.</p>					
Sierra	Leonard Creek	n/a	Feb. 4, 2019	434	Janine Bird
<p><b>Voted (for <u>6</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>1</u> ) Recommendation: <b>APPROVE</b></b></p> <p>US Forest Service had no official position.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Committee viewed map of area to see size and location of feature – Creek is quite small and not in a heavily populated area. Does feature need to be named? Honoree has local relevancy. Members hoped to hear more from the proponent, Michael Nicholas, but he was not in attendance. Member asked if J Paul Leonard has living relatives, and their opinion. Chair thought that proponent was a relative. Advisor mentioned referring to precedent for commemorative name proposals, as well as known character of honoree.</p> <p><b>After note:</b> Chair contacted proponent after the meeting and learned that he is not related to the family, but he is a family friend.</p> <p><b>Recommendation basis:</b> Meets criteria for a commemorative name (J Paul Leonard had influence on area, deceased well over 5 year minimum, no nearby features with the name), will have minimal impact on local residents, no opposition received. Local association with name had positive environmental and educational influence.</p>					

----- Lunch Break was taken 12:12-1:20 -----

Alameda	Oakland Hills	n/a	June 30, 2017	428	Tiffany Meyer
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Boundaries of proposal are poorly defined. BGN staff and assigned member inferred different expanses from the description provided by the proponent and the evidence gathered. Assigned member showed map of the region with the different boundary interpretations shown. Area is heavily populated and crosses county lines, so naming impact would be significant, and boundaries need to be clear. Outreach to stakeholders has been delayed until boundaries are settled, and proponent has been</p>					

difficult to reach for clarification. Proposal is expected to be pulled by BGN, boundaries clarified with proponent, and relisted using updated standards for initial outreach.

**Notes:** Member requested more information about proponent. Another member suggested that, like with legislative analysis, more information be gathered and presented on proponents, supporters and oppositions. Another member asked why case was still being considered, and researched, rather than voting against it on the basis of not enough information being provided by proponent, if there is no momentum behind the proposal. Assigned member clarified that due diligence is required, and that once outreach is done media and local response are expected. Name is already in local use. Native American Heritage Commission member offered to consult on list of local tribes for outreach.

Nevada	Johnson Canyon	Negro Canyon	Feb. 4, 2019	434	Janine Bird**
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**Deferred** – Land owned by the Truckee-Donner Land Trust. Trust and US Forest Service agree that name needs to be changed, and strongly support Johnson Canyon. Local usage has already shifted toward Johnson Canyon. Boundaries of Canyon unclear due to Y shape of feature, conflicting local and historical usage of the name, and geographic definition of canyon as being tied to a single riverine drainage having a single beginning and end. BGN naming policy would require the name to be limited to a single branch of the described feature – when pressed, locals said that they would choose to name the East branch Johnson Canyon. Current name is officially applied to the West branch.

**Notes:** Member offered to reach out to contact at the Nevada County Historical Society for research on historical perspective on the Johnson family, and expressed concern that by trying to remove racist names without considering the cultural component of the people who shaped the region and are reflected in the name, in choosing a replacement, you might lose the historical connection to those people. Advisor noted that is an issue with CACGN reacting to single name change proposals, because you have to consider what is before you. Member stated that Committee does not have enough information, but that there is room for further research, and asked to defer. Another member suggested that in cases where there is question of whether to change a name referring to a group to one honoring a person or family, outreach to the local community should be done to determine what would be appropriate. Advisor noted it is difficult to reach general population, and usually government representatives are relied upon, but responses can be rare. Another member suggested that outreach to local historical societies and similar groups may yield better results that are more in tune with the population.

**\*\* Member Bird is leaving CACGN, case has been taken by member Susan Anderson**

The following 4 proposals were submitted by the same proponent, and were discussed concurrently.

Plumas	Damalusung Lake	Squaw Lake	Mar. 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird **
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**Deferred** – Proposal submitted by Washoe Tribe, counter/parallel proposal coming from Mountain Maidu Tribe. MM request that where both tribes have submitted names, both be used. US BGN does not allow a single feature to have more than one official name, though variant names can be listed in the GNIS. Cross-tribal discussion and regional/tribal history research is needed. US Forest service supports removal of current name. Members want to confirm that Mountain Maidu proponent is authorized to speak for the tribe.

**Notes:** Member asked if it would be possible to approve a single name that contains both tribal recommendations, and it was noted that the length of the names would be

prohibitive. Another member asked the committee to be open to it if suggested by the tribes, and recommended that the choice be tribally driven in this case. Member also noted that research into the tribal names may show which name has been in use longer, as well as anchoring the new name in the history of the people in the region.

**\*\* Member Bird is leaving CACGN, case has been taken by member Christina Snider**

Plumas	Delmooh Valley	Squaw Valley	Mar. 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird **
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**Deferred** – See details from Damalusung Lake

**\*\* Member Bird is leaving CACGN, case has been taken by member Christina Snider**

Plumas	Delunga Peak	Squaw Valley Peak	Mar. 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird**
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**Deferred** – See details from Damalusung Lake

**Notes:** No Mountain Maidu name submission. Washoe is sole proposal.

**\*\* Member Bird is leaving CACGN, case has been taken by member Christina Snider**

Plumas	Seshme Creek	Squaw Queen Creek	Mar. 19, 2014	416	Janine Bird**
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**Deferred** – See details from Damalusung Lake

**\*\* Member Bird is leaving CACGN, case has been taken by member Christina Snider**

## 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
San Bernardino	Paac Küyühü'k	Squaw Tank	Oct. 8, 2019	437	Native American Heritage Commission <b>Christina Snider</b>
Los Angeles	Howe Arch	n/a	Apr. 15, 2020	439	California State Library <b>Greg Lucas</b>
Alpine	Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah	Jeff Davis Creek	July 10, 2020	440	Department of Conservation <b>TBD</b>
Marin	Elk Creek	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	Department of Fish and Wildlife <b>Richard Lis</b>
Tuolumne	James Wong Howe Creek	Chinaman Creek	July 10, 2020	440	Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection <b>Tiffany Meyer</b>
Riverside	Menifee Hills	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	Department of Conservation <b>TBD</b>
El Dorado	Sawyer Falls	n/a	July 10, 2020	440	Department of Parks and Recreation <b>Daniel Walsh</b>
San Mateo	Aramai Point	n/a	Oct. 5, 2020	441	Department of Water Resources <b>Clayton Guiraud</b>
El Dorado	Gasparini Creek	Gasparni Creek	Oct. 5, 2020	441	California African American Museum <b>Susan Anderson</b>
Imperial	Chesed Hills	n/a	Apr. 5, 2021	443	California State Library <b>Greg Lucas</b>
Tuolumne	China Creek	Chinaman Creek	Apr. 5, 2021	443	Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection <b>Tiffany Meyer</b>
Nevada	Granite Face Lake	n/a	Apr. 5, 2021	443	Department of Fish and Wildlife <b>Richard Lis</b>
Tuolumne	The Duke	n/a	Apr. 5, 2021	443	Department of Parks and Recreation <b>Daniel Walsh</b>

**7. Time and place of next meeting:** August 13th, 2021 @ 9:30 A.M. – Location to be confirmed

## Approval of Minutes for May 7<sup>th</sup> 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 <b>Susan Anderson</b>	[No corrections received; No vote recorded]
California State Library <b>Greg Lucas</b>	[No corrections received; No vote recorded]
Conservation <b>(TBD)</b>	[VACANT SEAT]
Fish and Wildlife <b>Richard Lis</b>	Reviewed and Approved 6/8/2021 (I have no corrections)
Forestry and Fire Protection <b>Tiffany Meyer</b>	[Approved prior to distribution]
Native American Heritage Commission <b>Christina Snider</b>	[No corrections received; No vote recorded]
Parks and Recreation <b>Daniel Walsh</b>	Approved, 6/4/21
Water Resources <b>Clayton Guiraud</b>	Approved, 6/2/21

**Minutes approved by virtual quorum 6/16/2021**