California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

November 3, 2023

Hybrid Public Meeting Sacramento, California 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

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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 Fish and Wildlife (**Richard Lis**)
- ✓ Department of Conservation (Amy Loseth)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (Raymond Hitchcock)
- ✓ Department of Water Resources (Mary Simmerer)
- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (Daniel Walsh)
- ✓ California State Library (**Rebecca Wendt** and **Jamie Romas** for Greg Lucas)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

Absent

Ex-Officio Members:

Present

✓ Legislative Black Caucus – (**Sarah Meza** for Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.); California Natural Resources Agency (**Geneva E. B. Thompson**, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs)

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-Ashtari); Legislative Women's Caucus (TBD)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Forest Service (Rich Spradling)
- ✓ United States Bureau of Land Management (Somer Shaw)

Absent

 United States Geological Survey (Drew Decker); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jeffrey Ferguson); National Park Service (Amanda B. Kaplan)

Emeritus Advisors:

Present

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

Absent

✗ Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources

Non-committee guests:

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

2. Approve Minutes for August 4, 2023 Meeting

Minutes are being 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) Change of the Guard, Carol Ostergren, United States Geological Survey;
 Welcome Drew Decker, United States Geological Survey

The chair informed the group that Carol Ostergren has retired and Drew Decker will now represent the USGS.

b) Federal Legislation: Update on DOI Secretarial Order 3405

Jenny Runyon discussed the upcoming in-person meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Secretarial Order 3405, specifically the Reconciliation and Place Names Committee. The meeting will be hosted by the Hawaii State Names Board on November 14th, 15th, and 16th. The public is invited to attend virtually and registration by November 7 is preferred. Runyon shared a preliminary list of names and recommendations that the committee plans to address.

Runyon emphasized the importance of at least one CACGN representative from the group attending the meeting virtually, as it is a continuation of a previous meeting held at the Grand Canyon. The committee's focus is outside the USBGN's purview, and there is

curiosity about the direction they will take. The chair expressed interest in the meeting, having attended the Grand Canyon meeting virtually and found it helpful and interesting.

Overall, the discussion highlighted the significance of the upcoming committee meeting, the need for virtual attendance, and the potential insights from the Hawaii State Names Board's hosting of the event.

c) State Legislation: Update on AB2022 Policies and Procedures, Timeline, and Draft Sq. List

The CACGN manager, Muri Bartkovsky provided an update on California state legislation AB 2022, focusing on the policies, procedures, timeline, and the draft Sq. name list.

- The draft Sq_ list is in the process of being posted on the website, allowing people to review proposed changes and provide feedback.
- Emails were sent to approximately 180 tribal contacts, 58 county board supervisors and clerks, and 482 city managers and mayors. Further outreach is planned to gather input on any geographic features or names containing "Sq.."
- Approximately 400 surveys were received, with 43 surveys identifying names already reconciled by Secretarial Order 3404. Some surveys included duplicate names, and others proposed names containing "Sq_." Research added additional names, and almost 300 surveys reported no Sq_ names.
 - Thirty tribal governments submitted surveys, even though they were not required to do so. Fifty-three out of 58 counties in California were represented by the surveys, indicating broad geographic coverage.
- There is a need for continued outreach, as well as opportunities to coordinate efforts with other groups, such as the National Forest Service, to find non-geographic occurrences of "Sq_." The goal is to gather additional names and input by December 1, 2023. The final list is expected by January 1, 2024.

The chair, Richard Lis acknowledged Muri Bartkovsky's exceptional efforts in handling the challenging task of contacting numerous entities and praised the committee for their knowledge and support.

d) Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) Annual Conference

The Council of Geographic Names Authority (CoGNA) Annual Conference (https://cogna50usa.org/conferences) took place in Portland, Oregon, from September 12th to 16th. The attendees had the opportunity to hear various speakers, participate in field trips, and engage in discussions with people from different states. There were notable presentations, a working group discussion panel with Nevada and Colorado state names committees to compare operations, as well as a discussion of AB 2022, focusing on the split

between the Sq_ names and the upcoming offensive and derogatory component of AB 2022.

However, some CACGN participants expressed mixed feelings about the conference, citing insufficient training on federal matters, lack of introductory material for new State Names Authorities, and the US BGN board meeting's focus on formalized voting rather than indepth policy discussions.

Despite these concerns, there were positive aspects, such as valuable side conversations, introductions, and opportunities to meet people from different states. Committee members enjoyed hearing various states' reports, processes, and cases.

Suggestions for future conferences included incorporating more training sessions for state names authorities, especially those who are new to the process, as well as discussions on non-quantifiable policies, such as overriding need, compelling reasons for name changes, offensive names, and commercial names.

Muri Bartkovsky highlighted plans for California to host the conference in 2026 and expressed the committee's goal to make it an action-packed and informative event.

Jenny Runyon from the BGN responded to the committee's feedback, acknowledging the challenges with virtual meetings and the need for more in-depth discussions on policies and procedures. She suggested giving feedback directly to Christine Johnson at CoGNA and recommended proposing a session for staff to share real examples and engage in policy discussions during future conferences.

4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since August 4, 2023

 If Case Status identifies the recommendation as CACGN, then the case is still pending U.S. BGN decision.

Source: 857 Sep15 2023 Minutes.pdf; Accessed 2023.10.18.

a) Proposed Name: O'Haniel Creek

Feature Type: Stream

County: Humboldt County

• Review List: 449

BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
 Case Status: BGN Approved

b) Proposed Name: Blue Bear Mountain

Feature Type: Summit

• County: Siskiyou County

• Review List: 450

BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
 Case Status: BGN Disapproved

c) Proposed Name: Bickford Ranch

Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)

County: Placer County

• Review List: 451

BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
 Case Status: BGN Approved

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: 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 tribal input needed.

Notes: Assigned member provided an update on the proposal for the renaming of four geographic features in San Diego County. The case has been slow to progress due to the limited availability of the graduate student who is the main researcher on the case. There is a strong desire to collect additional tribal input on the proposed names, and the assigned member has offered to take a more active role in the case to move it along. A suggestion is made to urgently reach out directly to the tribes and gather information on who has been contacted so far.

The importance of having a case proposal checklist was discussed, since it will serve as a paper trail to track progress and demonstrate the committee's efforts to engage stakeholders and move forward.

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

b) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk Creek *
 Current Name: Little Stonewall Creek

• Feature Type: Stream

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Notes: See item *5a*, above.

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

c) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii *

• Current Name: Stonewall Peak

• Feature Type: Summit

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Notes: See item *5a*, above.

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

d) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii Creek * Current Name: Stonewall Creek

• Feature Type: Stream

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Notes: See item 5a, above.

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

e) 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 is being conducted.

Notes: Assigned member provided an update on the proposed renaming of geographic feature in a popular recreation area in Sacramento County. There is ongoing work with the State Parks Department, which has already voted to temporarily change the name to Black Miners Bar. The change was made unanimously as part of the African American History and Engagement Project.

A scholar from UC Davis is conducting additional research, the results of which will be used as the foundation to propose a permanent name change. The goal is to align the names of the geographic feature and the State Recreation Area based on the thorough historical and cultural research being conducted. This will provide a comprehensive context for the area that is backed by documentation that hasn't been available before. The assigned member anticipates presenting the proposal to the committee after the Parks Commission meeting in June.

f) Proposed Name: Salamander Creek

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Stream

County: Humboldt County

Review List: 450

Proposal Release Date: February 6, 2023

Assigned Member: Greg LucasStatus: Deferred

Deferral basis: More research and outreach to tribes and residents needed.

Notes: Representative for assigned member provided update. The feature is a currently unnamed stream in Humboldt County. There have been delays in receiving responses from property owners and tribal contacts. Out of the 36 property owners contacted, only four responses have been received. Additionally, letters to tribes with ancestral ties to the area were only sent out the prior week, leaving insufficient time for responses. The responses received so far express opposition to the naming due to the proponent's actions, including habitat destruction along the creek and lack of engagement with neighbors regarding the proposed name.

g) Proposed Name: Hidden Heart Falls

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Falls

• County: Riverside County

Review List: 450

Proposal Release Date: February 6, 2023Assigned Member: Susan Anderson

Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Tribal input being sought.

Notes: Assigned member provided an update. Feature is currently unnamed. Tribal outreach is ongoing. Member recommends reaching out to the tribal historic preservation officer at the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians to clarify their stance on the proposed name."

---- Lunch was taken from 11:53 - 1:01 pm ----

h) Proposed Name: James Wong Howe Creek / Chinese Miners Creek

• Current Name: Chinaman Creek

Feature Type: Stream

• County: Tuolumne County

Review List: 440 / 451 (relisted from 443)

Assigned Member: Tiffany MeyerCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Need for tribal opinions and official county opinion.

Notes: Assigned member provided update regarding proposed names for a creek in Tuolumne County to replace the current offensive name. Although the newer proposal for "Chinese Miners Creek" is backed by many Chinese historians, local county supervisor from a different district than where the feature is located, initially preferring a more specific name tied to a person. One CACGN member commented that James Wong Howe is worthy of commemoration but has no ties to this particular feature or the area. Assigned member plans to continue collecting opinions, including from local tribes and an official county opinion, and hopes to bring the matter back for a decision in March.

i) Proposed Name: xanwa flat *

• Current Name: Kahus Flat

• Feature Type: Flat

• County: Ventura County

Review List: 451

Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

• Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional tribal input needed.

Notes: Assigned member provided update on three features in Ventura County. The features' current names were proposed in September 2022 by a Native Chumash consultant and were approved. However, the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians has since proposed three new names.

To ensure inclusivity and gather input from all tribes with ancestral ties to the area, outreach efforts were initiated. Tribal outreach is still ongoing, and Member has not received definitive stances in support or opposition from tribal outreach efforts.

*3 cases (items 6i-6k) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

j) Proposed Name: poš creek *

• Current Name: S' o" Kuku Creek

Feature Type: Stream

County: Ventura County

Review List: 451

Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

Notes: See item 6i, above.

*3 cases (items 6i–6k) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

k) Proposed Name: xutaš spring *

Current Name: Saputiwah Spring

Feature Type: Stream

• County: Ventura County

Review List: 451

Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

Notes: See item *6i*, above.

*3 cases (items 6i–6k) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

I) Proposed Name: Boomer Creek

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Stream

County: Santa Cruz County

• Review List: 452

Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
 Assigned Member: Amy Loseth
 Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional research and tribal outreach needed.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Boomer Creek is a small tributary, approximately two and a half miles long, of Branciforte Creek. The proposal is to make official the name that is currently in use, named after George Boomer and Harvey John Boomer, who were brothers that opened a sawmill on the creek in the 1860s.

The county has expressed support of the proposed name, but assigned member is still researching the background of George and Harvey John Boomer to understand their contributions to the area. Member has received some tribal responses but is still waiting for others.

m) Proposed Name: Kilkenny Valley

• Current Name: Habematolel Valley

Feature Type: Flat

County: Lake County

• Review List: 452

Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional research needed, as well as clarification of geographic boundaries.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. She has been in touch with the proponents, who have additional documentation to add to the case file. Member has not had the opportunity to connect with other interested parties, including local tribes, or discuss the case with committee members. The California Natural Resources Agency's Secretary for Tribal Affairs also stated that CNRA has received a request for consultation regarding this case.

Public comment, Mark Kilkenny: Proponent; the previously shown topographic map, which implied the Kilkenny family does not own the valley, is inaccurate. Family has provided a plat map from the county showing ~95% of valley is owned by the Kilkenny family.

Public comment, Anne Kilkenny: Proponent; was happy to participate in the 3404 Task Force process and met all the timelines and submission requirements. However, the current name, chosen by the Task Force, is Pomo, which is not representative of the predominant tribe and removes any reference to women. Commenter considers there to be two historically significant women in the area: a woman from the Yuki tribe, and the woman who was the Kilkenny family matriarch. The new name should honor one of these two women, so their proposal and provided documentation should get a thorough examination. The family provided a linguistic map to assist in determining if the local native language was Pomo or Yuki. The Kilkenny family has made consistent efforts to identify, preserve, and maintain Yuki sites in the valley. Kilkenny Corp. is nonprofit whose sole purpose is to preserve and enhance the land and cultural values that the Kilkenny family, now at 300 members, has inherited. If no Yuki name has been proposed, commenter wishes to respectfully request approval of the Kilkenny name.

One committee member mentioned the feature has been reclassified as flat instead of valley, meaning the feature went from having two geographic reference points to a single reference point. However, the feature is sloped (~4%), not indicative of a flat feature. Digital quads are not accurate representations of non-point features. Suggests assigned member research why it was made a flat and to get clarification on location.

Public comment, Mark Kilkenny: Whether valley or flat, it's owned by the Kilkenny family. The official Lake County parcel map shows that 97-99% is owned by the family.

The committee member responded that it is important where the point is located, because it would determine ownership of the feature (Forest Service vs. private land). Flats have one coordinate; valleys have two coordinates and have riparian features.

Jenny Runyon with the BGN states that their tracking system shows it originally as a valley. Surmises that because it was a valley without a

clear source and a mouth (due to multiple creek inputs) it was changed to a flat due to having multiple water sources. Will do more research; welcomes Forest Service input.

n) Proposed Name: Klamath Straits Drain

Current Name: Klamath Strait / Klamath Strait Drain Outlet

Feature Type: Canal

County: Klamath and Siskiyou Counties

• Review List: 452

Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
 Assigned Member: Richard Lis
 Case Status: Deferred

Notes: Assigned member requested deferral.

o) Proposed Name: Yohala-mi

• Current Name: Sacramento Mountain

• Feature Type: Summit

• County: Shasta County

• Review List: 452

Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
 Assigned Member: Daniel Walsh
 Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional outreach to local tribes and county needed.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Feature is a 3,354-foot summit, half in Shasta National Forest, half on private land owned by Lightning Canyon Ranch (proponent). Current name first appeared in 1946 on USGS topographic maps.

According to the proponent, as well as a book about the Wintu and other Tribes with ancestral ties to the area, the proposed name is Wintu and was historically used by the Tribe for hundreds of thousands of years. The name translates to "Frog Mountain," potentially named as such due to the numerous riparian features in the area. It has been shown that the Wintu Tribe has close ties to the area, and the feature is largely preserved in perpetuity via conservation easement.

Letters of support have been received from the Wintu Tribe of Northern California, the Toyon-Wintu Center, and the Redding Rancheria Tribe. A letter of support was also received from a descendant of the author of a book on Wintu legends and stories. There are five other tribes with ancestral ties to the area that the Member has not yet reached out to.

The Chair of the Shasta County District Supervisors does not support, although it's unclear whether this is the official board opinion or a personal opinion. The US Forest Service has offered no opinion.

Public comment, Bob Hixon: Proponent and landowner; has lived there since 2010. A rock formation on the property, used for the cover of the book about the Wintu, to acknowledge sacred places in the area. The proposed name was the indigenous historic name for hundreds or thousands of years. There are several groups of Wintu in Redding and in Shasta County, and they are extremely excited about the potential name change. There are two other Sacramento Mountains on the West Coast, one in California and one in New Mexico, which causes confusion with this feature. The proposed name would be tremendous nod to Indigenous people. If approved, the Wintu people will have a blessing ceremony on the summit.

Committee members discussed the U.S. BGN policy stating that historic use of a proposed name is not necessarily a significantly compelling reason to change the existing name. One member pointed out that the current name is not offensive, only a duplication of the names assigned to two other geographically remote summits. Another consideration is that the name "Sacramento" is already well-represented by other features in the area, such as the Sacramento River. The committee members acknowledged that the decision regarding this case could set the precedent for future cases.

Public comment, Bob Hixon: The mountain is on private property and has no public access except through the Wildlife Conservation Board. The closest federally recognized Tribe is Redding Rancheria, although the Wintu Tribe is physically closer to the mountain. The proposed name is the feature's original name.

One committee member stated that the current name is not a name established by land use, since the feature is remote and on private land. Another member commented that the feature is visible from Highway 5 and is noticeable on the landscape.

Assigned member agreed to further engage the County and reach out to other tribes with ancestral ties to the area.

6. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced

Source: Quarterly Review Lists <u>453</u> and <u>454</u>; 2023.10.18 and 2024.01.23; by U.S. Board on Geographic Names; Accessed 2024.02.20.

a) Proposed Name: China Wall Overlook

Current Name: McGlashan Point

Feature Type: Summit

County: Nevada County

• Review List: 453

Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023Assigned Member: Susan Anderson

b) Proposed Name: Fifth of July Hill

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Summit

• County: San Bernardino County

• Review List: 453

Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023

Assigned Member: Richard Lis

c) Proposed Name: Hoot Owl Lake

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Lake

• County: Nevada County

• Review List: 453

Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023

Assigned Member: Amy Loseth

d) Proposed Name: mxqawlay'ba knowin xyoykith

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Ridge

County: Lake County

Review List: 453

Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023

Assigned Member: Greg Lucas

e) Proposed Name: Tumanguya

Current Name: Mount Whitney

Feature Type: Summit

County: Tulare and Inyo Counties

• Review List: 453

Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer

f) Proposed Name: Konocti

• Current Name: Kelseyville

Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)

• County: Lake County

• Review List: 454

Proposal Release Date: January 23, 2024Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

7. Time and Place of Next Meetings:

Proposed Winter meeting date:

Hybrid format March 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Proposed Summer meeting date:

July 12, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.