

# California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

## Minutes

December 8th, 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: 7 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 Forestry and Fire Protection (**Tiffany Meyer**)
- ✓ California State Library (**Greg Lucas**)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (**Debbie Treadway**)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

*Absent*

Department of Conservation (Amy Loseth)

Ex-Officio Members:

*Present*

- ✓ Legislative Black Caucus (**Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.** – and **Michael Lucien** for the Asm.)
- ✓ Department of Transportation (**Amar Azucena Cid**)
- ✓ Select Committee on Native American Affairs (**Asm. James C. Ramos**)
- ✓ Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (**Jacob Fraker** for Sen. Susan Eggman)

*Absent*

Latino Legislative Caucus (Asm. Luz Rivas); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (Asm. Ash Kalra); Legislative Women's Caucus (*TBD*)

Federal Advisors:

*Present*

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

*Absent*

United States Bureau of Land Management (James Barnes)

Emeritus Advisors:

*Present*

- ✓ **Jim Trumbly**, former Chair, retired State Parks
- ✓ **Christina Snider**, past NAHC member and current Governor's Tribal Advisor

*Absent*

Will Patterson, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; 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 August 13, 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.
- Geneva E.B. Thompson, CNRA representative, was introduced
- Debbie Treadway, Native American Heritage Commission acting director was introduced
- US Department of the Interior Secretary Haaland issued two secretarial orders to replace all derogatory names in the Nation – Chair and US BGN staff representative gave a summary of the direction and their understanding of the current status at the Federal level.
  - The first order, [S.O. 3404](#), will address features named “squaw.” A Federal task force is being formed to put the order into action. It will drive the process and provide answers to questions raised below.
  - The second order, [S.O. 3405](#), will address features that include other derogatory words. An advisory committee will be formed in early 2022 to manage this effort.
  - For features named “squaw,” a list is being pulled from the GNIS.
    - USGS staff will identify names of nearby features for each and create a list of 5 possible names, in proximity order, to replace the current.
    - The task force will review the possible names in order and select the most suitable name to put forward.
    - There will be a tribal consultation/comment period of up to 90 days, and a 30 day public and federal/state agency notice/comment period.
    - After the comment periods, in mid-late 2022, the names and associated input will be presented to the US BGN for a decision.
  - For other names determined to be derogatory, the advisory committee will solicit proposals to replace these names.
  - The role of CACGN and other State-level advisory boards is not yet known.

- CACGN or its members can submit comments, but may or may not be able to submit counter-proposals or alternative names prior to the US BGN vote.
    - Relevant currently pending proposals will continue to be processed at this time. CACGN should research and submit recommendations on currently listed names, and any listed going forward, to the US BGN.
    - Pending names which have not been recommended for approval/disapproval by the time the task force's list is brought to the US BGN may or may not be selected.
  - Following the BGN's decision, any features renamed as part of this initiative are eligible to be renamed through the standard name proposal process.
  - Any questions regarding this Secretarial Order, or its implementation, should be directed to the Department of the Interior at [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov) until such time as a point of contact for the task force is announced.
  - US BGN staff will be available to provide updates on the impacts on current proposals caused by these Secretarial Orders once the task force and advisory committee begins working and making process decisions.
- Chair provided an update on the Olympic Valley Palisades Tahoe ski resort name change and associated actions.
    - Palisades Tahoe is seeking tribal input for renaming chairlifts and other associated names on their property
    - A proposal is in the works to rename the associated geographic feature, but has not yet been completed and listed for review by the US BGN
  - Chair and State Parks member provided an update on the proposal to rename Negro Bar.
    - Still pending a proposal to be put forth by State Parks in early 2022
    - State Parks invites the public to share their thoughts, comments, or suggestions for an appropriate place name for the park's day use facilities via email at [planning@parks.ca.gov](mailto:planning@parks.ca.gov)
    - Member from CA African American Museum is assisting Parks with research into the history of the area to provide historical context in choosing a name to propose.
  - Chair notified the committee of upcoming proposals to change 4 geographic feature names containing "Stonewall" in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, San Diego County, to Kumeyaay names. These features are on Kumeyaay ancestral lands

- Chair notified the committee of updates to the US BGN website. There is a new form to submit name change proposals, as well as new access points for GNIS content and maps.
- Chair notified the committee that the Doak Creek proposal would not be heard at the meeting.

#### 4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since August 13th, 2021

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; 2021.10.14; Accessed 2021.11.22)

Proposed Name	Feature Type	County	Review List	BGN Decision Date	Case Status
Aramai Point	Cape	San Mateo	441	Sept 9, 2021	approved
Sawyer Falls	Falls	El Dorado	440		pending
The Duke	Summit	Tuolumne	443		pending

#### 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
Sierra	Damalusung Lake	Squaw Lake	416	Debbie Treadway
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Member newly assigned case and proposals are not ready for a vote.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Proposal submitted by Washoe Tribe, counter/parallel proposal coming from Mountain Maidu Tribe. MM have been slow to act due to wildfires and other administrative difficulties, but unofficial proposal was received by USFS and is pending action. Proponent is seeking letters of support for his proposals. Ex-Officio member, Assemblymember Ramos representing the Select Committee on Native American Affairs, asked to be included in process.</p> <p><b>** 4 cases submitted by same proponent for same region and considered together</b></p>				
Plumas	Delmooh Valley	Squaw Valley	416	Debbie Treadway
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Member newly assigned case and proposals are not ready for a vote.</p> <p><b>** 4 cases submitted by same proponent for same region and considered together</b></p>				

Plumas	Delunga Peak	Squaw Valley Peak	416	Debbie Treadway
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Member newly assigned case and proposals are not ready for a vote.</p> <p><b>** 4 cases submitted by same proponent for same region and considered together</b></p>				
Plumas	Seshme Creek	Squaw Queen Creek	416	Debbie Treadway
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Member newly assigned case and proposals are not ready for a vote.</p> <p><b>** 4 cases submitted by same proponent for same region and considered together</b></p>				
Nevada	Johnson Canyon	Negro Canyon	434	Susan Anderson
<p><b>Deferred</b> – Further research is needed on current name.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Honoree is closely associated with the area, but property location is unknown. Further research is needed on the context of the current name to ensure the cultural connection of African American settlers in the area is not lost.</p>				

----- Morning Break was taken 11:10-11:20 -----

San Bernardino	Oak Springs	n/a	436	Mary Simmerer
<p><b>Voted (for <u>6</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>1</u> ) Recommendation: <u>APPROVE</u></b></p> <p><b>Recommendation basis:</b> Name has local relevancy and usage, no opposition received</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> 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.</p>				
Riverside	Paac Küvüñhü'k	Squaw Tank	437	Debbie Treadway
<p><b>Voted (for <u>7</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>0</u> ) Recommendation: <u>APPROVE</u></b></p> <p><b>Recommendation basis:</b> Overwhelming support for new name</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> CA State Parks supports name. County did not respond to request for opinion. Proponent is the Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, and name was proposed in consultation with the park's traditionally associated Native American communities (name provided by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians). Ex-Officio member, Assemblymember Ramos representing the Select Committee on Native American Affairs, recommended to approve.</p>				
Los Angeles	Howe Arch	n/a	439	Greg Lucas
<p><b>Voted (for <u>5</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>1</u> ) Recommendation: <u>DISAPPROVE</u></b></p> <p><b>Recommendation basis:</b> Lack of local support, and opposition by State Parks</p>				

**Notes:** No response from Board of Supervisors, County, or tribes, National Park Service does not support naming. No information found about honoree of proposed name having a direct or long term association with the feature or making a significant contribution to the area, community, or State, to support a commemorative name per US BGN policy.

\*One member had stepped away at the time of the vote, quorum was met, so Committee proceeded

Imperial	Chesed Hills	Pilot Knob	443	Greg Lucas
<p><b>Voted (for <u>7</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>0</u> ) Recommendation: <u>DISAPPROVE</u></b>  <b>Recommendation basis:</b> Lack of local support, and opposition by BLM and local tribe</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Feature is half on Fort Yuma reservation, half on BLM managed land. BLM and local tribe refer to entire ridge as Pilot Knob, USGS refers to only the highest peak as Pilot Knob. There is strong opposition by both BLM and by local Fort Yuma Quechan tribe. Tribe is being encouraged to submit a proposal to rename the feature using the historic name in their language. Name has no relationship to landscape, area, or local communities.</p>				

Alpine	Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah	Jeff Davis Creek	440	Amy Loseth
<p><b>Deferred –</b> Assigned member not in attendance.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> No response from Board of Supervisors or tribes, Park Service does not support naming.</p>				

----- Lunch Break was taken 12:08-1:10 -----

Marin	Elk Creek	n/a	440	Richard Lis
<p><b>Deferred –</b> Needs further research.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Need to follow up with local tribes and research local usage further. No response from Board of Supervisors or tribes, No opinion from NOAA.</p>				

Riverside	Menifee Hills	n/a	440	Amy Loseth
<p><b>Deferred –</b> Assigned member not in attendance.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> No response from County, City is in favor.</p>				

San Bernardino	Risler Buttes	Pickaninny Buttes	442	Mary Simmerer
<p><b>Deferred –</b> Needs further research.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Supported by surviving Risler family and the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association. Homestead patent for land containing buttes granted to honoree in 1928. Member would like research into character, community roles, and ethnicity of honorees (to ensure African American connection is not lost), and has agreed to reach out to local</p>				

historical society to help assigned member. Advisor recommended researching the homesteading process in Lucerne to determine if it was used to displace tribal nations.				
El Dorado	Gasparini Creek	Gasparni Creek	441	Susan Anderson
<b>Voted (for <u>7</u> /against <u>0</u> /abstain <u>0</u> ) Recommendation: <u>APPROVE</u></b> <b>Recommendation basis:</b> Clear case of misspelled name  <b>Notes:</b> Evidence supports a cartographic error resulting in misspelled name in GNIS. Name correctly spelled on homestead claim, signage, and maps of area. Proponent is descendant of original honoree. Change supported by El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, USFS.				
Tuolumne	China Creek	Chinaman Creek	443	Tiffany Meyer
<b>Deferred –</b> Needs further outreach.  <b>Notes:</b> Supported by County and USFS, no response from tribes. Committee recommends additional outreach to Chinese and Chinese-American community in the area and Ex-Officio members support taking relevant proposals back to their caucuses to assist in outreach. Assigned member will follow up with Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus designee.				
Nevada	Granite Face Lake	n/a	443	Richard Lis
<b>Deferred –</b> Needs further research.  <b>Notes:</b> Need to further research the land ownership, local usage, and public access. County supports name.				

## 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
Placer	Lake Marie	Part of Loch Leven Lakes		445	Debbie Treadway
Placer	Washesu Peak	Squaw Peak		445	Debbie Treadway
Alameda	Oakland Hills *	n/a (Berkeley Hills)		445	Tiffany Meyer
<p><b>* Relisted from 428</b>            Boundaries of proposal were poorly defined, and proponent was not responsive to a request for clarification. BGN pulled the previous proposal, clarified the proposed boundaries with the proponent, and relisted using the new expanded tribal outreach policy for initial outreach.</p>					

**7. Time and place of next meeting:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. –  
Location to be confirmed

Proposed Summer meeting date: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 @ 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.



