

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

December 12, 2025

Virtual Public Meeting

Sacramento, California

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
1. Call to Order – Chair Geneva E.B. Thompson, California Department of Natural Resources	3
2. Agenda Changes	4
3. Announcements	5
4. Meeting Minutes.....	5
5. Actions made by U.S. BGN since May 30, 2025	5
a) Proposed Name: James Wong Howe Creek	5
b) Proposed Name: Chinese Miners Creek	5
c) Proposed Name: Kilkenney Valley	6
d) Proposed Name: Boomer Creek.....	6
e) Proposed Name: Uypi Creek.....	6
f) Proposed Name: Cush-pii	6
g) Proposed Name: Cush-pii 'Estik.....	7
h) Proposed Name: Kwettap Cush-pii.....	7
i) Proposed Name: Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak.....	7
j) Proposed Name: Curran Canyon	7
k) Proposed Name: Curran Creek.....	8
6. BGN Name Proposals for CACGN Review and Recommendation	8
a) Proposed Name: Paramount Hill	8
b) Proposed Name: Mount George.....	8
c) Proposed Name: dukMé?em wá'ta	9
d) Proposed Name: Engagement Point	9
7. Name Proposals Deferred for Future CACGN Review and Discussion	10
a) Proposed Name: Black Miners Bar.....	10
b) Proposed Name: mxqawlay'ba knowin xyoykith	10
c) Proposed Name: Konocti	10
d) Proposed Name: Mitchell Ridge	10
e) Proposed Name: Sacred Buttes	10
f) Proposed Name: Blue Heron Lake	10

g) Proposed Name: Middle Mountain	10
h) Proposed Name: Challenger Peak	11
8. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced.....	11
9. General Public Comment	11
10. Time and Place of Next Meetings:.....	11
11. Adjourn	11

* Indicates cases that were considered simultaneously with one or more proposals (details provided below).

1. Call to Order – Chair Geneva E.B. Thompson, California Department of Natural Resources

Roll was called.

Committee Members: 8 of 9 voting members were present

Present

- ✓ California Department of Natural Resources (**Geneva E.B. Thompson, Chair**)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (**Andrew Alejandre**)
- ✓ Department of Fish and Wildlife (**Amelia Wright**)
- ✓ Department of Conservation (**Elizabeth Betancourt**)
- ✓ Department of Water Resources (**Ebenezer Ampah**)
- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (**Jim Newland**)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (**Helen Lopez**)
- ✓ California State Library (**Greg Lucas**)

Absent

- ✗ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

Ex-Officio Members:

Absent

- ✗ Select Committee on Native American Affairs (Asm. James C. Ramos); Senior Legislative Black Caucus (Designee TBD); Latino Legislative Caucus (Designee TBD); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (Asm. Ash Kalra); Legislative LGBTQ2+ Caucus (Sen. Susan Eggman); Tribal Advisor to the Office of the Governor (Christina Snider-Ashtari); Legislative Women's Caucus (Designee TBD); Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Legislative Black Caucus (Sarah Meza for Assemblymember); Department of Transportation, CalTrans, (Nailah Pope-Harden) United States Geological Survey (Drew Decker)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Forest Service (Rich Spradling)
- ✓ United States Board on Geographic Names (Shelly Zahniser)
- ✓ United States Board on Geographic Names (Matt O'Donnell)
- ✓ United States Board on Geographic Names (Shelby Bourquein)

Absent

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

Emeritus Advisors:

Present

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

Absent

- ✗ Brian Moran, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- ✗ Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources
- ✗ Carol Ostergren, United States Geological Survey
- ✗ Will Patterson, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CNRA and Committee Staff:

Meagan Flier (CNRA); Araceli Moreno (CNRA); Justin Ander (CRNA IT)

2. Agenda Changes

- a) Change a name for a valley, Kern Canyon to Curran Canyon: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain.
- b) Change a name for a stream, Kern Creek to Curran Creek: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain.
- c) Change a name for a summit, Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, no discussion.
- d) Change a name for a stream, Stonewall Creek to Kwettap Cush-pii: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, no discussion.
- e) Change a name for a summit, Little Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii 'Estik: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, no discussion.
- f) Change a name for a stream, Little Stonewall Creek to Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak: Motion to approve, 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, no discussion.
- g) Correction to Section 5 header, modified to "Since December 11th, 2025."
- h) Correction to Informational Items, modified subsection 6 to subsection f.
- i) Correction to BGN Name Proposals for CACGN Review and Recommendation, modified from section 7 to section 6.
- j) Correction to Name Proposals Deferred for Future CACGN Review and Discussion, modified from section 8 to section 7.
- k) Correction to New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be introduced, modified from section 9 to section 8.
- l) Correction to General Public Comment, modified from section 10 to section 9.
- m) Correction to Next CACGN Meeting(s), modified from section 11 to section 10.
- n) Correction to Adjourned, modified from section 12 to section 11.

3. Announcements

- a) Thank you to Michelle Carr for serving on CACGN during her time as acting Executive Secretary for NAHC
- b) Welcome to Andrew “Dru” Alejandre – representative for Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

4. Meeting Minutes

- a) Motion approved, no discussion from the Committee, no discussion from the public.

5. Actions made by U.S. BGN since May 30, 2025

If Case Status identifies the recommendation as CACGN, then the case is still pending U.S. BGN decision. (Source: <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/dnc-minutes>)

- a) **Proposed Name:** James Wong Howe Creek
 - **Current Name:** Chinaman Creek
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** Tuolumne
 - **Review List:** 440
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended disapproval of proposal to change the name of James Wong Howe Creek to Chinaman Creek to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.
 - **BGN Action:** Pending

- b) **Proposed Name:** Chinese Miners Creek
 - **Current Name:** Chinaman Creek
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** Tuolumne
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 451
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended approval of proposal to change the name of Chinaman Creek to Chinese Miners Creek to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.
 - **BGN Action:** Pending

- c) **Proposed Name:** **Kilkenney Valley**
- **Current Name:** Habematolel Valley
 - **Feature:** Valley
 - **County:** Lake
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:**452
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended disapproval to change to change the name of Habematolel Valley to Kilkenney Valley Basin to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.
 - **BGN Action:** Pending
- d) **Proposed Name:** **Boomer Creek**
- **Current Name:** N/A
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** Santa Cruz
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:**452
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board on Geographic Names disapprove of naming BGN ID 456-6046 to name the unnamed stream Boomer Creek.
 - **BGN Action:** Disapproved on 9/11/2025
- e) **Proposed Name:** **Uypi Creek**
- **Current Name:** N/A
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** Santa Cruz
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:**454
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approve naming BGN ID 454-6158 to name the unnamed stream Uypi Creek.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on 9/11/2025
- f) **Proposed Name:** **Cush-pii**
- **Current Name:** **Stonewall Peak**
 - **Feature:** Summit
 - **County:** San Diego
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 459
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 459-6453 to change the name of Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025

- g) **Proposed Name:** **Cush-pii 'Estik**
- **Current Name:** **Little Stonewall Peak**
 - **Feature:** Summit
 - **County:** San Diego
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 459
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 459-6455 to change the name of Little Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii 'Estik.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025
- h) **Proposed Name:** **Kwettap Cush-pii**
- **Current Name:** **Stonewall Creek**
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** San Diego
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 459
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 459-6454 to change the name of Stonewall Creek to Kwettap Cush-pii.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025
- i) **Proposed Name:** **Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak**
- **Current Name:** **Little Stonewall Creek**
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** San Diego
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 459
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 459-6456 to change the name of Little Stonewall Creek to Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025
- j) **Proposed Name:** **Curran Canyon**
- **Current Name:** **Kern Canyon**
 - **Feature:** Valley
 - **County:** Stanislaus
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 454
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 454-6166 to change the name of Kern Canyon to Curran Canyon.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025

- k) Proposed Name: Curran Creek**
- **Current Name:** Kern Creek
 - **Feature:** Stream
 - **County:** Stanislaus
 - **BGN Quarterly Review List:** 454
 - **CACGN Recommendation:** recommended the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approve of naming BGN ID 454-6170 to change the name of Kern Creek to Curran Creek.
 - **BGN Action:** Approved on December 11, 2025

Copies of U.S. BGN meeting minutes and decisions may be found at <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/dnc-minutes>.

6. BGN Name Proposals for CACGN Review and Recommendation

- a) Proposed Name: Paramount Hill**
- **Current Name:** N/A
 - **Feature Type:** Summit
 - **County:** San Diego
 - **Review List:** 456
 - **CACGN Case Status:** CACGN voted to recommend disapproval of the proposed name Paramount Hill for the unnamed summit in San Diego.
 - **Voting Results:** 7-yes, 0-no
 - The Committee considered the insufficient documentation to support the claim of local use or support of the proposed name. The Committee found no compelling reason to name the summit to Paramount Hill.
- b) Proposed Name: Mount George**
- **Current Name:** N/A
 - **Feature Type:** Summit
 - **County:** Trinity
 - **Review List:** 457
 - **CACGN Case Status:** CACGN voted to recommend approval of the proposed name Mount George for the unnamed summit in Trinity County.
 - **Voting Results:** 7-yes, 0-no
 - The Committee considered the criteria for naming a feature after a person who is deceased and the criteria of direct or long-term association of the person being honored.

c) Proposed Name: dukMéʔem wát'a

- Current Name: General Creek
- Feature Type: Stream
- County: El Dorado
- Review List: 458
- CACGN Case Status: CACGN voted to recommend approval to change the name of General Creek to dukMéʔem wát'a.
- Voting Results: 7-yes, 0-no
- The Committee considered the historical record of the name "General Creek," the cultural and linguistic significance of the proposed name, and the compelling reason for changing the name.

d) Proposed Name: Engagement Point

- Current Name: N/A
- Feature Type: Summit
- County: Shasta
- Review List: 459
- CACGN Case Status: CACGN voted to recommend disapproval of the proposed name of Engagement Point for the unnamed Summit in Shasta County.
- Voting Results: 7-yes, 0-no
- The Committee considered the proponents narrative for proposing the name and the Committee determined a compelling reason was not demonstrated to name the summit in question.

7. Name Proposals Deferred for Future CACGN Review and Discussion

- a) **Proposed Name:** **Black Miners Bar**
- Current Name: Negro Bar
 - Feature Type: Bar
 - County: San Diego
 - Review List: 446
- b) **Proposed Name:** **mxqawlay'ba knowin xyoykith**
- Current Name: N/A
 - Feature Type: Ridge
 - County: Lake
 - Review List: 453
- c) **Proposed Name:** **Konocti**
- Current Name: Kelseyville
 - Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)
 - County: Lake County
 - Review List: 454
- d) **Proposed Name:** **Mitchell Ridge**
- Current Name: N/A
 - Feature Type: Ridge
 - County: Contra Costa
 - Review List: 455
- e) **Proposed Name:** **Sacred Buttes**
- Current Name: Sutter Buttes
 - Feature Type: Mountain Range
 - County: Sutter
 - Review List: 455
- f) **Proposed Name:** **Blue Heron Lake**
- Current Name: Stow Lake
 - Feature Type: Reservoir
 - County: San Francisco
 - Review List: 457
- g) **Proposed Name:** **Middle Mountain**

- Current Name: Sutter Buttes
- Feature Type: Mountain Range
- County: Sutter
- Review List: 459

h) Proposed Name: Challenger Peak

- Current Name: N/A
- Feature Type: Summit
- County: Alameda
- Review List: 460

8. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced

- a. **Proposed Name:** Stanley Creek
Current Name: Digger Creek
Feature: Stream
County: Mendocino
BGN Quarterly Review List No. 461

BGN quarterly review lists can be accessed on the BGN's website at: [DNC Review Lists | U.S. Geological Survey](#).

9. General Public Comment

- N/A

10. Time and Place of Next Meetings:

Regularly Scheduled CACGN Meeting, Quarter 4:

December 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Regularly Scheduled CACGN Meeting, Quarter 1:

March 6, 2026, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M.