

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

August 4, 2023

Virtual Webinar

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: 7 of 8 voting members were present

Present

- ✓ Department of Water Resources (**Mary Simmerer** and **Natasha Nelson**)
- ✓ 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 (**Greg Lucas** and **Pam Martin**)

Absent

- ✗ California African American Museum (Susan Anderson)

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); Legislative Women’s Caucus (TBD)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Geological Survey (Drew Decker)
- ✓ 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
- ✓ **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]); Matt O'Donnell (US BGN); Shelby Bourquein (US BGN); Andrea DeKoter (Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation and Place Names); Heather Witzens (recording minutes)

2. Approve Minutes for March 10, 2023 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) Introduction of CACGN Manager of Geographic Names, CNRA

The chair introduced new CACGN staff member Muri Bartkovsky, who will serve as the Manager of Geographic Names for CACGN. Bartkovsky comes from an affordable housing background, state and federal programs. Ensuring equitable access for everybody is important for that work and for CAGCN. She has three years tribal contact experience in assisting with affordable housing, as well as experience with rulemaking packages. Honored to be part of CACGN team; collaboration is essential because people need to be heard from the beginning of the conversation.

Chair stated Bartkovsky is one of the few, if not only, full-time staff members for a state naming committee, so is treading new ground.

b) Federal Legislation: Update on DOI Secretarial Order 3405

Andrea DeKoter, Committee Manager for Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation and Place Names, provided an update on SO 3405, which looks at derogatory names on landscape features and at Federal administrative land unit names. The committee's inaugural meeting was held in December of 2022, and DeKoter joined the committee in March/April. Tribal members comprise 40-50% of the committee members. Committee developed working definition of derogatory, which can be viewed on the committee website. Will be voting on definition soon.

Committee is reviewing 1.5 million geographic feature names, examining each to determine if they meet the criteria for derogatory and offensive names. By November, committee will submit their list of names to the Secretary of the Interior, who will decide how to proceed. Encourages public comment regarding content on website and CACGN input/recommendations regarding the place names in California that may qualify as derogatory. Committee also has general email inbox. Committee's efforts are a separate effort from the BGN's Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPPs) but they are keeping the BGN PPPs in mind.

The Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs offered to connect with/provide contact info for California tribes regarding SO 3405.

c) State Legislation: Update on AB2022 Policies and Procedures

The chair provided an update. Two parts to legislation: Identify Sq_ names throughout state that were not captured by the SO 3404 process (not under federal purview); and identify other derogatory names throughout state. CACGN subcommittee meets weekly and developed draft policy & procedures (PP) document for this initiative and received ~160 public comments. ~100 comments were regarding Sq_ Valley. 14 comments were regarding the PP; committee is evaluating these now.

Committee has surveyed and communicated with local jurisdictions about their requirement to identify Sq_ names in their jurisdictions; have received ~45 Sq_ names. Several jurisdictions responded by verifying they have no Sq_ names. Many agencies did not respond; CACGN manager will follow up with them. Some submissions may have come from general public and not official jurisdictions, and some names (for example, roads) may span multiple jurisdictions, which will require coordination among the affected parties. The Native American Heritage Commission representative will assist with tribal outreach.

Matt O'Donnell (BGN) stated that BGN is fairly confident that all of the Sq_ names reported by the jurisdictions have already been changed through SO 3404.

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

Portland, Oregon; September 12th-16th; <https://cogna50usa.org/conferences>. Working group discussion panel with Nevada & Colorado state names committees to compare operations.

4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since March 10, 2023

- 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-review-lists> > Action List; 2023.07.24; Accessed 2023.7.24

a) Proposed Name: Meniffee Hills

- Feature Type: Range
- County: Riverside County
- Review List: 440
- BGN Decision Date: April 13, 2023
- Case Status: ***BGN Approved***

b) Proposed Name: Oakland Hills

- Feature Type: Range
- County: Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- Review List: 445
- BGN Decision Date: June 8, 2023
- Case Status: ***BGN Disapproved***

c) Proposed Name: Middle Ranch Reservoir

- Feature Type: Reservoir
- County: Los Angeles County
- Review List: 448
- BGN Decision Date: April 13, 2023
- Case Status: ***BGN Approved***

d) Proposed Name: Pinkston Slough

- Feature Type: Stream
- County: Marin County
- Review List: 448
- BGN Decision Date: April 13, 2023
- Case Status: ***BGN Approved***

- e) **Proposed Name:** Loybas Hollow
- Feature Type: Valley
 - County: Tehama County
 - Review List: 449
 - BGN Decision Date: April 13, 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:** O'Haniel Creek
- Current Name: n/a
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Humboldt County
 - Review List: 449
 - Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer
 - Case Status: Voted: *For _7_ / against _0_ / abstain _0_ / absent _1_*
 - Recommendation: **Recommend Approval**

Recommendation basis: Commemorative name honoring member of the Whilkut Tribe. Proposal supported by familial descendant and County Board of Supervisors.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Proposed name honors O'Haniel Bailey, a member of the Whilkut Tribe who died in 1912. Foreman and sheepshearer; owned land downstream. Well-known Whilkut interpreter; was classified as White in official documents, but was half Whilkut. Descendants have formed a corporation called Moon Creek Corporation to honor and maintain the land of O'Haniel Bailey and his family.

Proponent is a member of the public who lives in Arcata. There is local usage of proposed name; County Supervisor confirmed this.

Multiple landowners, public and private. No response from them or from local tribes. Descendant supports name change. County Board of Supervisors has voted and supports proposed name.

b) 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
- Case Status: Voted: *For_0_ / against_7_ / abstain_0_ / absent_1_*
- Recommendation: ***Recommend Disapproval***

Recommendation basis: No support by local tribes or USFS; couldn't confirm local usage; lack of engagement from local government.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Unnamed summit in Klamath National Forest, north of Klamath River and Hamburg. USFS land. Proponent is local to area and cites local legend of "Great California Blue Bear" in area; however, member unable to confirm this legend or any local usage of proposed name. Member received no response to requests for information from local historical society or Siskiyou Public Library. BGN contacted local officials and tribes; also no response. Member contacted tribes on NAHC list. Of those that responded, the Tribes were not in support of the proposed name change. Additional tribal outreach is ongoing. USFS also reached out to tribes and historical society; confirmed they do not support. Member offered to conduct additional research and outreach if desired by committee.

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
- Status: *Deferred*

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

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Feature is 1.25-mile long, unnamed tributary of Mill Creek, near McKinleyville.

Proponent owns property that contains a small portion of the stream. Proposed name honors the coastal giant salamander, which has spiritual significance to proponent. Proponent has created a large mound adjacent to the stream in the shape of a salamander; received cease and desist by Department of Water Resources due to disruption of creek

ecology and potential destruction of salamander habitat. Proponent states matter has been resolved and is remediating the creek disruption; BGN cannot confirm this.

Proposed name supported by Board of Supervisors, who have received no other recommendations from tribes. EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center), an environmental group, provided a letter of support for proposed name, although BGN mentions that this letter seems to have been written by a relative or acquaintance of the proponent.

Assigned member has not yet reached out to tribes – there are approximately 11 tribes with ancestral ties to the area. Native American Heritage Commission member offered list of contacts.

BGN has spoken to proponent, who has not communicated with his neighbors about the proposed name. BGN does not have resources to contact property owners individually, so encourages the county to do outreach and possibly conduct a public hearing.

Proponent was also vague about whether this salamander species actually lives in the stream. Other members state that the species is endemic to the Pacific Northwest and extends as far south as Mendocino County, and it primarily lives in streams, so could be heavily impacted by earth-moving activities adjacent to the stream.

Public comment, Jennie Dusheck: Juveniles of this salamander species are solely aquatic, but adults are not. Commenter has BA and masters in zoology from UCs Berkeley and Davis.

Member agreed to reach out to tribes on the NAHC list and will ask proponent for contact information for his neighbors. Member will also seek information on the cease and desist, confirm that remediation is taking place, and confirm that the salamander species noted by the proponent does in fact inhabit the stream.

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

- d) 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 Meyer
 - Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Waiting on additional feedback before conducting tribal and county outreach.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. James Wong Howe Creek was original proposed name but referenced someone with no connection to local area. The second proposal, China Creek (Review List 443), has been withdrawn by the proponent. A third proposal, for Chinese Miners Creek, has been submitted by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge, who felt that a name representing the entire local Chinese American community is most appropriate.

BGN has reached out to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the third proposal, Chinese Miners Creek. One supervisor (in unofficial capacity), who has been consulting with experts as well, suggested naming the creek after a single (unspecified) individual; if so, this would require an additional proposal. Assigned member wants to see if this supervisor will submit a proposal before reaching out to local tribes or the county, so that all proposals can be presented at once.

- e) **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 outreach is being conducted.

Notes: Assigned member provided update. Research is still being conducted on local usage; member will follow up with tribes on the NAHC list. Proponent is land conservancy made up of leaders from local federally recognized tribes.

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

- f) **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 5e, above.

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

- g) 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 5e, above.

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

- i) 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 5e, above.

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

- j) 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: Assigned member was not present.

k) 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
- Case Status: *Deferred*

Deferral basis: Assigned member was not present.

Notes: Another member provided an update. The US Forest Service (USFS) and Riverside County have conducted outreach. Feature is right on edge of USFS land. The Soboba Indian Reservation has provided no input. County is deferring to USFS, who would like input from Soboba. The Native American Heritage Commission member will reach out to the Soboba chairperson.

6. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced

- Source: [Quarterly Review List 451](#) 2023.04.30; and [Quarterly Review List 452](#), 2023.07.24; by U.S. Board on Geographic Names; Accessed 2023.08.01.

a) Proposed Name: *ḵanwa flat* *

- Current Name: Kahus Flat
- Feature Type: Flat
- County: Ventura County
- Review List: 451
- Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023
- Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

Notes: The proponent for three geographically related features (items 6a-6c) is the Vice Chairman of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. The proposed names would replace the current names that were recently chosen by the Secretarial Order 3404 Task Force to replace Sq_ names; the Task Force chose the current names based on the recommendations of a self-identified Native language consultant.

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

- b) 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 6a, above.

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

- c) 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 6a, above.

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

- d) Proposed Name:** Chinese Miners Creek
- Current Name: Chinaman Creek
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Tuolumne County
 - Review List: 451 (*relisted from 440 and 443*)
 - Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023
 - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer

Notes: See item 5d, above.

- e) Proposed Name: Bickford Ranch**
- Current Name: n/a
 - Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)
 - County: Placer County
 - Review List: 451
 - Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023
 - Case Status: *Vote to decline to comment:
For _4_ / against _1_ / abstain _1_ / absent _2_*
 - Decision: **CACGN declines to comment**

Notes: US Postal Service wants BGN to make proposed name official before they will consider creating a new post office for this community.

One member sees Bickford Ranch case as being outside CACGN purview. Area is an urban center, not a geographic feature. This case could be complex and any vote for or against the proposed name could unintentionally set a precedent since planned communities are becoming more common. Concerned about possible commercial or promotional motivations coming into play.

Jenny Runyon with BGN stated that unincorporated communities fall under BGN purview. Suggests that CACGN defer to county planning office. Proposed name already in local use. Proposed name does not appear to violate any BGN policy.

The Native American Heritage Commission member stated that the feature is in Miwuk-Maidu territory; post office wants tribal input. United Auburn Indian Community would not oppose the proposed name if proposer has followed statute by consulting with the Tribe regarding cultural resource preservation; the Tribe will confirm whether consultation has occurred.

- f) Proposed Name: Boomer Creek**
- Current Name: n/a
 - Feature Type: Stream
 - County: Santa Cruz County
 - Review List: 452
 - Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
 - Assigned Member: Amy Loseth

g) Proposed Name: Kilkenney Valley

- Current Name: Habematolel Valley
- Feature Type: Flat
- County: Lake County
- Review List: 452
- Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
- Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

Public Comment, Anne Kilkenney: Why was the current name chose if there was no input from the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Indians? The previous, offensive name (Sq_ Valley) was what was most often used locally, although there have been many other names in local usage (including several that include the term Sq_). Locals aren't familiar with recently chosen current name, but are familiar with proposed name. How can we document/prove that the proposed name has local usage?

Members stated that newspaper articles and signage that reference the proposed name are two ways to document local usage. Commenter states their proposal includes photos of signage. Chair encouraged commenter to work with assigned member regarding documentation.

Public Comment: Mark Kilkenney: Commenter is one of seven generations of Kilkenney living in the Valley. Asked for clarification on the SO 3404 process. Stated that the current name, Habematolel, is a Pomo name, but the area in question is a Yuki tribal area. Would like more information on Yuki Tribe from Native American Heritage Commission member. Property was used by CAL FIRE as staging area during two incidents, so is confident CAL FIRE would recognize proposed name. Family owns most of Valley, although NE corner of Valley is USFS property. The boundary on the map shown by BGN should be moved south slightly.

Matt O'Donell from BGN explained that the 3404 Task Force process was very different from standard BGN process. The current name was chosen based on the 3404 renaming of a nearby feature. Names and boundaries of Kilkenney property and of geographic feature (valley) are separate. Geographic boundaries are based on the USGS map label and extend north of Kilkenney inholding. Since valley is partially on USFS land, USFS will also conduct research and provide input on the name.

h) 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

Notes: Feature is mostly in Oregon, but extends into California. Jenny Runyon suggested discussing the case with the interested parties at the upcoming CoGNA meeting.

- i) **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

7. Time and Place of Next Meetings:

Proposed Fall meeting date:

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

Hybrid format: In-person and virtual options (Zoom)

- In-person location: California Natural Resources Agency,
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Proposed Spring meeting date:

March 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.