

## California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

### FAQs

#### **1) What is the California Advisory Commission on Geographic Names (CACGN), and how was it formed?**

CACGN is an advisory working group of state staff that has been convened from time to time since the organization of the California Natural Resources Agency at the request of the Secretary of Natural Resources. CACGN provides advice and recommendation to the Secretary regarding the naming and renaming of certain public places and geographic features within California. Originally established to help advise the Secretary on the state's official response to federal inquiry from the Board of Geographic Names, CACGN has recently been given authority in its own right to consider and rename certain offensive or derogatory public places and features in California's jurisdiction.

#### **2) Is CACGN subject to Bagley-Keene?**

No. CACGN was not created in one of the five manners required to be a legal "body" as that term is defined in Bagley-Keene (Gov. Code, § 11121.). CACGN was convened as a working group of state by the Secretary of Natural Resources, and continues to act in that capacity. While recent legislation has provided it with additional direction, it remains an advisory group convened by the Secretary. As such, CACGN is not subject to Bagley-Keene, though it does hold public meetings and offers an opportunity for public participation with respect to its process in the spirit of open meetings and transparency.

#### **3) What does AB 2022 (Ramos, 2022) require of CACGN?**

On September 23, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Assembly Bill No. 2022 \(Ramos\)](#) into law. Commencing on January 1, 2025, this bill required the term "sq\_" to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state. AB 2022 also requires CACGN to create a process to receive and review individual petitions to change offensive or derogatory geographic features and place names, and to work with affected public agencies to vote on replacement names. Finally, AB 2022 prohibits public entities from using names that have been replaced and directs CACGN to identify the obligations of the public agency in this regard and deadlines for compliance.

#### **4) How Can I Participate in the rulemaking for AB 2022?**

The formal rulemaking for AB 2022 has yet to commence. That rulemaking seeks to make clear the procedures for petitioning CACGN and any enforcement it may undertake to ensure public compliance. All interested persons can find information at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/CaliforniaAdvisoryCommittee/Offensive-and-Derogatory-Names/Assembly-Bill-2022>.

#### **5) How Can I Participate in CACGN Regulations?**

There are various opportunities for the public to provide comment for the Proposed Regulations Petition Process for Renaming Offensive and Derogatory Public Geographic Features and Place Names. All interested persons can find information at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/CaliforniaAdvisoryCommittee/Offensive-and-Derogatory-Names>.