



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 8, 2020

Mr. Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary (Acting)
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523

RE: Support to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak

Dear Mr. Guempel,

I am writing in support of the renaming of Jeff Davis Peak in Alpine County. In choosing a name that reflects the unique history of this region, we have an opportunity to honor this special place in California and the first people to call it home.

The new recommended name, Da-ek Dow Go-et, means "saddle between points." It was suggested by the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, and the Alpine County Board of Supervisors has approved it. Unlike the current name, which is associated with a leader of the Confederacy with no known link to the region or state of California, the new recommended name is culturally relevant to the area, which is situated within the ancestral lands of the Tribe. Moreover, since Davis opposed California's admission into the union as a free state in 1850, the current name honors an individual diametrically opposed to our values then as well as today.

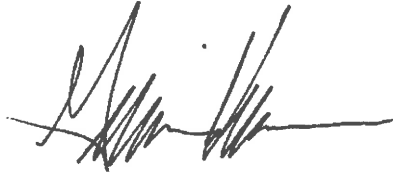


Similarly, I ask that you consider renaming Jeff Davis Creek. I will continue to work with state agencies on evaluating the names of features and facilities on public lands to ensure they are free of associations with discrimination and violence and will task Californians with recommending names that better reflect the rich diversity, history and values of this State.

While we cannot undo the wrongs of our past, we can recognize them, tell the truth about our history, and commit to building a more equitable and just future for all. Making this change may be symbolic, but it is an important recognition of our commitment to equity and racial justice.

Thank you for considering this request to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak to better reflect California's past, present and future. I hope the board will approve this change at your upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California