

# California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

## Minutes

March 8, 2024

Hybrid Public Meeting

Sacramento, California

10:00 A.M. – 3:07 P.M.

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## 1. Call to Order – Chair Richard Lis, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Roll was called.

### Committee Members: 8 of 8 voting members were present

#### *Present*

- ✓ 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**)
- ✓ Department of Water Resources (**Mary Simmerer**)
- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (**Daniel Walsh**)
- ✓ California State Library (**Jamie Romas** for Greg Lucas)
- ✓ California African American Museum (**Susan Anderson**)

#### *Absent*

### Ex-Officio Members:

#### *Present*

- ✓ 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); Legislative Black Caucus (Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative

Caucus (Asm. Ash Kalra); Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (Sen. Susan Eggman); Tribal Advisor to the Office of the Governor (Christina Snider-Ashtari); Legislative Women's Caucus (TBD)

**Federal Advisors:**

*Present*

- ✓ United States Forest Service (**Rich Spradling**)
- ✓ United States Geological Survey (**Drew Decker**)

*Absent*

- ✗ United States Bureau of Land Management (TBD); 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

*Absent*

- ✗ Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources

**Non-committee guests:**

Meagan Flier, Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs, CA Natural Resources Agency; Heather Baugh, Assistant General Counsel, CA Natural Resources Agency; Matt O'Donnell (US Board on Geographic Names [US BGN]); Shelby Bourquein (US BGN); Muri Bartkovsky (Manager of Geographic Names for the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names); Heather Witzens (recording minutes)

## **2. Minutes Approved for August 4th, 2023, Meeting**

## **3. Minutes Approved for November 3, 2023, Meeting**

## **4. Introductions / Announcements / Business**

Roster was circulated electronically with agenda. Members were asked to confirm their information is correct.

### **a) Change of the Guard, James Barnes, US Bureau of Land Management**

The chair informed the group that James Barnes has retired and a replacement designee is pending. The committee thanks Mr. Barnes for his efforts.

**b) Welcome Meagan Flier, Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs, CA Natural Resources Agency**

The chair introduced Meagan Flier, Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs for the California Natural Resources Agency. Ms. Flier is a Tribal Member with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. She previously worked as an environmental scientist and planner for her Tribe, and also as a coastal engineer for the California Coastal Commission.

**c) Federal Legislation: Updates on DOI Secretarial Order 3404 and 3405**

Muri Bartkovsky, Manager of Geographic Names, CACGN, provided updates.

- **3404** (federal removal of Sq\_ names): All actions have been completed. The 3404 Order is serving as a guide to CACGN for the implementation of AB2022 (covered below).
- **3505** (federal removal of other offensive or derogatory names): CACGN has received approximately 10 words to be considered for offensive or derogatory status. The committee will examine these later this year, after completion of the state Sq\_ list (covered below).

**d) State Legislation: Update on AB2022 Policies and Procedures, Timeline, and Sq\_ List**

The Manager of Geographic Names, Muri' Bartkovsky, provided an update on California state legislation AB 2022, focusing on the policies, procedures, timeline, and the Sq\_ name list.

Public agencies across the state were required to identify and report any remaining Sq\_ names within their jurisdictions (that were not already changed under federal 3404 purview), leading to a list of 43 names that need replacement. The list is posted on CACGN's website. Many of the public agencies also attended a webinar held by CACGN on February 16, 2024, discussing AB2022 and next steps. The Manager of Geographic Names acknowledged the work conducted by the public agencies and thanked those who sent letters of inquiry to tribes. She encouraged public agencies to continue engaging with tribes and the public to offer replacement names by summertime, with support available from CACGN and CNRA.

## **5. Actions made by U.S. BGN since September 15, 2023**

- If Case Status identifies the recommendation as CACGN, then the case is still pending U.S. BGN decision.
- Source: [857 Sep15 2023 Minutes.pdf](#); Accessed 2023.10.18.

- a) **Proposed Name:** **O'Haniel Creek**
- Feature Type: Stream
  - County: Humboldt County
  - Review List: 449
  - BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
  - Case Status: ***BGN Approved***

- b) **Proposed Name:** **Blue Bear Mountain**
- Feature Type: Summit
  - County: Siskiyou County
  - Review List: 450
  - BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
  - Case Status: ***BGN Disapproved***

- c) **Proposed Name:** **Bickford Ranch**
- Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)
  - County: Placer County
  - Review List: 451
  - BGN Decision Date: September 15, 2023
  - Case Status: ***BGN Approved***

## 6. 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, public officials, and the general public.

- a) **Proposed Name:** **Kilkenny Valley**
- Current Name: Habematolel Valley
  - Feature Type: Flat
  - County: Lake County
  - Review List: 452
  - Proposal Release Date: July 24, 2023
  - Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Disapproval \_8\_  
Recommend Approval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Disapproval***

**Recommendation basis:** No compelling reason to change name from the current name, which was suggested by the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake and chosen by the SO 3404 task force in 2022. The current name also conforms to AB2022 requirements.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided update. Habematolel Valley was chosen in 2022 by the SO 3404 federal task force to replace Sq\_ Valley. Kilkenny Valley had also been a proposed name at that time. The 3404 task force process was separate from the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) process.

Maps were shown to illustrate the current location of Habematolel Valley and the parcels owned by the Kilkenny family. The Kilkennys claim ownership of most of the valley. However, BGN and GNIS mapping protocols define the valley's boundaries differently, and boundaries are a technical issue and do not impact the naming decision.

The proponents claim that the area is Yuki territory, not Pomo, based on archaeological studies and a 1908 linguistic map. However, a later Tribal Cultural Knowledge Study suggested that Pomo presence predates Yuki presence in this area.

During the 3404 process, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, including Yuki, did not dispute the selection of a Pomo name for the valley and have not responded to requests for comments regarding the current proposal.

The feature falls within US Forest Service (USFS) boundaries. Rich Spradling mentioned the USFS treats name proposals on a case-by-case basis. In this instance, the USFS does not have a strong recommendation due to their limited involvement.

**Public comment, Sherry Treppa, Chairperson, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake:**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sherry Treppa. I am the Chairwoman of the Habematolel Pomo Upper Lake Tribe located in Upper Lake California. I'm here today with the remainder of my Executive Council. Our full Executive Council is here as well as our tribal administrator. And we are here today to address the geographical feature which is located within the area of Northern California that was a portion of our once-vast Pomo homelands for thousands of years. I will briefly touch on our tragic history of the Tribe and the obstacles that our ancestors endured while occupying these lands. The Habematolel today own and occupy very small areas in Lake County, California, as we were forcibly moved onto a reservation in what is now Upper Lake in the early 1900s. Once, we freely occupied lands beyond Upper Lake in Northern California since time immemorial. Beginning in the mid-1800s, our people were brutally driven from these lands, and our presence was thereafter eliminated as the new settlers renamed our places. The impacts of forced relocation from our homelands to the federal government's Upper Lake Rancheria would be generational, severing our cultural connection and the ability to practice and preserve our traditions and culture.

In the 1950s, Congress passed the California Rancheria Act, which effectively ended the Habematolel Tribal Government and redistributed the lands and assets into individual allotments. The Tribe sued the federal government and prevailed, and the courts determined that the Tribe had never been terminated, but the devastation felt by these attempts left lingering effects still felt to this day.

When the Habematolel reorganized and adopted its new constitution in 2004, the Tribe was landless, loosely organized, and had no economic stability. We immediately sought to restore a land base, and in 2008, after a years-long, arduous federal regulatory process, the Department of the Interior finally acquiesced and placed a meager 11.24 acres of land into trust for the Tribe for the purpose of opening a casino and re-establishing an economic base for our Tribe.

Despite adversity throughout our history, our Tribe remains resilient, and we continue to strive to preserve our culture and history. We are pleased with the decision of the United States Bureau of Geographic Names to rename the previous derogatory name to the Habematolel Valley in 2022. We were encouraged that the Bureau had taken action to rectify the government's history of mistreatment towards tribes, and the decision carried important symbolism for our Tribe. It was recognition that these were our lands and that we are still here today despite adversity. It is disheartening that we are now being forced to defend the naming of the Habematolel Valley. I humbly request that the advisory committee today recommend to the Bureau to deny the application to rename the Habematolel Valley. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and I appreciate your time today. Thank you very much.

**Public comment, Robert Geary, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Habematolel**

**Pomo of Upper Lake:** The previous name, Sq\_ Valley, was based on a misunderstanding of the area's history; the archaeological studies cited by the proponent are inadequate and misrepresent the Pomo connection to the land. Mr. Geary challenged the accuracy of the archeological studies.

**Public comment, Anne Kilkenny, Proponent:** Wishes to rename the valley after her family. Argued for the name Kilkenny Valley based on local usage, historical precedence, and archaeological findings funded by the family indicating the area is historically Yuki land, not Pomo. She contended that the current name erases women's history.

**Public comment, Mark Kilkenny, Proponent:** Emphasized the long-standing association of the Kilkenny name with the valley, the absence of historical ties between the Pomo name and the valley, and the inaccuracies in the committee's decision-making process. He stressed that the Kilkenny family's archaeological efforts were extensive and respectful of the valley's heritage.

**Public comment, Sherry Treppa, Chairperson, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake:** Ms. Treppa introduced the other members of the Tribal Council in attendance, and stated that the Tribe formally submitted documentation from Robert Geary, the Cultural Resource Department, and the Executive Council regarding this case.

**Public comment, Mark Kilkenny, Proponent:** The Kilkenny family paid for three archaeological investigations showing the Yuki predate the Pomo. The family has also preserved cultural sites against desecration and looting. Mr. Kilkenny claims that the artifacts found in the area could not be attributed to a specific tribe. The current name means “rock people” and has no association to the valley, historically or geographically. The 3404 task force did not consider their family’s proposal. County plat map shows 97% of valley is located within the Kilkenny property.

A committee member offered comment. SO 3404 asked for Sq\_ names to be changed; Upper Lake Pomo Tribe is federally recognized, responded to the 3404 task force letter, and suggested the current name. Yuki Council was also notified but has not responded. Native tribes tended to this land for thousands of years, and AB2022 specifies that Native names be given preference. Does not support renaming.

Other committee members agreed that AB2022 directs the committee to remove derogatory names while maintaining Indigenous connections to the land, which the current name satisfies, so there is no compelling reason to change the name.

- b) Proposed Name: China Wall Overlook**
- Current Name: McGlashan Point
  - Feature Type: Summit
  - County: Nevada County
  - Review List: 453
  - Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023
  - Assigned Member: Susan Anderson
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_8\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: **Recommend Approval**

**Recommendation basis:** Replacement of offensive name; proposed by Chinese Historical Society of America and supported by the 1882 Foundation.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided update. The feature is a small summit in Truckee, Nevada County, whose current name honors Charles Fayette McGlashan. The US BGN received well-researched materials from a resident of Dixon who objects to the current name and feels it should be considered harmful and derogatory, because despite McGlashan's

contributions as an editor, scientist, lawyer, and historian, recent research by resident and assigned member reveals McGlashan's violent anti-Chinese actions and leadership in exclusion movements in the 1880s.

The feature overlooks China Wall, a memorial at Donner Summit that commemorates the Chinese master builders who completed the Trans-Atlantic Railroad. The Chinese Historical Society of America submitted the proposed name, which is supported by the 1882 Foundation, a national nonprofit that promotes public awareness of the history and continuing significance of historical Chinese exclusion laws.

**Public comment, Tom Ruple, Proponent:** Resident of Dixon. The supporters of the current name overlooked McGlashan's significant role in the violent removal of Chinese residents from Truckee, a method that meets the UN definition of ethnic cleansing. The local historical society now acknowledges McGlashan's role in this. The Chinese Historical Society of America and the 1882 Foundation support renaming the summit to China Wall Overlook, which accurately describes the feature and aligns with the 94 other overlooks in the BGN database. McGlashan is also already recognized in five other places around Truckee. Additionally, few people are familiar with McGlashan Point, indicating limited public impact. Renaming this feature is a step towards truth and reconciliation.

The US Forest Service advisor informed the committee that USFS has not completed review of the case and will provide their recommendation directly to the US BGN.

- c) 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: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_8\_*  
*Recommend Disapproval \_0\_*  
*Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

**Recommendation basis:** No Tribal opinion was offered despite multiple outreach attempts; supported by county and US Forest Service.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided an update. Feature is a 33-foot high waterfall, currently unnamed, in San Bernardino National Forest in Riverside County, near Indian Creek and

east of the Soboba Indian Reservation. The proposed name is descriptive, referring to a heart-shaped pile of rocks at the top of the waterfall.

The county and the US Forest Service support of the name as long as there are no tribal objections to it. All federally recognized tribes with ancestral ties to the area were contacted about the proposed name, but none have responded to date despite multiple attempts of contact..

- d) **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:** Additional research is being conducted as part of the African American History and Engagement Project, which will provide context for CACGN's official recommendation.

**Notes:** Assigned member is awaiting the results of research being conducted for the African American History and Engagement Project, a thorough investigative project that will inform a suitable permanent name for the day-use area at Lake Folsom. Member anticipates recommending the same name for this feature.

- e) **Proposed Name:** **James Wong Howe Creek\***
- Current Name: Chinaman Creek
  - Feature Type: Stream
  - County: Tuolumne County
  - Review List: 440
  - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Disapproval \_7\_  
Recommend Approval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_1\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Disapproval in favor of Chinese Miners Creek (item 5f, below)***

**Recommendation basis:** Proposed name commemorates an individual with no ties to the feature or the region.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided update. Feature is located on both the Stanislaus National Forest and some private lands. Stanislaus National Forest manages the China Flat

day use area. The current name first appeared in 1938. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge consider the current name to be offensive because it uses a dehumanizing term that took away rights from Chinese people and fueled anti-Chinese propaganda.

Three proposals have been submitted for this feature: 1) James Wong Howe Creek; 2) China Creek; 3) Chinese Miners Creek. James Wong Howe is not associated with the feature or the area, and the second proposal was withdrawn by the proponent.

Proposal 3, Chinese Miners Creek, was submitted by the National Secretary of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and is supported by several Chinese historical societies, as well as the US Forest Service. This proposed name honors the Chinese workers who contributed to agricultural and mining development in Tuolumne County, rather than commemorating a specific person.

The county defers to tribal input; however, tribes with ancestral ties to the area have offered no opinion.

The committee member representing the Native American Heritage Commission was absent from voting.

***\*Two cases (items 6e–6f) were submitted for the same feature and were considered together.***

- f) **Proposed Name:** **Chinese Miners Creek\***
- Current Name: Chinaman Creek
  - Feature Type: Stream
  - County: Tuolumne County
  - Review List: 451 (*relisted from 443*)
  - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_7\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_1\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

**Recommendation basis:** Proposed by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance; supported by several Chinese historical societies and the US Forest Service.

**Notes:** See item 6e, above.

***\*Two cases (items 6e–6f) were submitted for the same feature and were considered together.***

- g) Proposed Name: Tumanguya**
- Current Name: Mount Whitney
  - Feature Type: Summit
  - County: Tulare and Inyo Counties
  - Review List: 453
  - Assigned Member: Tiffany Meyer
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Disapproval \_8\_*  
*Recommend Approval \_0\_*  
*Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Disapproval***
  - **Recommendation basis:** Lack of compelling reasons to change well-established name with high visibility present-day use; proponent failed to consult with California Native American tribes regarding the proposed Indigenous name; National Park Service does not support the change; the word is not derogatory or offensive; the name is not duplicated on a nearby mountain; the name was not originally established on the basis of incorrect information: no misspellings or confusion regarding Mr. Whitney; there is no clear evidence that this is the feature that indigenous referred to as Tumanguya; the proposal is not sufficient to move forward or support a name change of this proportion.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided a case summary. The feature is a significant geographical feature, being the highest peak in the lower 48 states, situated within Sequoia National Park, Inyo National Forest, and John Muir Wilderness. The current name commemorates Josiah Dwight Whitney, a Harvard geology professor and chief of the California Geological Survey from 1860 to 1874. Whitney led a multidisciplinary team that conducted extensive surveys beyond geology, including botany and archaeology. Whitney also authored "The Yosemite Book" and was an early advocate for the preservation of Yosemite, proposing it as a national park. Whitney was not a colonizer and there is no evidence that he committed atrocities against any minority group.

The proposed name is already a recorded variant in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) entry for the feature. There appear to be some instances of historical and current usage of this name, such as a 1901 journal entry by a mountaineer and a 1903 article in the Independent newspaper, which claimed the name meant "Old Man" and was used by indigenous Paiute people. However, it is uncertain as to whether usage of the proposed name refers to this specific feature, or the range overall.

Additionally, Alfred Kroeber, a notable University of California anthropology professor who published extensively in the early 1900s about Native place names, did not mention an Indigenous name for Mount Whitney, suggesting that if such a name existed, he would likely have recorded it. Chester Versteeg, a Sierra Club lawyer who researched Sierra place names and consulted with Native speakers, also found no distinct Native name for the peak.

The proponent is an author and professor from Las Vegas, Nevada, who is not Indigenous and did not consult any tribes with ancestral ties to the area regarding the name change. Member concludes that there is no compelling evidence to support the proposed Indigenous name's connection to this specific feature.

The US BGN recommends consultation with Native American tribes regarding proposed names, and member feels this step is essential when proposing a Native name. Additionally, BGN policy is that name changes should align with well-established local usage or rectify offensive or incorrect names; the current name, which is inoffensive and already deeply ingrained in public and historical consciousness, does not meet these criteria.

The National Park Service opposes the name change, and the Forest Service has yet to form an official opinion.

**Public comment, Jim Newland, California State Parks:** Currently serves as Chief of Planning and is a long-time historian for the parks. Has extensively researched the history of the Yosemite grants, and recent scholarship has questioned Josiah Whitney's scientific credentials and his role in the suppression of Frederick Law Olmsted's 1865 Yosemite Park plan. This suppression was politically motivated to prevent funding diversion from the Geological Survey to Yosemite Valley improvements, which would have affected Whitney's work in California. So while Whitney's actions might not include major atrocities, there are significant criticisms and controversies. However, changing the name of such a renowned landmark would require solid backing and a significant, well-established Indigenous name, given the potential backlash.

Jim Trumbly added that it's possible Wallace heard the proposed name, but that doesn't mean it was in common use by tribes with ancestral ties to the area. The name was likely an individual's description of the area. Additionally, the proponent did not make a compelling case or submit a thorough proposal. The current name is extremely well-known, even internationally.

- h) 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:** New name proposal is being developed for one of the two peaks, based on tribal input. Suggested names for creeks are pending.

**Notes:** Ongoing collaboration between the local park district Tribal Liaison and tribes with ancestral ties to the area to determine appropriate replacement names for these four features. One Tribe submitted names for both peaks, one of which will be a newly proposed name. Efforts are underway to start the new name proposal and to discuss with the current proponent the possibility of withdrawing the relevant proposal. Additionally, the Tribe will soon vote on the names they believe should be applied to the two creeks.

***\*Four cases (items 6h–6k) representing four related features were submitted for the same region and will be considered together.***

- i) **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 6h, above.

***\*Four cases (items 6h–6k) representing four related features were submitted for the same region and will be considered together.***

- j) **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 6h, above.

***\*Four cases (items 6h–6k) representing four related features were submitted for the same region and will be considered together.***

- k) 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 6h, above.

***\*Four cases (items 6h–6k) representing four related features were submitted for the same region and will be considered together.***

- l) 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
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_7\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_1\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

**Recommendation basis:** Widespread local support, including tribes with ancestral ties to the area; current name is duplicated among many other features in area.

**Notes:** Assigned member provided update. Feature is a 3,354-foot summit, half in Shasta National Forest, half on private land owned by Lightning Canyon Ranch (proponent). Current name first appeared in 1946 on USGS topographic maps.

The proposed name change aims to restore the mountain's Indigenous heritage. Yohala-mi, meaning "Frog Mountain," refers to the numerous springs and creeks on its sides. The area is the ancestral home of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, who have occupied it for generations.

The property is under a perpetual conservation easement owned by the California Wildlife Conservation Board and monitored by the Pacific Forest Trust, ensuring it remains conserved and privately owned.

There is widespread support for the name change. The Winnemem Wintu Tribe, the Redding Rancheria, the Vice Mayor of Redding, the Pacific Forest Trust, and the local Lakehead community have all submitted letters in favor of the proposal. Notably, the Shasta County Board Supervisor, initially opposed, now has no objections.

The committee discussed the lack of local recognition for the current name and noted that the change might bring more attention and respect to the Indigenous history and significance of the area. Members highlighted that the proposal aligns with the goal of bringing official federal usage into agreement with local support, emphasizing the positive impact and broad backing from the community and various stakeholders.

**Public comment, Bob Hixon, proponent:** Commenter stated that the summit's current name lacks significant origin or recognition, and is easily confused with other Sacramento-named peaks in California and New Mexico. This feature, although relatively unknown, holds great importance for California Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the area. These Tribes, including their elders, support the name change to its original Indigenous name, Yohala-mi, and have expressed enthusiasm for the cultural and ceremonial significance it would bring. The summit is on private property with limited access, primarily used for specific activities like bird watching and native plant studies.

- m) Proposed Name:** **ǰanwa flat \***
- Current Name: Kahus Flat
  - Feature Type: Flat
  - County: Ventura County
  - Review List: 451
  - Proposal Release Date: May 1, 2023
  - Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_8\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: **Recommend Approval**

**Recommendation basis:** Proposed name is the official recommendation of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. Widespread support and no opposition.

**Notes:** Three related features within the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County. These features previously had derogatory names, which were changed by the BGN in 2022, following Secretarial Order 3404. These changes were based on suggestions from a Native Chumash consultant on behalf of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, a non-federally recognized Tribe. However, Vice Chairman Vestuto of the Barbareño/Ventureño

Band later contacted the Department of the Interior (DOI) to state that the Tribe had not approved these names and proposed revised names to better reflect the Tribe's culture and orthography.

These new proposals are supported by public comments from Las Padres ForestWatch and other individuals. The California Governor's Office and several state-recognized tribes also shared their input, suggesting names based on historical Chumash villages in the area.

The only federally recognized Tribe in the vicinity, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, had no opposition to the proposed name changes but did not provide a letter of support. Similarly, the Los Padres National Forest and the county Board of Supervisors expressed no opposition.

**Public Comment, Matthew Vestuto, Chairman of Barbareño/Ventureño Band of**

**Mission Indians:** We engaged our Tribal membership and shared with them the history of this area, and how it became named what it was when it was the Sq\_ names, and we also shared potential names and welcomed them to submit ideas, and we had a vote on it. So this is not just my suggestion; it's the suggestion of our Tribe and it honors the history of the land. In as late as 1870 Indian women and men were seen up there gathering. It was a stop between the Santa Clara River and the backcountry when they gathered pine nuts and acorns, and so to honor that history, we've renamed it to more proper names for Indian women. xanwa flat is women's flat. The spring is called xutaš spring, and that's an honorific for highly respected women, as well as the name for our deity, our mother Earth. And then the creek we renamed poš creek. That means Pine Nut, but it also means heart. And so our whole Tribe really feels really good about not only the process, but the names and their new place names, and they're really happy about that - they're not borrowing from the old. And I'm grateful, and thank you. We really feel good about it, and if there's any concerns about it or questions, we'd love to be able to field that. But we just feel really good and confident about the process and the resulting names.

***\*3 cases (items 6m–6o) were submitted by same proponent for same region and were considered together.***

- n) **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

- Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_8\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
- Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

**Recommendation basis:** Proposed name is the official recommendation of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. Widespread support and no opposition.

**Notes:** See item 6m, above.

**\*3 cases (items 6m–6o) were submitted by same proponent for same region and were considered together.**

- o) 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
  - Case Status: Voted:  
*Recommend Approval \_8\_  
Recommend Disapproval \_0\_  
Abstain \_0\_ / Absent \_0\_*
  - Recommendation: ***Recommend Approval***

**Recommendation basis:** Proposed name is the official recommendation of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. Widespread support and no opposition.

**Notes:** See item 6m, above.

**\*3 cases (items 6m–6o) were submitted by same proponent for same region and were considered together.**

- p) 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*

**q) 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 Loeth
- Case Status: *Deferred*

**r) 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
- Case Status: *Deferred*

**s) Proposed Name: Fifth of July Hill**

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Summit
- County: San Bernardino County
- Review List: 453
- Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023
- Assigned Member: Richard Lis
- Case Status: *Deferred*

**t) Proposed Name: Hoot Owl Lake**

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Lake
- County: Nevada County
- Review List: 453
- Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023
- Assigned Member: Amy Loeth
- Case Status: *Deferred*

**u) Proposed Name: mxqawlay'ba knowin xyoykith**

- Current Name: n/a
- Feature Type: Ridge
- County: Lake County
- Review List: 453
- Proposal Release Date: October 18, 2023
- Assigned Member: Greg Lucas
- Case Status: *Deferred*

## **7. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced**

**a) Proposed Name: Konocti**

- Current Name: Kelseyville
- Feature Type: Populated place (unincorporated)
- County: Lake County
- Review List: 454
- Proposal Release Date: January 23, 2024
- Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

**Public comment, Ron Montez, Tribal Elder and Tribal Historical Preservation Officer**

**of the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians:** Hello! My name is Ron Montez. I just want to thank you for the opportunity to come and share a little bit on this particular topic of the changing the name of the town which was named after a man that committed atrocities to the local tribal people, rounding them up, grabbed all the men, and forced them to be laborers to build his arm or his is buildings, and to make them to be cattle men, to round up the cattle, which was dispersed when Valeo left. And they bought the property from him and set up this cattle ranch in Lake County and used all the men to do all the work, and then also grab the women to be their sex slaves and their cooks, and whatever they needed them to do, and then they would also - when I say they, I mean Andrew Kelsey and Charles Stone, which some people believe were the first white people to come into Lake County right after the Spanish, when the Mexican Government left. So the Tribe that I'm from has been there for over some - some say up to 20,000 years, but there's a long history of Pomo people in that area. Pomo is not our name; Pomo was the name given to us by an archaeologist. And so that name has stuck, and it brings up a lot of questions in the travelled communities most of the time and dealings that we've had with the government agencies, federal or state or local. They've been taught, and they have been raised to know the educational part of what has happened here in California with the Tribes. So the archaeologists have given names to the people and given names to their language, and have studied how we lived, what we ate, how we manage the grounds and the waters around us, and so they know a lot about us. And so most of that

is reflected in their relationship to the tribal people - the doctrine of discovery that that says, because we're not a Christian nation, all they have to do is claim it, and then everything in there belongs to them, including the people. And that was used by European countries to go out into the world. And so that has been used here in this country to define. And so they stood on it and said, this land is ours and everything that belongs in it.

The Elder also discussed the historical inaccuracies and injustices regarding the events at Bloody Island, which have often been misrepresented as battles but were actually massacres. He discussed the traumatic history of Pomo people under Andrew Kelsey and Charles Stone, who enslaved, murdered, and brutalized native people. This historical trauma has left lasting impacts on the Pomo community, leading to various social issues. The Elder also stated that the Kelseyville name symbolizes ongoing pain for the Pomo people. Renaming Kelseyville to Konocti (Mountain Woman) will honor the area's Indigenous history and promote healing. He concluded by stressing the importance of preserving and teaching Indigenous history and culture to younger generations to restore their identity and respect for their heritage.

**Public Comment, Alan Fletcher:** A resident of Lake County for 15 years and involved with "Citizens for Healing," whose primary goal is to rename Kelseyville to honor Tribes, a process in which they have collaborated with tribal representative Ron Montez for three years. Commenter highlighted the consensus on the malevolence of the Kelsey brothers, who the town is named after. He refuted opposition claims that the area was unnamed before settlers arrived, citing a treatise documenting numerous tribal names in the Big Valley area. He argued against the opposition's stance that 175 years of the name's historical usage outweighs the offensive nature of the name.

**Public comment, Gabriel Ray:** Member of the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, elected Tribal Councilman, and a direct descendant of Chief Augustine. Spoke about the need to rename Kelseyville to honor Tribes with ancestral ties to the area, and the deep historical wounds caused by figures like Kelsey, who was responsible for atrocities against the Native population, including the brutal killing of a boy asking for food. Commenter addressed the insensitivity of the "get over it" attitude from some who oppose the name change and highlighted the continuous pain inflicted by the current name, which serves as a constant reminder of past atrocities. Changing the name would be a significant step toward healing and honoring the original inhabitants of the area.

**Public comment, Sarah Ryan:** Resident of Lake County originally from Virginia and an employee of a Tribe, spoke in favor of changing the name of Kelseyville. Over 100 property and business owners oppose the change, citing rebranding efforts and costs associated with changing signs. These opponents argue that the name is no longer offensive because of Kelseyville's friendly reputation. However, Ryan recounted her

radio show where descendants of Kelsey's victims emphatically disagreed, stating that the name remains derogatory as it honors a rapist and murderer. They highlighted that the opposition to the name change cannot understand the pain it causes since they have not personally suffered from it. Ryan emphasized that the name perpetuates a painful reminder of past atrocities and the ongoing struggle for acknowledgment and justice faced by tribes. It's inappropriate for a town in 2024 to bear such a name.

**Public comment, Batsulwin Brown:** Tribal Elder and Tribal Preservation Officer with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, and a District Planning Commissioner. Emphasized that acknowledging historical atrocities is essential for healing and reconciliation. The term “reconciliation” often implies a prior peace, whereas “conciliation” reflects the need for an initial understanding of Indigenous histories and experiences. Supports the name change but prefers a name chosen in consultation with Tribes, specifically the Big Valley Rancheria and Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the two closest Tribes to Kelseyville. Although the proposed name is from the Southeastern Pomo language, suggests deferring to other Tribes for the final name. Supports the proposed name if it aligns with the Tribes' preferences, emphasizing the importance of their input in the decision.

**Public comment, Jeanine Pfeiffer:** Ethno-ecologist consulting for various Lake County water and restoration projects. Strongly supports renaming. Living on the Big Valley Rancheria Reservation, she has written extensively about the environmental and cultural traumas experienced by Tribes with ancestral ties to the area. Pfeiffer highlighted a recent encounter with “Save the Name” postcards at a local yogurt shop, underscoring ongoing resistance to acknowledging the traumatic history of the region. Emphasized the benefits of renaming the town to its Indigenous name. This renaming effort can contribute to historical justice and help heal collective trauma and divisiveness in the community.

- b) Proposed Name: Uypi Creek \***
- Current Name: N/A
  - Feature Type: Stream
  - County: Santa Cruz County
  - Review List: 454
  - Proposal Release Date: January 23, 2024
  - Assigned Member: Amy Loseth

\*Counterproposal to Boomer Creek, item 6q.

- c) **Proposed Name:** **Curran Canyon and Curran Creek**
- **Current Name:** Kern Canyon and Kern Creek
  - **Feature Type:** Valley and stream
  - **County:** Stanislaus County
  - **Review List:** 454
  - **Proposal Release Date:** January 23, 2024
  - **Assigned Member:** Raymond Hitchcock

## 8. Time and Place of Next Meetings:

**Proposed Summer meeting date:**

July 12, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

**Proposed Fall meeting date:**

October 4, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

## 9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:07 P.M.