Reexamining Our Past Initiative

California State Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
March 12, 2021

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Cultural Resources Division Chief
Department Preservation Officer
Department Tribal Liaison
WHO TELLS THE STORY?
“We have a role to play within the Natural Resources Agency to make things better. We have to be part of the solution, so we are not inadvertently perpetuating the problem. Simply put, we need to bring the change that we want to see in this country into our own institution. We have been mobilizing Governor Newsom’s California for All vision by creating more opportunities for Californians to benefit from the natural, cultural and historic richness of our state that our agency is charged with stewarding. This is an important start, but more is needed to confront inequality and drive change across our agency’s 26-plus departments, boards and commissions.”

- **Listen**: Connect with marginalized communities to hear how decisions made across the Natural Resources Agency impact them.
- **Commit**: Clearly and explicitly commit to eradicate racism and inequity.
- **Act**: Develop a clear agenda to confront racism, inequity and unconscious bias within our agency and hold ourselves accountable for implementing this agenda.
LEGAL OFFICE REQUESTS A QUICK SURVEY – JUNE 16, 2020

Naming Conventions – Contentious Histories Survey

“Please identify those parks with contentious histories (e.g., racist connotations) where we've received comments / complaints or where potential concerns have been identified by staff”

Yes/No Checkbox Format + Brief Description of Issue

- Geographic Feature / Place Name / Road/Trail
- Monument / Statuary / Marker / Plaque
- Interpretive Program / Docent Training / Environmental Living Program
- Who Raised Issue / Status / Brief Description of Issue
# SUMMARY SURVEY RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place Names</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monuments/Statuary</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markers/Plaques</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panels/Exhibits</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation Programs</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>132</td>
<td><strong>95%</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 5% difference - noted prior issue now resolved
SECRETARY CROWFOOT’S SPEAKER SERIES: JULY 15, 12:30-2 P.M.

What We Can Learn from Our Past to Move Toward an Equitable Future

Secretary Speaker Series

Join us for an important conversation that traces the history of systemic and institutional racism and how it translates into today’s workplaces, institutions, and general daily life. The series will also provide context and observations on today’s Black Lives Matter movement and global uprising against police brutality and systemic racism in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others.

Moderator: George Davis, Executive Director, California African American Museum
Speakers: Susan D. Anderson, Director of Public Programs, California Historical Society
Corey Matthews, Chief Operating Officer, Community Coalition
Virgil Roberts, Chairman, African American Board Leadership Institute

CNRA’s YouTube Page: http://tinyurl.com/CaResourcesYouTube
On Native American Day, Governor Newsom Takes Action to Restore Land, Promote Equity for California Native Communities

- Ancestral Lands Policy
- Assessing Place Names
- Truth & Healing Council (EO N-15-19)
- Legislation (AB275–Native American cultural preservation)

PRESS RELEASES

State Agencies Announce Steps to Address Discriminatory Names, Inequities in State Parks and Transportation System Features

Digital Atlas of California Native Americans
REEXAMINING OUR PAST - CONTESTED HISTORICAL PLACE NAMES, MONUMENTS & INTERPRETATION

- Survey & Recommendations
- Engage Diverse Communities
- Consult with California Native American Tribes
- Partnership Collaborations
- Address Needed Changes
- Update Interpretive Contexts
US BOARD OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES’ ROLE

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE NAMES

- BGN (US Board of Geographic Names) administers and maintains the list of geographic names
- CACGN (California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names) makes recommendations to BGN
- A representative from California State Parks serves on and advises CACGN

https://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/quarterly_list.htm
California Public Resources Code - PRC § 5019.59 provides authority to the California State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) to name historical units “appropriately and individually.”

The Commission’s policy “reserves the privilege of approving the selection and names given to memorial” groves and trails.
STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION’S ROLE

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK (CHL) POINT HISTORICAL INTEREST (PHI)

- SHRC and Director jointly approve nominations per Public Resources Code
- Office of Historic Preservation provides guidance for nominating, updating or withdrawing CHLs and PHIs
TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS

EXECUTIVE ORDER (B-10-11) & POLICY (DN-2007-05)

- Place Names
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgements
- Interpretation Programs

Tribal Consultations are based on meaningful, on-going dialog and long-standing engagement
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK’S ROLE

REEXAMINING OUR PAST INITIATIVE

Multidisciplinary Team
- Cultural Resources
- Strategic Planning
- Interpretation & Education
- District Leadership
- Subject Matter Experts

Advisory Committee
- Diverse Membership
- Tribal Representation

Coordinated Approach
- Governor’s Office
- Agencies/Departments
NEXT STEPS

- Conduct a Comprehensive Survey
- Develop a Communication Strategy
- Ensure a Publicly Transparent Process
- Consult with California Native American tribes
- Engage Underrepresented and Underserved communities
- Partner with UC/CSU/Community College Scholars
- Embed Best Practices in Policy, Planning, and Project Delivery
REEXAMINING OUR PAST WEBPAGE

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

- https://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30464
- Provide Email for Q&A / Mailing List
- Related Efforts (Relevancy & History)
- Post Announcements
- Link to Updated Park Webpages
- Media Info & Updates