

California Natural Resources Agency
California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names
Assembly Bill 2022 (Ramos, 2022) Annual Legislative Report

To: California State Legislature
From: California Natural Resources Agency on behalf of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names
Re: Assembly Bill 2022 (Replacement of the “Sq_” term)- Annual Legislative Report

Introduction

This report summarizes the work completed to implement Assembly Bill 2022 (Ramos 2022) to date and is intended to fulfill the reporting requirements as specified in the law. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) has developed a procedure to solicit, receive, review, and approve replacement names for existing places and features in the state containing the offensive and derogatory word “squaw” (hereafter referred to as the “sq_” term). The following sections of this report further explain this process as well as the approved replacements pursuant to the law. More information on CACGN can be found on our website at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/CaliforniaAdvisoryCommittee>.

Thank you to the California Native American tribes and public agencies for their close coordination and work throughout the identification and renaming process across the state.

CACGN Review Process for Approving Replacement Names

On September 23, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2022 (Ramos 2022) into law. Commencing on January 1, 2025, this bill requires the term “sq_” to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state. The bill requires the Natural Resources Agency to direct the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names to revise its existing charter to perform specified responsibilities, including notifying public agencies, as defined, of each geographic feature and place name that includes the term “sq_.” The bill requires the Committee to choose replacement names, under its discretion, and in consultation with advisory bodies, if the local governing body fails to recommend a replacement name within the allotted 180 days.

From December 2022 to August 2023, CACGN worked with California Native American tribes, public agencies, and members of the public to solicit input regarding existing geographic features and place names containing the “sq_” term. CACGN requested early consultation with California Native American tribes on the identification of “sq_” named places and features and on processes to pursue renaming of these places to honor and respect tribal communities and indigenous languages.

CACGN requested that all public agencies perform their own due diligence and report any places or features containing the “sq_” term within their jurisdiction by July 1, 2023. On May 30, 2023, CACGN held a public webinar and invited all public agencies and California Native American tribes to attend. During this webinar, CACGN discussed the new law, the historical context of the “sq_”

term, timeline, best practices, and next steps for renaming places and features. The recording of this webinar can be found on CACGN's website.

After receiving the public agency's reports of "sq_" names within their jurisdiction, CACGN conducted its own research to verify the "sq_" place names and compile the hundreds of submissions that were received.

On February 6, 2024, CACGN published approximately 43 names in 17 counties containing the offensive and derogatory "sq_" term based on prior solicitations and independent research. The majority of the features were roads with a few select buildings, fuel breaks, bridges, and cemeteries. Note, 4 of the 43 names that were published by CACGN on February 6, 2024 were removed from the list due to lack of jurisdiction of the public agency not having a municipal ordinance to rename private roads. This reduced the total number of "sq_" cases to 39 in 16 counties.

Following this publication, CACGN connected with each public agency sharing information on the places and features containing the "sq_" term within their jurisdiction and provided a fillable excel sheet for public agencies to report their tribal consultations, public engagement, and proposed replacement name(s); tribal contact list and mailing sheet for tribes with ties to the specific area; a template request for tribal consultation letter; and invitation to attend an informational webinar on February 16, 2024. As part of this communication, CACGN requested that each public agency conduct 90-day tribal consultations and public outreach between the months of February and July, 2024. Upon completion of these consultations and public engagements, public agencies were requested to send proposed replacement names selected by the public agency to CACGN by August 6, 2024. During this time, CACGN also conducted its own tribal consultations on the 39 names.

On February 16, 2024, CACGN held another public webinar and invited public agencies and California Native American tribes to attend. At this webinar, CACGN provided an overview of the law and discussed the best practices for tribal consultation and public engagement. This was a space for public agencies to ask questions on the implementation of AB 2022.

Between August 6, 2024 and November 14, 2024, CACGN worked closely with public agencies on their proposed replacement name packets to get additional information and clarity on the recommendations. During this time, CACGN informed California Native American tribes and public agencies of two upcoming CACGN meetings on November 14 and December 6, 2024 where the proposed replacement names would be reviewed and approved.

During the CACGN meetings, CNRA staff presented on each "sq_" named feature and place and shared information submitted by public agencies, tribes, and members of the public to CACGN. The public agencies were invited to participate in this presentation and make any additions or corrections as needed. CACGN then provided an opportunity for elected leaders and official representatives from tribes, federal, state, and local governments to speak, followed by members of the public. For the final vote, CACGN members employed the guidelines stated in Assembly Bill 2022 to prioritize approval of names that "honor and recognize tribes, cultures, and indigenous languages specific to the geographic region in question, including place names that were previously used by Native American tribes or place names proposed by California Native American tribes

through appropriate enactment or resolution.” The recordings of these meetings can be found on the CACGN website and YouTube page.

In some cases, CACGN received multiple potential replacement names for each “sq_” place or feature. The majority of the replacement name submissions identified the public agency’s preferred name; however, a few public agencies did not provide a preferred alternative when asked. For these cases, CACGN voted on all proposed replacement names and either approved at least one or multiple proposed replacement names. Public agencies were then instructed to utilize their municipal ordinances and normal process to choose the final name from the list of CACGN-approved names.

Through extensive coordination and collaboration between CACGN, public agencies, California Native American tribes, members of the public, replacement names [were approved by CACGN for all 39 cases](#). The table below contains a list of each geographic feature and place name in the State of California containing the “sq_” term, the relevant public agency with jurisdiction over said geographic feature or place name, replacement names that were submitted by the responsible public agency, and the replacement names that were approved by CACGN.

CACGN required all public agencies to select their preferred replacement name and inform CACGN of their final decision by January 1, 2025. Due to regularly scheduled board of supervisors’ meetings and holidays, some public agencies indicated the need for more time to approve the final decision through their internal processes. CACGN has indicated in the chart below for these instances. CACGN will be following up with each of these entities to ensure a CACGN-approved replacement name is formally adopted as soon as feasible.

The final number of signs, markers, and/or maps to be replaced for each place name will be determined in coordination with responsible public agencies upon completion of signage and map updates. The table and this report will be updated each year pursuant to the law.

Table 1. Assembly Bill 2022 “Sq_” Replacement Names

County	Name ID (24-XXX)	Responsible Public Agency	Feature	Prior Name	Proposed Replacement Name(s)	CACGN Approved Replacement Name(s)	Final Replacement Name Adopted by Responsible Public Agency	Resolution Number and Effective Date
Butte	049	County of Butte	Road	Sq_ Flat Road	Flat Mine Road	Flat Mine Road	Responsible public agency anticipates adoption by 1/28/2025.	-
Calaveras	146	County of Calaveras	Road	Sq_ Drive	Legends Lane	Legends Lane	Pending	-
Contra Costa	076	City of Antioch	Road	Sq_ Court	Julpun Court	Julpun Court	Julpun Court	2024/153 October 22, 2024
El Dorado	022	County of El Dorado	Road	Sq_ Run Court	Deer Run Court, Fox Run Court	Deer Run Court, Fox Run Court	Pending	-
Fresno	004	CAL FIRE	Building	Sq_ Valley Fire Station	Bear Mountain Fire Station	Bear Mountain Fire Station	Bear Mountain Fire Station	Resolution N/A December 17, 2024
Fresno	070	County of Fresno	Road	Sq_ Valley Road	Sequoia Valley Road, Nuun Road, Bear Valley Road, Wuksachi Road, Bobcat Heights Road, Yoket Heights Road, Inyana Road, Bear Mountain Road, Peoples Valley Road, Mountain Road, Mountain Valley Road, Sierra Road, Pioneer Valley Road, Summer Valley Road, Wootoona Road	Sequoia Valley Road, Bear Valley Road, Bobcat Heights Road, Bear Mountain Road, Peoples Valley Road, Mountain Road, Mountain Valley Road, Sierra Road, Summer Valley Road ¹	Pending	-

Fresno	432	County of Fresno	Road	Sq_ Leap Lane	Eagle Lane, Deer Leap Lane, Leap Lane, Bobcat Lane, Doe Leap Lane, Buck Leap Lane, Manzanita Lane	Eagle Lane	Pending	-
Fresno	471	County of Fresno	Other	Sq_ Valley Cemetery	Friendship Cemetery, Bear Valley Cemetery, Bear Heights Cemetery, Valley Heights Cemetery, Bobcat Highlands Cemetery, Summer Valley Cemetery, Bear Mountain Cemetery, Fulgham Cemetery	Friendship Cemetery, Bear Valley Cemetery, Bear Heights Cemetery, Valley Heights Cemetery, Bobcat Highlands Cemetery, Summer Valley Cemetery, Bear Mountain Cemetery	Pending	-
Humboldt	188	Humboldt County Department of Public Works	Bridge	Sq_ Creek Bridge	Dulouwirughaqa'n Bridge	Dulouwirughaqa'n Bridge	Pending	-
Los Angeles	074	City of Cerritos	Road	Sq_ Valley Way	Sun Valley Way, Deer Valley Way, Sky Valley Way, Jaisobit Way	Sun Valley Way	Sun Valley Way	2024-16 July 25, 2024
Placer	088	County of Placer	Road	Sq_ Creek Road	Resort Road	Resort Road	Resort Road	Resolution N/A (private road) July 10, 2023
Placer	089	County of Placer	Road	Sq_ Loop Road	Snowfall Loop Road	Snowfall Loop Road	Snowfall Loop Road	Resolution N/A (private road) May 8, 2024

Placer	1000	County of Placer	Road	Sq_ Valley Road	Olympic Valley Road	Olympic Valley Road	Olympic Valley Road	2022-033 February 22, 2022
Placer	1001	County of Placer	Road	Sq_ Summit Road	Summit Peak Road	Summit Peak Road	Summit Peak Road (effective 8/29/2022)	Resolution N/A (private road) August 29, 2022
Placer	1002	County of Placer	Road	Sq_ Peak Road	Shirley Canyon Road	Wa She Shu Road, Washoe Road, Shirley Canyon Road ²	Shirley Canyon Road	2022-033 February 22, 2022
Plumas	459	County of Plumas	Road	Sq_ Carpet Lane	Dematoko Lane, Elderberry Lane, Lokom Kodo Lane, Pinemat Lane, Mahala Mat Lane	Lokom Kodo Lane, Demtatoko Lane, Mahala Mat Lane, Yatomato Lane ³	Pending	-
Riverside	007	County of Riverside Transportation Dept.	Road	Sq_ Mountain Road	Hul'vul Road, Koot'pat Road, Wula'qla Road, Paa'shawl Road	Hul'vul Road, Koot'pat Road, Wula'qla Road, Paa'shawl Road	Responsible public agency anticipates adoption by 1/28/2025.	-
Riverside	008	County of Riverside Transportation Dept.	Road	Sq_ Peak Court	Púwish Court, Túket Court, Túchill Court	Púwish Court, Túket Court, Túchill Court	Responsible public agency anticipates adoption by 1/28/2025.	-
Riverside	009	City of Menifee	Road	Sq_ Valley Drive	Olympic Valley Drive, Sun Valley Drive, Munipka Drive	Olympic Valley Drive, Sun Valley Drive, Munipka Drive	Olympic Valley Drive	24-1523 December 17, 2024
Riverside	010	City of Hemet	Road	Sq_ Valley Street	Húl vul Street, Alvechu Street	Húl vul Street, Alvechu Street	Húl vul Street	PC2024-018 December 17, 2024
Sacramento	006	City of Citrus Heights	Road	Little Sq_ Court	Little Bear Court, Little Fox Court	Little Bear Court, Little Fox Court	Pending	-
Sacramento	011	County of Sacramento	Road	Sq_ Valley Way	River Valley Way, Valley Creek Way Sweetgrass Way	River Valley Way, Valley Creek Way Sweetgrass Way	Pending	-
San Bernardino	084	City of Victorville	Road	Sq_ Valley Lane	Chuckwalla Lane	Chuckwalla Lane	Chuckwalla Lane	P-24-038 July 10, 2024

San Bernardino	456	County of San Bernardino	Road	Sq_ Bush Road	Big Horn Road, Chukat Road	Big Horn Road, Chukat Road	Big Horn Road	Order of Adoption December 30, 2024
San Bernardino	457	County of San Bernardino	Road	Sq_ Road	Jim Pine Road, Maarra Road	Jim Pine Road, Maarra Road	Jim Pine Road	Order of Adoption December 30, 2024
San Bernardino	480	County of San Bernardino	Road	Sq_ Court	Thinya'aak Court	Thinya'aak Court	Thinya'aak Court	Order of Adoption December 30, 2024
Shasta	059	County of Shasta	Road	Sq_ Carpet Drive	Bama'du Road, Memluli Road, Memholoq Road	Bama'du Road	Bama'du Road	2024-103 October 31, 2024
Shasta	060	County of Shasta	Other	Sq_ Carpet Emergency Fire Escape Road (EFER)	Bama'du EFER, Memluli EFER, Memholoq EFER	Bama'du EFER	Bama'du EFER	2024-103 October 31, 2024
Shasta	061	County of Shasta	Other	Sq_ Grass Trail	Blue Grass Trail, Nomdal Trail, Nomti Trail, Nomel Trail	Blue Grass Trail, Nomdal Trail, Nomti Trail, Nomel Trail	Blue Grass Trail	2024-104 November 1, 2024
Shasta	062	County of Shasta	Road	Sq_ Springs Road	K'etewāla Road, Dji'gal Road, T` nena Road ⁴	K'etewāla Road, Dji'gal Road, T` nena Road ⁴	K'etewala Trail	2024-105 October 31, 2024
Shasta	318	City of Redding	Road	Sq_ Creek Court	Mem Court, Ku Court	Mem Court	Responsible public agency anticipates adoption by 2/4/2025.	-
Shasta and Siskiyou	063, 483 ⁵	Counties of Shasta and Siskiyou	Road	Sq_ Valley Loop Road	Chali Mem Paniik Road, Chali Memton Paniik Road, Boychalimemton Paniik Road	Chali Mem Paniik Road, Chali Memton Paniik Road, Boychalimemton Paniik Road	Chali mem paniik Road (Shasta) Pending (Siskiyou)	2024-106 October 31, 2024 (Shasta) (Siskiyou pending)
Siskiyou	048	Siskiyou County Public Works	Road	Sq_ Valley Road	Chali Mem Road, Chali Memton Road, Boychalimemton Road	Chali Mem Road, Chali Memton Road, Boychalimemton Road	Pending	-

Siskiyou	100	CAL FIRE	Fuel Break	Sq_ Valley Fuel Break	Huckelberry Ridge Fuel Break	Huckelberry Ridge Fuel Break	Huckelberry Ridge Fuel Break	Resolution N/A December 17, 2024
Tehama	482	County of Tehama	Road	Sq_ Hill Road	Loybas Hill Road	Loybas Hill Road	Pending	-
Yolo	131	City of West Sacramento	Road	Sq_ Road	Tebti Road	Tebti Road	Pending	-
Yolo	132	City of West Sacramento	Road	Sq_ Court	Tebti Court	Tebti Court	Pending	-
Yolo	170	City of Woodland	Road	Sq_ Valley Drive	Patwin Valley Drive	Patwin Valley Drive	Patwin Valley Drive	8395 October 1, 2024

Notes:

1. CACGN strongly recommends the County of Fresno work closely in meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on the spelling and future adoptions of road name changes that incorporate indigenous language.
2. Provided no California Native American tribes object to “Shirley Canyon Road”.
3. CACGN strongly recommends that the County of Plumas adopt Lokom Kodo or Yatomato.
4. Demarcation and emphases are in the process of being confirmed.
5. Sq_ Valley Loop Road was assigned two Sq_ ID numbers, as it is one feature that crosses two jurisdictional boundaries.

Next Steps for Implementation of Assembly Bill 2022

Since the November 14 and December 06, 2024 meetings, CACGN has performed the following additional tasks to assist with the implementation of Assembly Bill 2022:

- Notified all California Native American tribes and all responsible public agencies that have reported an offensive or derogatory place name of the alternative replacement name(s) approved by the Committee.
- Notified state departments, including but not limited to, the Department of Transportation (CalTrans), the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the California Highway Patrol of all CACGN-approved replacement names for each “sq_”-named place.
- On December 13, 2024, held an implementation webinar in coordination with CHP, the Commission on State Mandates, the DMV, and California indigenous language scholar. The webinar was intended to support responsible public agencies, members of the public, and California Native American tribes by providing additional resources including a detailed [Address Change FAQ](#) document, timelines, and instructions for implementation of name, signage, and map changes.

CACGN will not file a formal request with the United States Board on Geographic Names to render a decision at the federal level as it has jurisdiction over the current replacement names. CACGN has requested all responsible public agencies include name changes in their responses to the annual U.S. Census Bureau Surveys to ensure the federal government has implemented final replacement names where appropriate.

The final steps in the replacing of “sq_” names require public agencies to update their digital maps and physical signs. Assembly Bill 2022 allows for a period whereby public agencies can update their signage and maps as funding and staffing are available. Synchronization of future digital and physical signage and map updates is essential to ensure expeditious and efficient emergency response—they are also authorized to seek reimbursement from the Commission on State Mandates. As public agencies and emergency response entities navigate these updates, CACGN will continue to work in coordination with responsible public agencies, CalTrans, CHP, and any other agencies responsible for map and signage updates to ensure implementation of the law occurs in a thorough and safe manner.