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# THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

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This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. **A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or**
2. **A change to an existing name, spelling, or where a name is applied.**

By submitting this form, the proponent acknowledges the [BGN Policies](#) and agrees to work with BGN staff regarding their proposal.



# Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible for standardizing the names of geographic features within the 50 States and in other areas under the sovereignty of the United States. The BGN retains the legal authority to promulgate all official names and locations of natural features (e.g. mountains, rivers, valleys), as well as canals, channels, reservoirs, and other select feature types.

This form is to propose a new name or name, spelling, or application change for a geographic feature for Federal use. A proponent should carefully review the proposal prior to submission to ensure that it is consistent with the [BGN policies](#). Please note all fields with a red outline are required prior to submitting this form.

The proponent should also be aware that the entire proposal—including personal identifying information and any associated correspondence—is in the public domain and may be made publicly available at any time.

- Submit Proposal:**
1. Download and email this form and supporting documentation to: [BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov)
- OR 2. Send by mail to:  
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523  
Reston, VA 20192
- Contact Us:**  
[BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov)
- i. Save PDF using this format: 'State\_GeographicNameProposed'
- ii. Email Subject: *ST\_GeographicName*
- Please note that anything submitted by mail will be delayed.*

## Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Konocti

Is this to change an existing name?  Y  N

*If yes, please provide the official name and Feature ID as it appears in [the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#).*

Is this name in current local use?  Y  N

What is the Feature Type?

Populated Place

GNIS Name: Kelseyville

GNIS ID: 277532

## Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude: 38.97795 (38.94741)

Longitude: -122.83944 (-77.36839)



*General Location:*

State: California

County: Lake

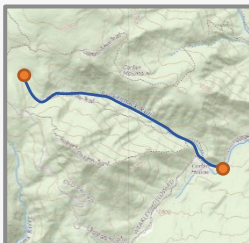
City/Town/  
Township/  
Borough: Kelseyville  
Census Designated  
Place  
ZIP 95451

For Linear Features (e.g. stream or valley):

Mouth/Confluence

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)



Source/Headwater

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)

*Public Land Survey System:*

*Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian*

## Feature Description

*Physical shape, length, width, etc. (Maps can be submitted separately by email)*

Kelseyville is an unincorporated town in Lake County, CA. at the intersection of State Route 29 and Kelsey Creek, a few miles south of Clear Lake. Its population is 3,500 The town itself (the Census Designated Place) is about 3 miles square, with one main street.

The Zip code of the same name is about 10 miles square and includes communities such as Soda Bay, Buckingham, and various Rivas.

The area is dominated by Mount Konocti, an active volcano which rises 3000 feet above Big Valley, and is accessed by road from Kelseyville.

## Name Details

### Name information:

*Please provide relevant information about the proposed name, such as origin, meaning, how long it has been in current use, as well as current or historical significance. Also include why you believe the feature requires a name or name change and why the proposed name is appropriate. Describe any documents that you will be submitting (separately by email) to support your proposal.*

Out of respect for the local tribes and to promote healing in the community, we propose that the BGN changes the town's name to Konocti. The name Kelsey is offensive to the local tribes and to many residents throughout the County. Changing the name to 'Konocti' is a gesture to acknowledge the wrongs done to the original inhabitants of Lake County.

Konocti is a volcanic mountain that stands ~3,000 feet above Clear Lake, named by the East Lake Tribe of Elem, our oldest existing tribe. The Elem people have lived in the area for over 14,000 years. The widespread use of the name Konocti by local business, art, and education communities evokes images of nature, art, music and recreation.

Kelseyville, sitting at the base of Mt. Konocti, is currently named after a brutal man. Andy Kelsey and partner Charles Stone enslaved, starved, abused, raped, tortured and murdered the Pomo living under their control. In 1849, the Pomo held a tribal court and decided to execute Kelsey and Stone.

In revenge for their deaths, brothers Ben and Sam Kelsey, and their posse stormed Napa and Sonoma Counties indiscriminately killing Pomo. The Pomo have not forgotten the Kelseys or the repercussions

Please provide a list of supporting documentation, including any web links:

*Examples: Published sources showing the proposed name or letters of support (local government, historical society, etc.).*

The web site for Citizens for Healing is [citizensforhealing.org](http://citizensforhealing.org) The "Documents" tab lists numerous documents and web sites supporting our proposal. These include:

- \* An article in the local Record Bee : [www.record-bee.com/2022/03/31/in-our-opinion-its-past-time-keyseyville-rebranded](http://www.record-bee.com/2022/03/31/in-our-opinion-its-past-time-keyseyville-rebranded)
- \* The issue of historic names was raised in the Lake County Visioning Forum mentioned in the article.
- \* Local historians have given presentations at our meetings, and have written articles supporting us.

We will submit documents by email soon after we file our proposal:

CA\_KONOCTI\_MAPS.pdf, CA\_KONOCTI\_NAMEDETAILS.pdf, and CA\_KONOCTI\_TRIBAL.pdf

Note that our documentation is "Web-first", so all of these submitted documents have a web version.

Is the name [commemorative](#)? Does the name honor or refer to a person or persons?  Y  N

*Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons. The person being honored should have had either (1) some direct or long-term association with the feature, or (2) have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located; or (3) have outstanding national or international recognition. The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name except to avoid ambiguity.*

*If yes, please provide the following:*

Honoree's Date of Birth:

Honoree's Date of Death:

Short biography and significance or association with the geographic feature: *(list any additional honorees here)*

Is the feature in a Wilderness Area or Wilderness Study Area?  Y  N  Unknown

*If yes, please provide your justification for making an exception to [the Wilderness Policy](#):*

*Please note that the BGN will not approve new names for unnamed features within wilderness areas or wilderness study areas, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent.*

Is the name you are proposing intended to honor Native Americans, their language, or culture?  Y  N

*If yes, to ensure that the proposed name is appropriate, the BGN strongly advises proponents to work with Tribal Leaders, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and/or Native American linguists or other expert(s) associated with the Tribe to determine the acceptability of the proposed name and application. Please review [the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance](#).*

*Proponents should also seek letters of endorsement from the governments (e.g., Tribal Councils) of any affected Tribes. Please indicate below, or in documentation submitted separately (with this proposal or any time after the proposal is submitted), any efforts to solicit Tribal input.*

## Additional Information +

Is there any local opposition or conflict with the proposed name?  Y  N

*If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:*

- \*Kelseyville Business Association (KBA) is very active. When their board held a vote regarding the name change, the members voted against it. The Kelseyville area does not have any mechanism for a town wide discussion.
- \*Door to door canvassing identified both opponents and proponents of the name change.
- \*News articles, radio call-in shows, and comments on social media identified people on both sides of the issue.
- \*A few people spoke against the name change during our meetings. The main objections to the name change are:

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details


Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) discussed the proposed name change at their meetings, and all approved the use of the name Konocti.

Ron Montez, THPO for Big Valley Band of Pomos, brought several elders from local tribes to speak at our meetings. They shared stories from their great-grandparents of the horrific history of Andy Kelsey and the impact it still has on their lives.

Giving the town a new name has strong support from tribal members.


## Proponent Information


*Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):*


 Proponent's Name: Lorna Sue Sides


Agency or Organization, if applicable:

Citizens for Healing (C4H)

 Email: poetryshared@yahoo.com

 Mailing Address: 3770 Saderlund Street, Kelseyville, CA 95451

 Phone: 707-367-8014

 Are you completing this form for someone else?  Y  N

*If yes, please fill out the following:*

Completed by:

Full Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Phone: