

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

As I was out of town for the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board Of Supervisors (BOS) concerning the Kelseyville town name change, I watched the recorded video on line when I returned. I also downloaded the Agenda and associated Resolutions to better understand the purpose of the meeting. Like supervisor Moke Simon who was really clear (which may be one of his best virtues), I will attempt to do the same here.

I would like to state that I am in favor of keeping the Kelseyville name, no change. As it became clear that BOS will not support that, and if it is to go to vote, then only the affected Kelseyville residences should vote. I wanted to make this clear so you can decide to finish reading this or not.

As the BOS have already voted to move forward with the vote, my points are mute at this time. However the BOS actions and their opinions that brought us here are very concerning. There is so much to address from this meeting but for the purposes of brevity, I will try to keep it short. Also I will not address the public input portion as it covers too many feelings, perceptions, anecdotal statements in support of the fundamental platitude of "healing process" used.

I would also like to provide a perspective of Andrew Kelsey (as that is whom the town got its name). It's hard to say what kind of man he was, but it was clear that he enslaved local indigenous people and did not treat them well. But that was customary at those times as the Spanish occupiers did the same. Of course by today's standards it's viewed as an atrocity, and rightfully so. Therefore, I do not blame the native American's for premeditatedly murdering Kelsey and Stone at that time. However I was that action that brought on the US Army and all the tragedies with the battle on what is now Bloody Island. Again, for that time, these actions were standard, and of course in today eyes unacceptable. But Kelsey was dead and had nothing to do with any thoughts concerning massacre of Bloody Island, genocide or decimation of the indigenous people. It seems like we want to bring all the wrongs of our nation against the indigenous people here onto the backs of people of Kelseyville.

Starting out with our District Supervisor Jessica Pyska's response to her district position was dismal. Review of all the letters, Emails and other information provided with the BOS Agenda packet I downloaded, 33% did not want a name change with 5% recommending change and 46% with no stated position. Concerning if it were to go to a vote, 71% said to keep in the Kelseyville area, and 29% did not address. When she walked into that meeting, she should have presented options for defining that Kelseyville area only! That is what she should have been advocating! Whatever method of defining this area should be the focus for her.

Supervisor Moke Simon who's virtue I mention above was one the most vocal to watch. Understandably he supports the native America's, but I hope he works as hard for others in his district. But he did bring up "racism" which is also a common cry for any minority these days. He stated "I want it on the record! I've walk through these halls I've heard how racist this community is! This is an opportunity for me, to really understand what kind of community I walk in, and what kind of people we have here. So for this vote, if that's where this board is going to go I want it county wide! I want it on record where this county stands with the indigenous people that lived here and have been here before it was created."

For this supervisor, it seem he see this as a referendum on if the county is racist or not. Keep the Kelseyville name, were racist! Change the name and were not! One would say this is a bigoted position and brings concern to prejudices sitting on the BOS.

Supervisor Green in his effort to pander to the indigenous people of the county spoke on the difficulty of defining area of who should vote, whether it should be a regional or County election. He started buy questioning if "Save Kelseyville" committee was "ramping up" for a campaign as if was some kind of

underhanded action. He states “the question I have is it going to be a fair election” if they put it to the people. Let’s be clear Supervisor Green, this process has been “unfair” from the beginning concerning the Kelseyville name as this board is showing. Seems like most of the BOS had felt they didn’t want to disenfranchise any voters in the county concerning an issues that does not direct affect those voter. However, here Supervisor Green’s rant went all in, to conflate every possible inhumane action on Kelsey and Stone. The chair stopped him, and asked to focus on the county wide election “faults” he was talking about. He said the major fault was concerning the past dead native American who’s “hundreds, thousands of future native American’s were robbed of their ability to have a voice”. His fallacious logic is that people who never existed today cannot vote and have their voices heard. He stated therefore that “even a county wide election is messed up!” That I agree with him on as he was a major contributor to it.

Supervisor Bruno Sabatier closed with brief sermon of our Constitution and Bill Of Rights and its protection of the minority voice. He tried to use the Equal Protection Clause to admonish what could only be directed at those wanting to keep the Kelseyville name in defense of the Citizens for Healing (minority voice). None of the rights he expressed play any part into these proceedings as none of them are in question. Everyone interested is having their voice, and no one is being denied anything!

Additionally he brought up California’s past Proposition 8 and how the state supreme court threw it out. Somehow he felt this was pertinent to our proceedings in supporting the BOS freedom not adhere to the voter’s decision of the “advisory” election. The state supreme court threw it out on Constructional grounds, not because they liked it or not, or felt it was the right thing to do.

And finally, Native Americans, as expressed by Moke Simon and their advocates continually use platitudes like the term “healing” and stating the “healing process” whenever they wish to push their desires to the outside community. He specifically addressed Myron Holdenried because Myron asked “will changing the name really heal all the problems?” Supervisor Moke Simon called this out and said “YES !”, that “if this name change happens, it will start the healing, weather you believe it or not, for the indigenous people of this county!” This dogma has been used all the time to advance the Native American’s issues. It was used back for Indian Gamming, for the Kelseyville High School mascot name change, but apparently it didn’t start any “healing” as here we go again and how things are developing! They just keep cutting open old wounds, and they say we need to start a healing process again. This is divisive to all concerned.

In conclusion, I was clear from the start that the BOS had already made up their minds on this issue. Bruno Sabatier in his closing statements concerning majority vote saying “ if this was a majority vote, we (BOS) wouldn’t be here having this discussion as it would be already changed”. A position from the beginning as observed from other members. That makes these whole proceedings disreputable and a deliberate diversion for board responsibility. If this process was to truly get the publics position and go with it, then it should have been a Ballot Initiative. But issued as an advisory measure, clearly identity’s attempt to placate Kelseyville residence by Supervisor Pyska, and still allow the BOS to approve the change.

I will follow up with a letter to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names concerning any opinion this board forwards to them.

Armand Pauly  
Kelseyville, CA