

From: [Jessica Pyska](#)
To: [Lake County Clerk of the Board](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Kelseyville Name Change Resolution
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:46:30 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Arnaud Hubert <arnaudh@yahoo.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kelseyville Name Change Resolution
Date: July 27, 2024 at 7:10:12 PM PDT
To: "moke.simon@lakecountyca.gov" <moke.simon@lakecountyca.gov>, "jessica.pyska@lakecountyca.gov" <jessica.pyska@lakecountyca.gov>, "michael.green@lakecountyca.gov" <michael.green@lakecountyca.gov>, "eddie.crandell@lakecountyca.gov" <eddie.crandell@lakecountyca.gov>, "bruno.sabatier@lakecountyca.gov" <bruno.sabatier@lakecountyca.gov>

Dear Members of the Board,

I see the Board of Supervisors will be holding a special meeting on July 30th to consider putting Kelseyville's name change on the ballot. (I will be out-of-town and therefore not attending.)

I understand the deadline to make this happen – or not – is August 9th, so I would like to caution the Board about the way they are going to approach this. It sounds extremely rushed, and it could end up being an expensive proposition for taxpayers and the County. I am not just talking about the cost of drawing such a proposition and printing it on the ballots. There also are potential legal issues. (You can take a look at this year's Measure B in Fresno County to get an idea of what the fallout could look like.) But there are many other problems with the concept.

It looks like the Kelseyville Unified School District is being considered as a potential voting district for this measure. I strongly advise against weaponizing a school district for this issue. This is way outside the school district's mandate and scope. Expect it to be challenged in court for that very reason. I am also surprised to see that specific district mentioned. The Kelseyville Fire District would have made a lot more sense if you were to follow that logic, as it encompasses the Kelseyville at-large footprint much better than the Kelseyville Unified School District does. But again – this is completely outside their mission and mandate. Either district would also exclude a significant number of tribal members who should have a say, and it could be most likely be challenged under the California Voting Rights Act as well. Regardless, hijacking a district which mission has nothing do with the issue seems like an abuse of power which would not go unchecked.

The USBGN will be the final arbiter regarding a potential name change, whether the issue is put on the ballot or not, and regardless of its outcome. As you probably know, the results of such a ballot measure would be considered in the federal agency's decision, but they would not be the only weight on the scale. Realize also that a new name proposal for the same place can always be submitted to the USBGN, and it is most likely what would happen. Because this name change is a long-simmering idea which time has come. There is no putting it back into the bottle of whitewashed history.

Some might see the USBGN process as undemocratic; however, let's not fool ourselves –

we all know that the opposition to the name change is mostly driven by narrow business interests, not just sentimentalism. But then again, this is about justice, a concept the local Native American community never had a chance to experience. Some of the tribes who were impacted by the Kelseys, Stone and the U.S. military were exiled or exist outside present-day Lake County, and their legacy would not get to vote on a potential county-wide ballot – and I'm obviously not even talking about the bands that were outright exterminated in the 19th century.

I would urge the Board of Supervisors to not rush in issuing any resolution, and County officials to not just seriously consider the language, the scope, and the legal and financial consequences of a ballot measure for the taxpayers, but also to think about the image of the county.

If this gets on the ballot, we will be getting media attention not just at the regional level, but probably on the national stage as well – regardless of the outcome. I just hope that Lake County, which desperately needs tourism dollars now more than ever (especially at a time where the wine industry is going through a rough patch) doesn't project the image of a close-minded community bent on keeping on its map a name associated with slavery, genocide, and white supremacy.

Best Regards,

Arnaud Hubert