

From: Bourquein, Shelby (Contractor) <sbourquein@contractor.usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Mani Grewal
Cc: jimbeau50@msn.com; Channce Condit; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC
Subject: U.S. Board on Geographic Names requests input on proposed Kern Canyon / Kern Creek name change [Stanislaus County]
Attachments: Curran Canyon _ Curran Creek packet.pdf; BGN recommendation form.pdf

*** **WARNING:** This message originated from outside of **Stanislaus County**. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe ***

Dear Mani Grewal, Chair of the Stanislaus County Supervisors

I'm a contractor under USGS staff support for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). The BGN seeks input from Stanislaus County on two proposed names, "Curran Canyon" and "Curran Creek," for two features that are officially named [Kern Canyon](#) and Kern Creek.

Background: The BGN is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Department of Interior's USGS provides staff support to the BGN. The staff actively pursues input from [state geographic names authorities](#), land management agencies, local governments, and [tribal governments](#) for all submitted naming proposals and local preference is heavily considered in BGN decisions. The BGN's policies and processes are detailed in this [this document](#), and frequently asked questions about the BGN can be found on [this webpage](#).

Summary: A local area resident requested to change the name of Kern Canyon and Kern Creek to reflect the spelling of their family name (Curran). The proponent reports that the features were named for his great-great-grandfather Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), whose ranch was nestled within the canyon.

The case summary, research details, map, and recommendation form are attached for your review and contain additional details and context for the proposal. I've copied the proponent; they can be reached at jimbeau50@msn.com

The proposal is listed on the BGN's Review List #454, which is posted at: [DNC Review Lists | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#)

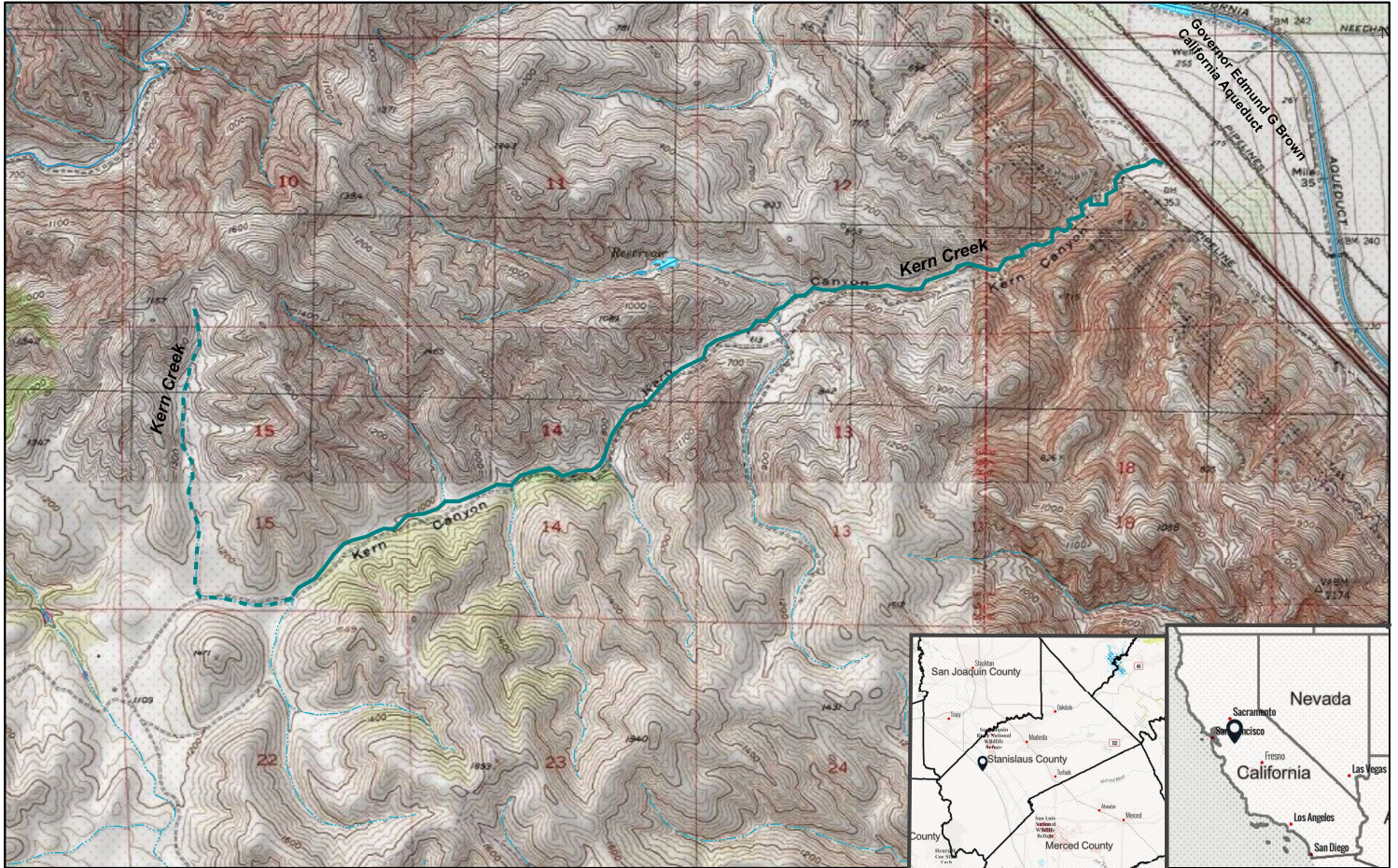
Options: Please reply with a recommendation of support, objection, or a specific alternative recommendation. You may complete the recommendation form attached or write a free-form letter and send it by email (preferred) or by mail.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request. If you have questions, please email me at sbourquein@contractor.usgs.gov, BGN staff at BGNEXEC@usgs.gov, or call (703) 648-4551.

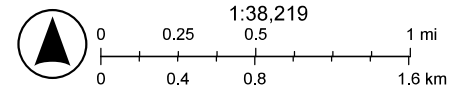
Thank you,
Shelby Bourquein
Geographic Research Analyst | Toponymist
Contractor supporting [U.S. BGN](#) | [DNC](#)
Xcellent Technology Solutions, Inc.

(703) 648-4551

Change Kern Canyon & Kern Creek to "Curran Canyon" & "Curran Creek"



2/2/2024



San Joaquin County GIS/Planning, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/INASA, USGS, Bureau of

Curran Canyon

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Curran Canyon
Proposal type	change name to correct spelling and reflect family name
Current official name	Kern Canyon
GNIS ID	226531
Proponent	James Burke Gildea; San Francisco, CA
Date proposed	11/24/2023
BGN case number	6166
Quarterly Review List	454

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	37.5154676, -121.2414514
Secondary coordinates	37.4931928, -121.2960187
Feature class	valley
Feature size	3.8 mi. long
Feature description	E of Blind Mans Gulch, S of Ingram Canyon, N of Central Valley
Name history	Named for Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a ranch nestled in the canyon
USGS primary topo map	Westley 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Stanislaus County
PLSS	Secs 7,12,14&15, T5S, R7E, Mount Diablo Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Curran: *Daily Evening News* (Modesto CA), March 26, 1898
 - Curran Canyon: *History of Stanislaus County California* (George Henry Tinkham, 1921); various 1890s and early twentieth century newspapers
 - Kern Canyon: USGS 1915, 1952, 1969, 1989, 1991; USACE 1941, 1962, 1966

Curran Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Curran Creek
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Proposal type	change name to correct spelling and reflect family name
Current official name	Kern Creek
GNIS ID	TBD
Proponent	James Burke Gildea; San Francisco, CA
Date proposed	11/24/2023
BGN case number	6170
Quarterly Review List	454

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	37.51611, -121.23944
Secondary coordinates	37.50993, -121.29856
Feature class	stream
Feature size	5.1 mi. long
Feature description	Flows through Kern Canyon (proposed Curran Canyon)
Name history	Named in honor of Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a ranch nestled in the canyon
USGS primary topo map	Westley 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Stanislaus County
PLSS	Secs 7,12,14&15, T5S, R7E, Mount Diablo Meridian
Land ownership	private

Case Summary

These proposals are to change the names of Kern Canyon and Kern Creek in Stanislaus County to Curran Canyon and Curran Creek, respectively. The changes are intended to recognize the correct spelling of a family name.

The proponent reports that the features were named for his great-great-grandfather Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a 480-acre ranch in the valley. According to *A History of Stanislaus County California* (Tinkham, 1921), Michael Curran was an early settler of Stanislaus County and an established sheep doctor, described as “a progressive man in the field of developing science,” evidenced by a bill he proposed “to prohibit sheep herders from driving scabby, diseased sheep through the ranges.” An account prepared by Mr. Curran’s daughter stated that the valley came to be named for Mr. Curran, although it was often mispronounced “Kern.”

The name Curran Canyon was further referenced in 1893 and 1896 editions of *Stanislaus County Weekly News*, *The Los Angeles Times* (1895), and other newspapers from San Francisco, Oakland, and Modesto (1938). An 1898 edition of *Daily Evening News* (Modesto CA) titled *Derivation of West Side Names and Places* described “a small gulch named Currans [where] there is a large spring of good water near [its] head. This place was occupied many times before a permanent settlement was made by Michael Curran in the ‘60s and it retains his

name. . ." It also appeared in publications in 1913 and 1938. The proponent provided an 1880 census documenting the name Curran.

The names Kern Canyon and Kern Creek have been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1915. Kern Creek Road runs through the valley. Prior to receipt of this proposal, Kern Creek was not recorded in GNIS; however, citing a number of USGS and USACE maps, it has been added.

Research by the USGS Mapping Center uncovered a field report from January 1954:

The field completion engineer on the Westley [topographic map] submitted evidence that the name Kern Canyon should be changed to Curran Canyon, and a request to BGN is being submitted, based on his evidence. If this evidence was in error, please submit full information promptly so that we can withdraw our BGN request.

A memorandum dated three days later reads:

Mr. W.W. Cox – N. Hwy 35, Westley, Calif. – a resident . . . for 80 years told me that the original name for that canyon was CURRAN, having been named after the Curran family. For one reason or another the name was corrupted to KERN and that this name has been accepted and used for the past 50 years or more, and now he, Cox, is about the only one who knows of the name CURRAN.

. . . an engineer in the county surveyor's office in Modesto was quite familiar with the area around Patterson about 1908 and thereafter and he says that the name KERN [had] been used sometime prior to that date. All of the county records show it as KERN and nowhere is it shown as CURRAN. In view of this, I see no reason for not using KERN. The name is accepted by everyone in the area.

In March 1954:

The field engineer states on the name cards that Curran Creek and [Curran] Canyon are correct; not Kern as on the old map. However, later field information, strongly supported, reveals that Kern is correct.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

HISTORY OF
STANISLAUS COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

WITH

Biographical Sketches

OF

*The Leading Men and Women of the County Who Have
Been Identified with Its Growth and Develop-
ment From the Early Days
to the Present*



HISTORY BY

GEORGE H. TINKHAM

ILLUSTRATED
COMPLETE IN ONE VOLUME

HISTORIC RECORD COMPANY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

1921

926

HISTORY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

At Stockton, Mr. Trask was united in marriage with Miss May L. Forsberg, who came to California in 1904. She is a native of Albert Lea, Freckborn County, Minn., and a daughter of John and Emily Forsberg, well-to-do Minnesota farmers, both now deceased, the mother passing away in September, 1920, in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Trask are the parents of a daughter, Marguerite by name. In their religious views they are Presbyterians. Mr. Trask adheres to the principles of the Republican party politically. He is a man of unimpeachable integrity, takes a keen interest in all that concerns the life of his community and is ever alert to advance its best interests.

MRS. LIZZIE MULLALLY.—An interesting early settler of Stanislaus County, Mrs. Lizzie Mullally is a native daughter, born at Milpitas, in Santa Clara County, on September 3, 1861, the daughter of Michael and Catherine Curran. Her father was a highly-educated man who studied, once upon a time, for the priesthood, and who came to the United States from Australia; and when excitement concerning the discovery of gold was at its height, he came on a sailing vessel around Cape Horn to San Francisco, and mined for a while at Columbia on the Yuba River. Later, he settled in Stanislaus County and established himself as a sheep doctor; and that he was a progressive man in the field of developing science one may judge from the fact that he attempted to get a bill passed by the Legislature to prohibit sheep herders from driving scabby sheep through the ranges—a wise proposition which, naturally, on account of the influence of those most vitally concerned, was duly killed and never heard from again, until years later when others accomplished what Mr. Curran first tried. When our subject was born the Currans lived at Milpitas, but as a babe was brought to their home in Stanislaus County. Here the father took up land in the canyon west of Westley; and on that account this canyon came to be named for him, Curran Canyon, although it is popularly mispronounced "Kern" Canyon.

Mr. Curran was a man of foresight, and he was experienced enough to see the future possibilities of this region which first attracted him. He acquired 480 well-situated acres, and there Mrs. Mullally now makes her home, honored as one of the oldest settlers west of the San Joaquin River. She has about 500 goats on her farm, eighty head of sheep, some cattle, some turkeys and chickens and domestic stock; and these, as well as the land, she handles in such a manner as to reap the largest returns. Mr. Curran died November 8, 1880, his widow surviving him until January 28, 1898. Mrs. Mullally was their only child.

On September 15, 1885, Miss Curran was married to Patrick Mullally, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, who had come to California in 1883; and seven children have been born to their union. Thomas reached the age of twenty-six and was killed in a mine disaster at Tonopah, Nev. Leslie is Mrs. J. Costello of Patterson. Michael lives at Oak Flat. Stella is Mrs. Strait, and lives in San Francisco. Theresa died in 1908. Consuella is in San Francisco, while Rosaline is attending the Patterson high school. Mr. and Mrs. Mullally are engaged in stock raising and general farming. Mrs. Mullally has pure bred Angora and Toggenburg goats and actively superintends the ranch. She is now one of the oldest settlers in these parts.

SAMUEL F. SANGER.—A resident of Stanislaus County whose many-sided work has already borne such good fruit that his labors for the spiritual advancement of others will no doubt exert a benign influence on the coming generation, is Samuel F. Sanger, the elder in charge of the Church of the Brethren at Empire, and formerly president of the Co-operative Colonization Company at South Bend, Ind., an agency which has promoted migration to the Golden State. He was born near Harrisonburg, Va., on February 4, 1849, and spent his early life in the Old Dominion. His father, John Sanger, was a Rockingham County farmer, noted for his firm religious convictions, and he was a deacon in the Church of the Brethren. He was born near Harrisburg, Pa., and came to Virginia in 1814. In that state, too, he married Miss Elizabeth Flory. The Sangers were of German origin; the Florys probably French.

Samuel Sanger grew up in Virginia on a farm, and was never, therefore, a stranger to hard work. His educational advantages were meagre in comparison to those afforded today, for during the Civil War, school was suspended. The young

Page No. 2879
 Supervisor's Dist. No. 4
 Enumeration Dist. No. 22

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in _____, in the County of Stanislaus, State of California
 enumerated by me on the 28, 29 & 30 day(s) of June, 1880.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
250	<u>Curran Michael</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Ireland</u>
	<u>Curran Catherine</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Keeping House</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Ireland</u>
	<u>Curran Lizzie</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>No occupation</u>	<u>California</u>	<u>Ireland</u>	<u>Ireland</u>

prece.
The trial of Francisco Vierra upon the second charge to commit an assault with a deadly weapon upon Mrs. Catherine Curran, was given to the jury at a late hour last night. The jury brought in a verdict of simple assault. Judge Minor set this morning at 10 o'clock as the time for pronouncing sentence in both cases. At that hour the Court sentenced the defendant to pay a fine of \$75 in each case or \$150 in all. Vierra paid the fine.

Serious Injury In Car Plunge

PATTERSON, July 2.—While driving to her mountain ranch home in Curran Canyon west of Patterson, Mrs. Rose Crow lost control of her car and it plunged over a steep bank, turning over several times before reaching the bottom of a 250 foot gulch.

The accident occurred at about 10 o'clock in the evening and Mrs. Crow was knocked unconscious. She regained consciousness several hours later and climbed back to the road, where she was picked up and brought to Patterson for medical aid. She suffered only from severe shock and bruises.

Mrs. Crow will be remembered as Rose Mullally, one of the best girl performers at big rodeos.

A FUTILE SEARCH.

No Trace of Dunham Found in the Coast Range.

Sheriff R. B. Purvis returned Monday from a two days' trip to the Coast Range mountains, where he went to investigate whether Dunham, the Santa Clara murderer, had escaped from the vicinity of Mt. Hamilton into this county. He was up the El Salado as far as he could travel by team and also went up to the head of Curran canyon. The people living in the hills had seen nothing of the much wanted Dunham, and but few of them had ever heard of the murder. A photograph of Dunham was shown to all of the people in the passes this side of the mountain and all were put on the lookout for the man. It is not the opinion of Sheriff Purvis that the murderer came this way, nor that he would have any object in coming into this county unless he might conclude to try and take one of the night trains passing on the West Side out of the county.

A Sheep Owner and a Sheep Herder Engage in a Quarrel Over the Price of a Pair of Blankets.

Sheriff Purvis and Dr. Evans returned from Curran canyon, ten miles west of Grayson, in the Coast Range mountains, late yesterday afternoon. They had been summoned to that place on account of the shooting of A. J. Brazil, owner of a band of sheep, by Joe Sylvester, a sheep-shearer.

USGS NOTES

1 481261

Review Edit - Mr. K. Mudd
March 10, 1954

Sacramento Edit - E. M. Hogan

Edit Notes - Westley, California

Westley retained as the quadrangle name. Although smaller in population than Grayson, it has a post office and is located on the Southern Pacific Railroad and state highway 33.

Several named roads in the NW part of the quadrangle, shown on name overshoot, were not labeled on the recommendation of the Ripon field engineer. These are ranch roads and, although open to the public, are not maintained by the county.

Hally is correct; not Halley as on USGS Westley 7½' map (1915).

W. W. Cox Road not labeled. It is a short road leading only to a group of buildings.

Faust Road not labeled due to limited space.

Finnegan Cut is correct; not Finnegan Cutoff as on old map.

Note name placement of Upper White Lake and Lower White Lake.

A note on drainage overshoot at both lakes states "Lake drained to this area. Balance under cultivation."

Vanormer Pumping Station appears on name overshoot. Due to datum shift, this name will appear on the Patterson quadrangle.

Lower Lateral No. 2 is correct; not Lateral No. 2 as on name overshoot.

Del Puerto Creek is correct; not Puerto Creek as on old map. A formal writoup to BGN has been submitted and a copy is included in the folder.

The field engineer states on the name cards that Curran Creek and Canyon are correct; not Kern as on the old map. However, later field information, strongly supported, reveals that Kern is correct.

Rogers Road is correct; not Rodgers.

A number of lateral names were added after the final composite, from information on the Patterson and Romain name overshoots. Three of these laterals change from a North to a South designation on this quadrangle. We assumed that the point of change was at

rec'd 12/6/23

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. Email this form and supporting documentation to: BGNEKFC@usps.gov OR 2. Send by mail to: U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523 Reston, VA 20152

Contact Us: BGNEKFC@usps.gov ii. Email Subject: ST_GeographicName

Please note that anything submitted by mail will delayed.

Naming Basics

Proposed Name: Curran Canyon

Is this name in current local use? Y N

What is the Feature Class? Valley

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)

GNIS Name: Kern Canyon

Feature ID: 226531

Location Basics

Where is the feature?

Latitude: 37.51604 (38.94741)

Longitude: 121.23938 (-77.38829)

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

Mouth/Confluence

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.38829)

Source/Headwater

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.38829)

General Location:

State: California

County: Stanislaus

City/Town/Township/Borough: Near Westley

Public Land Survey System: Sections, Township, Range, Meridian

Feature Description

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

Please see your ID 226531

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.

This is a canyon and associated creek designated Kern Canyon and Kern Creek. This canyon was named after my great great grandfather Michael Curran, whose ranch was in the midst of the canyon. There is no known association of Stanislaus County with anyone named Kern.

In the book "History of Stanislaus County" by George Henry Tinkham, 1921, my great Grandmother Lizzy Curran, who lived on the farm at that time, states as much from personal knowledge. See pg. 926.

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.).

History of Stanislaus County, George Henry Tinkham, 1921, interview with Lizzy Mullally at page 926.

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: circa 1821 Honoree's Date of Death: 11/8/1880

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

As noted, these features were named after my great-great-grandfather. It is just that they have come to be misspelled.

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.

Additional Information +

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

If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:

That I know of. No Kern advocates known of.

Additional notes:

Proponent Information

Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):

Proponent's Name: James Burke Gildea

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

N/A

Email: jimbeau50@msn.com

Mailing Address: 642 Alvarado St. #104
San Francisco, CA 94114

Phone: (415)320-6715

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:

Please submit this form and supporting documentation to: 1. By email to BGNEC@ecp.gov 2. By mail to the address on page 2

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: BGNEC@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:** BGNEC@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:

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?

GNIS Name:

GNIS ID:


Location Basics

Where is the feature? 

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)

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

Mouth/Confluence 

Latitude: (37.51547)

Longitude: (-121.23145)

Source/Headwater

Latitude: (37.49638)

Longitude: (-121.30520)

General Location:

State:

County:

City/Town/Township/Borough:

Public Land Survey System:
Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian

Feature Description

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

This is the creek that runs through Kern (sic) Canyon. See USGS ID 226531. It is extant during rainy season.

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.

This filing is related to our effort to get the spelling of Kern Canyon, ID 226531, corrected to Curran Canyon. Regarding Curran Creek, it is recognized in other contexts (always misspelled "Kern Creek"). The name appears on Metsker Maps of the area, is referred to in Wikipedia, and appears in "Data Basin Maps." Probably the easiest form of substantiation is that the road which leads from Westley, California to the entrance to Kern (sic) Canyon is named "Kern Creek Road." As with "Kern Canyon" do not know of anyone who would contest that the location was named after my ancestors, the Curran family, whose land included much of the canyon and the creek. Despite "Kern County" and "Kern River" further south in California, there is no known connection between anyone named Kern and the west hills of Stanislaus County.

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.).

See above. Also: the excerpt from The History of Stanislaus County by George H. Tinkham included with my proposal form concerning Kern (sic) Canyon;
<https://misc-external.dot.ca.gov/pets/results.php?ctrnm=101h3204>;
<https://www.cahighways.org/caltrans-resources/bridge-logs/logd10.pdf>, pg 16

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)

The features might be viewed as named after my great great grandfather, Michael Curran, or simply after the Curran ranch which was set up in about 1862 in the area of the creek and canyon. Michael Curran, besides being a farmer, was a sort of early day sheep doctor. The family maintained ownership of the property for approximately 100 years.

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:

I am aware of no opposition but have no information one way or the other. I assume that for both the creek and the canyon no one will claim that they were named after someone named Kern or contest that the name was intended to acknowledge the Curran family. More evidence can be provided of property ownership if necessary. Also I have FOIA USGS records to try to confirm how the spelling "Kern" was arrived at. It is possible that a number of people in the area at the time were illiterate.

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details

Proponent Information

Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):

Proponent's Name:

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

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:

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.



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (BGN)
GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed name:

* Current official name:

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that the:

(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

Approve the proposal

Reject the proposal

Other

Comments (attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

Name and Title:

Address

Phone and Email

Signature and date (typed name is accepted as signature)

* The official name of the geographic feature is the name listed in the [Geographic Names Information System](#)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names

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