

Item #17
7-13-2021

SAVE THE DATE

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
Calling For ALL Proposed Replacement Names
Link: TBA
August 11, 2021

Rename Sqw Valley, Fresno County**

renamesquawvalley@gmail.com

559-581-2893

<https://www.change.org/renamesquawvalleyfresnocounty>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Political-Organization/Rename-Squaw-Valley-Fresno-County-110785474082424/>

RESOLUTION No:
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE RENAMING OF
“Squaw” Valley to “Bear Mountain” Valley

WHEREAS, "Squaw Valley" is a census-designated place located in Fresno County, California, United States of America (zip codes 93646 & 93675); and

WHEREAS, The stated "Vision" of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors is "working together for a quality of life for all"; and

WHEREAS, A guiding principle of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors is "Respecting Diversity" - "Respecting and embracing ethnic and cultural diversity"; and

WHEREAS, The rippling negative impact of the word "Squaw" used for geographic naming adversely affects residents throughout Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, The word "Squaw" is widely received and regarded by both Native American and Non-Native American communities as sexually offensive and derogatory; and

WHEREAS, Even if unintentional, the current name is harmful, as names help form our identities; and

WHEREAS, Renaming eliminates further intergenerational trauma inflicted with its utilization; and

WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service (Pacific Southwest Region) has issued a policy declaring the name to be derogatory and unfit for geographic naming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has previously recommended the removal of the same nomenclature assigned to other American geographic sites; and

WHEREAS, "Bear Mountain" is a known established alternate name referenced, embraced, and supported by residents; and

WHEREAS, The proximity of "Bear Mountain" (93657) to the valley exhibits a deep existing history between the proposed name and residents; and

WHEREAS, The naming of "Bear Mountain" library signifies a proud existing relationship between the proposed name and residents; and

WHEREAS, "Bear Mountain" pride is reflected in local merchants employment of it as their company name; and

WHEREAS, "Bear Mountain Valley" is the prevailing suggested replacement name expressed by current S-Valley residents; and

WHEREAS, The Fresno County Board of Supervisors has authority to rename "Squaw" Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS supports enabling legislation that would authorize the renaming of "Squaw Valley" to "Bear Mountain Valley." **ADOPTED** by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors this 24th day of August, 2021.