

## **USBGN request for comment**

To: various "Mount Diablo" organizations:

Dear Representative:

This is in reference to a proposal that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has received, to change officially the name of Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County. As you may know, the Board is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal government, and its members must approve any new name or name change before it can appear on Federal maps and products. Because local acceptance of any proposed name is very important to the Board, we would be interested to receive the opinion of your organization regarding this proposal. We have also asked the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to comment on the issue.

The proposal to rename Mount Diablo was submitted to us by a resident of Oakley, who believes the existing name is derogatory. He has suggested the summit be renamed to Mount Kawukum, a name of indigenous origin that reportedly means, "laughing mountain, everywhere seen." (We should note that the proponent also suggested the summit might be renamed for the late President Reagan, but we have informed him that the U.S. Board cannot accept that name, as its Commemorative Naming Policy requires that the honoree of any new name for a natural geographic feature must have been deceased for at least five years).

To view a synopsis of this proposal, please visit our website at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/Docket388.pdf> (scroll down to the section on California). Please submit comments to the address, fax number, or e-mail address provided below. Also, please include an explanation as to the reason for your recommendation, regardless whether negative or positive. We encourage you to distribute this e-mail to other groups or individuals who might wish to comment.

As soon as our research is complete and all interested parties have had an opportunity to comment, we shall present the proposal to rename Mount Diablo to the U.S. Board for discussion and a decision. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,  
Jennifer Runyon, research staff  
For Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary  
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