

ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is declared the public policy of the state that natural or artificial objects, places or things continue to be known by the names they now bear so that the historical record of the state may be protected and preserved (A.R.S. § 41-835);

WHEREAS, use of accurate, official geographic names are essential to fire, search and rescue efforts, law enforcement, land administration, and others in terms of keeping the toponymic history of the state intact for the health and welfare of the citizens;

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names is to standardize names for geographic features, and to designate the most appropriate names for use in maps and other official government documents, so that all levels of government and jurisdictions use the same name for the same feature;

WHEREAS, it is unlawful (A.R.S. § 41-835.06) to attempt to modify local usage or name an unnamed geographic feature in an advertisement or publication without first obtaining the approval of the board;

WHEREAS, it is unlawful (A.R.S. §41-836) for a public officer, department, agency or employee to change and record in writing or otherwise in any public records, documents or papers in this state the name of a mountain, canyon, gulch, stream, streambed or channel (whether flowing or dry), mesa, desert, forest, spring, water hole, bridge (either natural or artificial), cliff, chasm, dam, lake (either natural or artificial), park, mining district, monument (either natural or artificial), road, trail, or other natural or artificial geographic feature in this state unless the change has first been approved by the board;

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to ensure that members of the public, public officials, departments, agencies, or employees are aware of these laws; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to proactively communicate its role in the State of Arizona;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names:

Shall develop a communication enhancement program that will increase the level of awareness of the Board:

- as it relates to counties and other state agency activities that may be within the purview of the Board;
- regarding proper procedure to propose a new or change an existing geographic or historic name;
- regarding the Board's efforts to preserve Arizona's history and ensure a legacy for future generations.

Shall increase levels of information dissemination by sending information packets which highlight the Board's activities and purview, and newsletter type information that delve into areas crossing into the realm of the Board, to:

- county administrators and board of supervisors regarding the purview of the Board;
- statewide and regional organizations and associations
- state agencies
- state legislators
- news and media sources
- education institutions and libraries