
Use and Management Committee

Memo-22-03

Meeting 22-03

July 28, 2022

To: Use and Management Committee
From: Jennifer Hooper, Associate Open Space Planner
Subject: Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Co-naming

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with this item.

BACKGROUND

Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (Preserve) is located in the Diablo Range foothills overlooking Coyote Valley. From an ethnohistorical perspective, the Preserve is within the historic territory of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area (Muwekma Ohlone Tribe), within close proximity of significant habitation and burial sites in Coyote Valley and along Coyote Creek, which runs near the base of the Preserve. Prior to the arrival of Spanish missionaries, the foothills adjacent to Coyote Valley, including Coyote Ridge, were often used by Indigenous Peoples for hunting, plant collection, and quarrying.

With Spanish settlement, missions, and laws, and subsequent governance by Mexico and the United States, Indigenous Peoples of this place experienced loss of life, land, and culture. Toward justice and equity regarding the displacement of the Indigenous Peoples in Santa Clara Valley, the Authority is committed to undoing historic erasure by raising awareness about the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe today. In October 2021, the Board of Directors authorized a letter of support for federal recognition of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and Staff continue to seek ways to demonstrate support of shared conservation goals in the region.

DISCUSSION

Through this informational item, Staff is introducing the proposal of co-naming Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve to include the translation of Coyote Ridge into the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's native language, Chochenyo. The Chochenyo language is considered a dialect of a Bay Area indigenous language group that includes Ramaytush and Thámien and is stewarded by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. There is no known Chochenyo reference or translation for the area known today as Coyote Ridge. Co-naming the Preserve with the Chochenyo translation of Coyote Ridge is an attempt at a step toward allyship with our Tribal partners by acknowledging historic ties to the Authority's preserves. This proposal for co-naming comes ahead of the anticipated 2023 opening of the Preserve to the public.

With Board approval, the new name of Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve would be: *Máyyan Ooyakma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve*.

Provided by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's Language Committee, the phonetic pronunciation of *Máyyan Ooyakma* is My-yahn Oiy-yahk-mah. Monica Arellano, Vice-Chair of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, brought the proposal of co-naming to the Tribe's Language Committee. The Committee provided recommendations for using Chochenyo translations in the interpretation of other physical and geographic features of the Preserve.

Authority Staff are seeking feedback from the Use and Management Committee on the co-naming proposal for the Preserve. Following this meeting, Staff will take this item to the Board for further consideration and approval. With Board approval, Authority Staff will incorporate the new Preserve name: *Máyyan Ooyakma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve* into Preserve entryway signage and other interpretive, graphic, and published materials.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback to Staff on the co-naming proposal for Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve.