



Mount Diablo name change wins no support from Contra Costa panel

By Rick Radin
The Contra Costa Times

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Vote

Do you support the proposal to rename Mount Diablo to Mount Ronald Reagan?

Yes 8%

No 92%

Total votes: 3477

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- What it boils down to is that Mijares ...

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A much-derided quest to take the devil out of

Mount Diablo drew two thumbs down from two Contra Costa County supervisors who on Monday formally recommended the county oppose renaming the peak after late President Ronald Reagan.

The two members of the board's legislative committee cited the long history of the mountain's name and overwhelming opposition of residents.

Oakley resident Arthur Mijares filed the name-change petition with the United States Board on Geographic Names. Mijares said he believed the word "Diablo" was profane, but the name change idea has raised a firestorm of criticism.

The full board of supervisors is to hear public comment and may vote on the petition at its Feb. 23 meeting, said Lara DeLaney, a county analyst. Supervisors have until March 31 to file an opinion with the names board.

Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, of Lafayette, said she had received about 50 e-mails, virtually all of them opposing the name change.

"No matter where I went this past weekend, someone would grab me by the shoulder and say 'Don't do that. Don't change the name of Mount Diablo,'" said Uilkema, one of two committee members, along with Supervisor Susan Bonilla of Concord.

Two members of the public who spoke at the committee meeting both opposed the petition, Uilkema said.

In a separate action, Supervisor Federal Glover, of Pittsburg, has nominated Mijares to the Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board. Mijares was the only applicant and never mentioned the Mount Diablo

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petition to Glover, said Ed Diokno, a policy analyst for the supervisor.

Mijares served on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee representing Oakley from 2006 to 2008, Diokno said.

Glover also received many calls about Mijares' petition, the great majority opposed to changing the mountain's name, Diokno said. The board of supervisors will consider Mijares' nomination today.

"(Glover) is in a quandary because he can't deny a person's appointment because of his religious beliefs," Diokno said.

Reach Rick Radin at 925-952-5053.

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