

Cabrillo Community College District
Governing Board Retreat
July 20, 2020
Public Comments

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1. Marina Ramon/Victoria Banales:

A RESOLUTION by a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College to change the name of our institution to a culturally relevant name;

WHEREAS, Cabrillo College is located on the indigenous, stolen, and colonized land of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; and

WHEREAS, the College is currently named after Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who systematically profited from the genocide, oppression, and sexual exploitation of indigenous people through his direct, violent, and murderous actions; his role as an owner of enslaved indigenous people; and his active participation in a racist colonial enterprise systematically eradicated indigenous cultures and land rights; and

WHEREAS, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo owned and operated a gold mine in Guatemala, which along with other extractive activities of European empires, led to the accumulation of natural resources, wealth, and power that later financed the Renaissance and Enlightenment, resulting in the dehumanization of indigenous cultures; and

WHEREAS, historical and recent experiences among students from racially minoritized communities at Cabrillo College have been described as “a hostile and unwelcoming environment” (Community College Equity Assessment Lab, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the students, staff, faculty, and administrators of Cabrillo College acknowledge the powerful and dehumanizing messages conveyed in the name and identity of our institution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends changing the name of our institution to a culturally relevant name or an antiracist concept that symbolizes the return of land to its original indigenous inhabitants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends that the Board of Trustees foster further antiracist action by encouraging Faculty Senate to develop an Ethnic Studies Program and other relevant studies (e.g., Chicana Studies, African American Studies, Gender Studies, etc.) to provide our students with culturally relevant pedagogy; and **BE IT**

FURTHER RESOLVED that a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends that the Board of Trustees foster further antiracist action by encouraging Faculty Senate to develop a required general education course that focuses on the construction and deconstruction of racism; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends that staff, faculty, administrators, and student leaders continue to address institutional racism on our campus by critically examining our policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that they are antiracist; offering spaces for dialogue; and supporting and facilitating professional learning opportunities related to dismantling racism and racial injustice—explicitly addressing and correcting negative experiences of students from minoritized communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends that the Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent/President to create a task force to develop a concrete plan of action by August

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4, 2020 that would solicit and incorporate input from diverse campus constituents and local and indigenous communities.

Authored by:

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2. Siena Gallo:

Hello - my name is Siena, I live in Watsonville in Trustee Area 5. I'm going to start attending Cabrillo College in the fall. I would love to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College (referring to Action Item #3). This college should be named after a person who deserves to be honored, and I just don't think Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo should be honored. European colonizers were responsible for the enslavement and genocide of thousands of Indigenous people, and that should not be celebrated by having this college named after one of them. I think current and former students should be able to submit possible new names for Cabrillo, by email or a Google form or something like that. Then a voting via Google forms can take place to decide the new name.

3. Marianne Thompson:

Hello, my name is Marianne Thompson and I am a current student. I live in the 6th Trustee area. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College. The college should change its name because we are living on unceded Amah Mutsun Tribal Land, and we should celebrate them and their history. It is time to acknowledge the past and say goodbye to Cabrillo, a conqueror that led to the subjugation of the Indigenous people of this land. Should the Board approve a process for changing the name of the college, I ask that the and the Board prioritize current student, former student, and broader community member input by facilitating an online name submission system, with text entry function available so community members can propose and explain their reasoning for the suggestion, as well as an online, ranked-choice voting system for the community to vote on potential names.

4. Aja Bond:

"In my first semester at Cabrillo, I took a class with Stan Rushworth on Native American Poetry and Prose. I would go to the library and sit in a particular place to do the readings for the class, and in my line of sight was a bust of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. As the class progressed, I often thought about how uncomfortable it made me that the school is named after this colonizer. As a settler, I cannot imagine how painful it is for Native American Students to be subjected to this discomfort on a daily basis while pursuing an education. I would not be surprised if the name of the school actually contributes to the low rate of enrollment of Native American students, which I also learned about in my class with Stan. It is fully within the power of the school to change the name and it would send a strong message about the college's willingness to make changes in order to better support Indigenous students. The school has an opportunity to move with the immensely powerful tide of change that is sweeping across this country and for the legacy of the

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college to include being attuned and responsive to the calls for action from the students, faculty and staff who experience this name to be a destructive and harmful effect of the ongoing colonialism within this country and this state. I implore you to take this step towards justice for Indigenous people whose land the college occupies and to set an example and give us a reason to have hope for the future in this difficult time"

5. Ollie Jackson:

Hello. My name is Ollie Jackson, I am a current student, and I live in the 4th Trustee area. I would like to express my support for officially changing the name of Cabrillo College as described in the agenda action item #3. To borrow words from Dr. Kofi Akinjide, our director of student equity, "the name of Cabrillo College...is offensive to indigenous cultures and other persons from racially minoritized communities". As the Board considers moving forward with this action and discusses possible options, I ask that the college and the Board ensure that student voices (both current and former) are present and active in the discussion. I ask that the college and Board mandate that the potential name-change college task force consist of at least 1/3 current, former, or prospective student members. I ask that the Board and the potential task force maintain transparency with the student population and greater community, and provide ample opportunity for community input through online name submission systems or an online voting system for potential names. The possibility of changing the name of our institution will have a great effect on how students see their place here, and how they feel represented. As Cabrillo is a Hispanic-serving institution with a student population that is largely Latinx, I ask that the college and the Board seriously consider changing the name to one that honors the Hispanic/Latinx population it serves. While I understand potential concerns about the cost of implementation, I believe that changing the name is important enough to intentionally prioritize. To mitigate concerns about potential cost, the college could consider implementing a partial roll-out of the name change and work towards a full roll-out over time. Thank you for listening and for your time.

6. Moriah Quinn:

Hello, My name is Moriah Claire Quinn, a former Cabrillo College student and graduate. The agenda item I am addressing is ACTION ITEM#3, the name-change proposal. I fully support the Board of Trustees to implement and begin a process for changing the name of Cabrillo College. It can no longer be acceptable to ignore and hide the truth of the horrors committed by the College's namesake. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was a conquistador, and contributed greatly to the genocide of Native Americans along the Californian coast. This is our history, and it is nothing to be proud of. We live on stolen land, in structures built on broken bones. One doesn't put the name of a victim's murderer on their gravestone. Changing the name of Cabrillo College is a *good thing*. It is the right decision.

7. Jessica Scoppettone:

Hello, My name is Jessica Scoppettone, and I am a current student living in the 6th Trustee area. I'm writing to the Board today in regards to Action Item #3. I would like to see the name of Cabrillo College changed; as someone who is Mexican American, it has always made me uncomfortable that the college was named after a colonizer. The name also feels very antithetical to what I learned in this institution's history and literature classes about the

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genocide and exploitation that resulted from colonization. It feels more appropriate to have the college named to something that is more culturally relevant.

I want the board to adopt the recommendations laid out in the resolution titled "Changing the Name of Our Institution" by college staff/faculty. Those recommendations being to not only rename the college, but also to further commit to antiracism as a college by directing the Faculty Senate to develop an Ethnic Studies program and other relevant studies (ex: Chicanx Studies, African American Studies, Gender studies, etc.), as well as to develop a required general education course focused on the construction and deconstruction of racism.

8. Sam Bleisch:

Hello. My name is Samantha Bleisch, and I am an alumni of UCSC and prospective graduate student. I live in Area #7 governed by trustee Ed Banks as a Watsonville resident.

I am addressing action item #3. I am emailing to express my desire to for the Board to approve a process that would allow a name changing process for Cabrillo College, which is named after a Spanish colonizer who enforced a genocide on Indigenous people in the area. The legacy of Spanish colonizers continues to impose a harmful imperialist culture and ideology on the native Amah Mutsun tribal land that Cabrillo College occupies.

I understand that this will not be a linear or materially cost-free process and the Board has much to consider. I urge you to prioritize the name change and to uphold the mission statement of Cabrillo as an antiracist public institution that values what their students have to say.

I want the Board to construct a task force that consists of at least one third current, former, and prospective student members. Their input must be prioritized with a text entry function available so that community members may propose and explain their explanations for their suggestions. I want the Board, the President/Superintendent, and the potential task force to engage with online listening tours and to hear directly from student voices.

We must honor this college's classification as a Hispanic Serving Institution. To do so, we must center the voices of the local Latino/a/x community in this decision making process. I want the board to maintain full transparency during this process. I would also like the college to further their commitment to antiracism by directing the Faculty Senate to develop an Ethnic Studies Program (in addition to Black & African American Studies, Chicanx Studies, East Asian Studies, etc). The college should also develop a required general education course dedicated to deconstructing racism. Thank you for your time.

9. Charlie Cooper:

Hello, My name is Charlie Cooper and I am writing to you with a public comment on action #3 (the name change proposal). I am a current student at Cabrillo and I live in the 4th Trustee area. I support the effort to change the name of Cabrillo College. I would like to see this change be to a name that honors a person who's life brought justice and peace rather than injustice and suffering. I have seen suggestions for the naming to be Cesar Chavez Community College. Cesar Chávez is the type of person I would be proud to attend a school named after.

10. Rachel Mitchell:

Good afternoon and thank you to the Trustees for your time this evening,

My name is Rachel Mitchell. I've been an adjunct anthropology instructor at Cabrillo for 18 years and for the past five of those I've been very active in high school and community outreach up

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and down the county, and even outside our county. As part of these efforts, I have always been conflicted about donning t-shirts or hoodies with Cabrillo emblazoned across the front and asking my colleagues to do the same, but have viewed it as a necessary compromise I had to make to bring visibility to the college in an effort to increase enrollments, especially dual enrollment, which was the reason a faculty outreach group was formed by the Senate in 2015 and is a social justice issue about which I am very passionate and therefore support the Resolution for the college name change. Although it's not entirely clear how our college was originally named, it appears that there wasn't a lot of thought behind it, but we do have the opportunity now and indeed the responsibility as an educational institution and a community college to educate our community about why this name change is necessary and to invite them into the process. We want our college to be a place where all students feel a sense of belonging and safety in their learning environment. As a faculty senator, union representative, Cabrillo alum and ambassador for education, empathy, equity, and activism, I feel that this name change is long overdue. Thank you.

11. Ivy Munnerlyn:

Hello, My name is Ivy Munnerlyn and I am a Cabrillo College graduate living in trustee district 4. I'm writing to urge the board to take steps towards creating a safer, more welcoming environment for students by re-naming the college. I'd particularly like to express support for a name that honors the large number of Latinx students on campus. I understand that this process would take a lot of time and effort, but I think it is absolutely worth it to begin this conversation. I'd also like to support the goals outlined in the "Changing the Name of Our Institution" resolution written by students and faculty. This includes creating a mandatory anti-racist course and bulking up gender studies, African-American studies, Latinx studies, and Indigenous studies classes. Cabrillo is not only an excellent college but the life-force of higher education in this area. By making these changes, I think we can make something really positive that sets an example for other institutions of learning across the country. Thank you

12. Rachel Bleish:

Hello. My name is Rachel Bleisch, and I am an alumni of Cabrillo College and UCSC, a prospective graduate student, and a community member. I live in Watsonville's Area #7, governed by trustee Ed Banks.

I am addressing action item #3. I want to express my desire to for the Board to approve a process that would allow a name changing process for Cabrillo College, which is named after a Spanish colonizer who enforced a genocide on Indigenous people in the area. I urge you to prioritize the name change and to uphold the mission statement of Cabrillo as an antiracist public institution. Cabrillo College occupies native Amah Mutsun tribal territory and this does not honor the indigenous people who lived there. By choosing to keep the name, the college is choosing to honor the legacy of Spanish colonizers who commit a genocide with their "discovery" of the California coast. The legacy of Spanish colonizers continues to impose a harmful imperialist culture that I do not want to be glorified. My Pilipinx ancestors were also Spanish--and I do not agree with upholding a colonizer as part of the history of this land. We can do better--we can honor the people who lived and who have worked here, not the missionary colonialist responsible for the abduction of Native children, of massacres, and of rape.

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We must also honor this college's classification as a Hispanic Serving Institution. I want the Board to center the voices of the local Latino/a/x community in this decision making process-- while maintaining full transparency.

A task force that consists of at least one third current, former, and prospective student members is necessary in this process. I want the Board to provide a text entry function in order for community members to explain their desires and explanations for their suggestions. I want online listening tours in order for the Board, the President/Superintendent, and the potential task force to hear directly from student and community voices.

The college needs to further commit to antiracism by directly addressing the Faculty Senate and holding them accountable to enact a required general education course dedicated to deconstructing racism. In addition, the college should also develop an Ethnic Studies Program (as well as Black & African American Studies, Chicanx Studies, East Asian Studies, etc). Thank you for your time.

13. Ann Gobei:

Hello. My name is Ann Gobei-Bacaylan, and I am a current student. I live in the 4th Trustee area. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College. The college should change its name because Santa Cruz and "Cabrillo" College should not glorify colonizers. Our city, and the institutions that it is known for, should be celebrating people of color and people who make strides to help others. Not conquistadors like Juan Cabrillo, who made his fame off of stealing from and killing indigenous people. Additionally, no one has a connection to Cabrillo. Why does the school have a name that celebrates someone that no one knows or cares about? Why not name it after someone relevant and notable? Maybe this renaming would even help with the school's name recognition and student prospect count. Thank you for your time.

14. Clem Peterson: (Please read-will not be present)

Hello, My name is Clem Peterson, and I am a current student. I live in the 3rd Trustee area. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College.

My first semester at this college, I took a Native American Poetry and Prose class with Stan Rushworth. It changed my life, and my perspective of the community and society I live in. I was shocked and saddened to find that Cabrillo was named after Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a "conquistador" who is historically known to be one of the first European colonizers to arrive on the California Coast. His conquering of the Americas was a bloodbath and resulted in the subjugation, suffering and death of Native populations. How could a college that my family and friends had such pride and love for be named after such a person? In a town that is supposedly forward-thinking and inclusive? The college should change its name because by continuing to keep "Cabrillo," we are perpetuating a culture that does not respect or protect our Native students. A culture that says one conquistador's expedition and genocide, is more important than recognizing that we are on stolen land, and Native Americans did not "go extinct" as some have been taught to believe.

In the midst of your decision to change the name, I want to make another important note that this college is recognized as a "Hispanic serving institution," receiving federal and grant dollars

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to continue holding that title. Because our student population is largely Latinx, I highly suggest that it be considered that the future name, be something that honors Latinx people, their heritage and their place in our community.

I urge you all to rethink where your priorities lie. Where your morals lie. By changing the name of Cabrillo College, we are bringing justice and healing to all. We are no longer living in the shoes of colonizers.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you maintain transparency in the decision-making process and continue to provide ample opportunity for community input.

15. Jennifer Manseau:

Hello. My name is Jennifer Manseau and I am a current student and community member. I live in the 2nd Trustee area. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College. The college should change its name due to the history behind the name Cabrillo. As a Latinx serving institution we do a disservice to students who live with the long lasting effects of colonialism by continuing to use a name that does not reflect the current culture of the school. I love this school and as a white individual I am fortunate enough to not be constantly reminded about the effects colonialism has had on this county (and on the U.S. as a whole). However, many of my peers do not have that same privilege. I deeply respect and support my peers who have made clear the impact that this name has on them as Latinx individuals. No student should ever feel unwelcomed or as if the generational trauma them/their families have gone through due to colonialism has been dismissed via their academic institution. To remedy this, I support the effort to not only change the name of the college but for the college to further commit to the implementation of an ethnic studies department, as well as encouraging an active anti-racist curriculum. The task force for the name change should also include (at a minimum) 1/3 current, former, and prospective Cabrillo students and Latinx voices should be taken into great consideration in regards to this matter. To reduce the cost of the name change, the college could perhaps implement a partial roll-out and work up to a full roll-out based on available budgetary resources. I hope this message finds you all well. I am very proud to attend an institution that cares about student input and seeks to include the community in the decision making process. Let's continue that trend. Thank you.

16. Becky Steinbruner:

I have just learned that your Board is holding a retreat on Monday evening, July 20.

I am concerned that no notice of this special meeting is posted on the Cabrillo College website. I could not find it, nor could a neighbor of mine who is familiar with the Board Meetings Document feature.

A friend sent me the information that your Board is meeting at 5pm and will consider action on a Draft Resolution to change the name of Cabrillo College. I am opposed to this action for several reasons.

While I support and respect the indigenous peoples and their culture, I do not feel that changing the name of Cabrillo College will effectively accomplish anything other than causing a great expense to the College at a time when economic stress and budget cuts are the reality. Rather than trying to erase and sanitize history, why not instead focus on the teaching moment of learning from the mistakes of the past, ensuring they do not re-occur?

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Why not schedule events at the College that will be educational and encourage respectful conversations about the history of our area, the country and the world, and bring forth a better awareness of what caused the problems and consequences in our past that were terrible, and should not be allowed to happen again?

Please do not spend precious resources on changing the name of Cabrillo College. Let the name stay and the lessons learned stay alive for future generations.

17. Brad Allen:

As the [resolution](#) stands, I say No. If the below parts of the resolution are fixed, then I could say a cautious Yes.

I find the idea of improving the name of Cabrillo College interesting. After a brief research, I am not necessarily opposed to that particular idea. I am interested in such improvement if it is a net overall improvement. However, there are problems with your proposal that cannot come to pass in any sort of reasonable improvement effort, otherwise you're just causing things to devolve and get worse, not improve:

1. Returning the land to someone else without complete payment for all the taxes we have paid is not acceptable. They must pay us back WITH INTEREST that we paid on all bonds, fees, and taxes paid to Cabrillo College before we "return" anything. This is in response to the sentence that says "symbolizes the return of land to its original indigenous inhabitants". Get rid of that sentence at the very least.
2. Developing racist programs such as an Ethnic Studies Program disadvantages native "non-ethnic" people born to this land. There's been a constant history of various indians killing various other indians for dozens of millenium. Then the terrible Spaniards came and did horrible things to them. By the time USA took over, a lot of that had already been done, and is not USA's fault. Should we go back to the Indians of three thousand years ago? Ten thousand years?
What year are you picking? Why that year? What makes us, the people who did the least bad things of anyone, responsible for any of that? I personally did nothing of the sort, and I was actually born here. Will those ethnic studies study actual natives including me, or foreigners? I recommend you get rid of any new "ethnic studies" requirement in the resolution.
Furthermore, a "gender studies" requirement is simply marxist, and has no place anywhere in any resolution whatsoever. This is not a communist dictatorship!
3. I do not trust the current people trained in racism to appropriately teach racism courses. Perhaps someday when we are over this marxist movement, we will have a new group of students that were born in this era and have a real view of racism, but right now, racism is a fake issue taken over by marxists and does not help anybody who might face real issues of racism. This is not the time to start any required mob thug racist course that is against natives by those who are simply marxists stealing the real issues of racism. Delete the entire paragraph about starting any type of required general education.
4. The term "antiracist" is extremely troubling; most people are racist by default, but can cope with it by overcoming it intentionally and not having those issues creep up in life. The very term itself sounds like it means "antihuman" just by definition, yet humans are

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one of the greatest creations of life ever. Let's just erase the word "antiracist". You could replace it with something like "overcoming racism" or something more appropriate. Further, how would anybody figure out a judicial racial system? That is literally the introduction of the worst systemic racism I've ever heard! Just completely take away the term "racial injustice". And finally, in that paragraph, get rid of "minoritized communities"; it doesn't matter whether someone is in the majority (today that's Mexicans, but can change from time to time) or in the minority (such as whites, Indians from America, blacks, Indians from India, and Asians).

5. The final paragraph doesn't pick a name, but asks to create a task force. Ok, that might sound fine, but who would be on such a task force? Aren't the people usually picked for such task forces a completely unrepresentative portion of the student body and the community which the school serves? It's hard to imagine a less appropriate way to come up with answers to any of these questions. I recommend a revised resolution be put forth to the public for input rather than an insular racist committee. In any case, any committee should be representative of the student body and the community at large that has yet to start families that could send students to the college.

18. John Govsky:

Hi Board. Hi, folks. I have taught as an adjunct for over 20 years and I think you mostly remember me as the person that kind of brought this issue to your attention over the last two meetings. I want to thank Matt and the Board for agendatizing this and understanding the concerns are so strong and have risen so intensely in this community that we need to discuss it. As you have heard, there is a lot of intensity and emotion around this issue, which is why I think the process that we use going forward, is really the most important thing. I think that whatever process we use in this task should be as inclusive, democratic, and as deliberate as possible. I think that in that light, looking at Matt's options that he is laid out, I like option one as the process to establish a task force. I think that option lends itself most to the democratization of this discussion. Ultimately, the board has the decision to adopt a name, but obviously, we need tremendous input from all our constituency community that we serve as an institution. So I want to thank Matt, I want to thank the Board for having this discussion that will happen at this meeting. I think it is overdue and much appreciative of you folks. Thank you.

19. Martin Garcia:

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important item brought before you. I'd also like to personally thank President Dr. Matt Wetstein for your leadership in bringing this item forward and for consistently standing alongside the interests of our students and for principles of equity and inclusivity.

The topic of changing our campus's name is no doubt a heavy burden upon your shoulders as many on campus and in the community will have strong and conflicting positions on the matter. Personally, the name Cabrillo has been on my lips since I was at least six when my older sister first attended La Manzana in Watsonville and then later the old Watsonville post office where Digital Nest is today seated. Our College has and will always hold a significant place in my heart. My reasons for wanting our college's name to change have not been decided on a whim. It has been Cabrillo College itself which has spearheaded my own education and which has sharpened my understanding of the horrors of the colonialism and systemic racism that plagues yesterday

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and today alike. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo took part in the genocide of “the Americas.” He was a murderer, a slaver, and a sex trafficker, ultimately dying of gangrene in his “exploration” or “discovery” of the California coast.

For sentimental reasons, many of which I share, campus and community leaders will defend the retention of Cabrillo College’s name, calling those like myself ideologues or rabble rousers as if they themselves adhere to no ideology, peacefully sitting at the center of the universe. I don’t think that they understand how much history can hurt.

And given the historical moment, I anticipate that the community is going to be unusually loud on this issue. There will be no snuffing out our shared discontent from either side of the spectrum. Any task force that forms should go beyond Options 3, 2, or 1. Now is the time for inclusivity and creativity. The community must be heavily represented in the form of students as well as staff, faculty and administration. We must also consult with community leaders, particularly our indigenous elders, in not only what name we choose for the college but how we should proceed in choosing a name.

Democracy is messy and even a little chaotic, and while a framework must ultimately be established, we must also enable and encourage diverse voices to come forth because we aren’t only discussing the name of our college but the future of our college. This is an opportunity for us to renew our relationship with and promise to the community and become a leading light across the state and nation. There is no neutrality in this discussion. I hope that you choose to eliminate the name Cabrillo from our College and recognize the need for shared decision-making, prioritizing the role of students. This is a legacy moment and a once in 60-year opportunity to empower students and the greater community in such an important decision. Thank you again for your consideration.

20. Nate Kotila

My name is Nate Kotila, I am a member of the Cabrillo College Math Department faculty and have been involved with Cabrillo for the past 21 years when I started as a student. I am writing today to address the upcoming discussion about changing the name of our college. A movement that the Cabrillo community was only made aware of this past Friday.

I understand that we are going through some difficult times as a nation, and that we are all forced to do some soul searching. Some of us have thrived, potentially at the cost of others, and this should be addressed. However, I do not think that changing the name of our school does much other than add window dressing over an issue while at the same time possibly opening ourselves up to future backlash. Until a month ago, many would have looked at the name Cabrillo and thought nothing about it. We live in California and are surrounded by Spanish names. While the man Cabrillo came from the exploration period, he was not Vespucci, Columbus, or Ponce de Leon the more famous names I remember from school. After reading his Wikipedia biography, Cabrillo does not stand out to me as an awful human being. We, along with many streets, highways, and schools, choose to recognize him for what is important to us – his discovery of California.

I plead caution and surefootedness while discussing something as drastic as the changing of our institution’s name. Name changes are not simple, and they carry consequences. Data should be gathered, and the idea fully be hashed out among the entire Cabrillo population. The fact that this movement came about so quickly, and attempted to bypass any dialogue, should be against

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the tenets of the education that Cabrillo stands for. Cabrillo has a large and diverse workforce who should all be part of the discussion about changing the name.

To think that this college that I love would throw away its identity to superficially claim to resolve an issue of systemic racism is disheartening. We are better than that. If we genuinely want to solve systemic racism, we can achieve that by helping our minoritized students achieve their educational goals. We should not be victimizing them and telling them that the name of our institution will hurt them. Lastly, I would like to appeal to your economic sense. We are in the middle of an economic and existential crisis. Cabrillo is cutting funding across campus, freezing hiring, and our outlook is not looking good. This is not the time to lose our name recognition, throw away and rebrand all our merchandise, and change our identity in our community. Cabrillo College is held in great esteem by many locals who send their children to us during and after high school. They know that we value education and will help their children succeed. If we change our name, we become an unknown quantity. Who are we then? We could argue that we are the same school, but we become the school who changed its entire identity in a knee-jerk reaction to a potential, future, perceived slight. Why would parents have faith in us? We could then be a school who decides not to teach important subjects such as Math and Science, because they are no longer seen as in vogue.

Cabrillo is here for the long-term, not the short-term. Any decisions that the college makes going forward should be made not to be popular in the moment, but to be right for all time. We should take our time making decisions, especially ones that carry strong emotions. We are taught not to make decisions when we are emotional, because they are often not the right ones. "Haste makes waste" was what I was taught. If Cabrillo does want to change its name, it should go through a thoughtful process, and not be steamrolled through in a weekend.

I want to thank you for your time in reading this. It is an emotional issue, but it is also an important economic issue, and it cannot be said that the whole of campus wants to change the name even though some vocal individuals do.

21. Stan Rushworth: (Please read-will not be present) I completely support both a name change for the college, and the development of an Ethnic Studies component into our structure. Both the historical name we now have, and the limited application of an Ethnic Studies focus, are inherently very ideological in ways that prove themselves highly problematical in terms of functional ethics. It is time to shift that limiting ideological base by virtue of a deeper, more inclusive and rigorous analysis of exactly how and why we have the social, economic, and cultural problems we face as a society today, both domestically and internationally.

As the second Puente Program Co-Director/Instructor at the college, for many years, I have seen the great benefits of that program over the last twenty-five plus years, which one could argue is an Ethnic Studies component we now have. It has proven itself beyond a shadow of a doubt in every way academically and socially measurable. In my own focus, as an instructor focused on Indigenous Studies here in two classes, I have observed for the last twenty-eight years the benefits of those courses to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike as they matriculate to University systems, students focusing in both the sciences and humanities alike. An Ethnic Studies component has great potential to amplify the efficacy of those

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courses and others like them taught by other individuals, to create a more inclusive pedagogy than we now have. This step could add another level of collective purpose to the college, one better poised to meet changing demographics, philosophies, academic methodologies, and social structures. Change is needed in order to meet the monumental challenges of this century, to say the least, and I believe these directions would be highly beneficial to all.

22. Catherine Brennan: (Please read-will not be present)

I request you look at the big financial picture, factoring in the physical infrastructure needs of Cabrillo College before you spend public resources to change the name of this well known and loved college. My understanding is that the infrastructure needs are underfunded and the most recent ballot bond to help fund this did not pass. I am a graduate of Cabrillo, transferred to UCSF and successfully achieved both a BS and DDS degree being well prepared to succeed by my instructors and the college at large. I previously worked in the Dental Hygiene program, both in paid and volunteer capacity. I have donated money to the chemistry department for equipment in the past. If the name changes, many graduates will loose connection to the college. I believe this is an unwise decision in light of the financial picture of today. Political opinions aside, the roll of a board is of fiduciary responsibility to the institution. The financial cost of this is too much, resources need to be allocated for more urgent needs, infrastructure being just one. Thank you for the work you do and considering my input. I love Cabrillo College, it was a life changer for me.

23. Enrique Buelna:

My name is Enrique M. Buelna and I am an instructor in the history department at Cabrillo College. I live in Area six represented by Trustee Dan Rothwell. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College.

I learned very early on in my educational career that Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was never the hero or upstanding citizen that many have often portrayed him as. I learned the facts of his brutality from the courses I took in Chanoa/o Studies as an undergraduate student. We have known for a very long time that this man enslaved Native Peoples and that he was present and took part in numerous massacres. Beginning in Cuba, then in Mexico, and in Guatemala and beyond, he and his fellow countrymen left a bloody trail of destruction and despair -- all for the sake of the accumulation of wealth, status, and power. The college should never have been named after this man. He did not deserve it. We are an institution of higher learning with the goal of preparing students to take on leadership roles in their prospective fields as well as the responsibilities of civic life in our still maturing democracy. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo has nothing to teach us, except what not to be. And, I suppose, this is important, but this is no reason to continue to have his name enshrined on our esteemed institution. Because in doing so, we simply perpetuate and legitimize the false narrative that he arrived here as a bearer of civilization and righteousness. As most observers are chronicling today, we are living through a very special moment in our nation's history. By many measures, we are living through an awakening of consciousness that is calling out for truth, fairness, empathy, and democracy. We need a name that will bring us together and engender greater purpose. Certainly, a name change is not enough, but it is an important start. This is in no way a rejection of history, but a

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moment in which our people, Americans of all shades, are demanding that we be true to our values and honest about our intentions. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo does not represent who we are -- and he never did.

24. Diana Pham:

I am an associate faculty member at San Jose City College, and I wanted to provide a comment on Cabrillo College changing its name.

Cabrillo College, as an institute of higher education, is a key institution that helps set the tone of how a community moves and handles equality, equity, and justice. It's time to stop affirming and legitimizing a Spanish colonizer by naming a school after him. I believe this is important, especially in a community like Aptos, that is predominantly white.

As a woman of color, I've heard people share with me how blatant some of the white supremacy is in Aptos and Santa Cruz County in general. A close friend of mine, who is Mexican, stopped interacting with homeschool families in this area because the white supremacy attitude made her feel unsafe for her and her boys. I have another friend whose elementary-aged son went to a school in Aptos that decided that February would be the month they would celebrate European History Month, instead of Black History Month. This is absolutely unacceptable. I have had several friends, women of color, in domestic violence situations in Aptos who experienced police not protecting them, and siding with their white male abuser. In one case, my friend's boyfriend held her hostage in their home with his gun. Police said that since his name was on the lease and his gun was legal, he was breaking no laws! Thank you so much for your attention to this.

25. Jeff Bergamini:

I urge you not to adopt this resolution. While I appreciate and agree with much of the sentiment behind it, I have serious reservations regarding the details, and the direction in which such an approach would lead our institution.

The resolution claims, without evidence, that "students, staff, faculty, and administrators of Cabrillo College acknowledge" that the name and identity of Cabrillo College convey "powerful and dehumanizing messages". This is a bold claim, and should be supported with solid evidence that would justify the substantial cost involved in a name change. How is a symbolic change, like a name change, supposed to advance anything in terms of material improvements? How will it be paid for, given that it would require changing virtually all material (tangible and digital) officially affiliated with the college? If this will be paid for with taxpayer money, what say will they have over the appropriation of their funding, especially as Cabrillo has recently repeatedly failed to get sufficient public approval for bond measures? How will those optics affect potential future bond measures? If students pay for this, what say will they have, and how will the college justify the additional expense? And how will this expense affect student success when the college is bracing for serious budget cuts in the near future.

The resolution proposes changing the name of Cabrillo College to a "culturally relevant name or an antiracist concept" without stating to which culture such a name would be relevant, and without justification for why or how an "antiracist concept" would be an appropriate or desirable name for a publicly funded institution of higher learning meant to serve all community constituents. Would the renaming be a democratic decision? Who would choose the options, and how would we ensure that those options represent a diversity of thought? Would all faculty and staff be able to vote? Would students? Would the community?

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We should also note that the resolution proposes dramatic changes that go far beyond changing the college's name:

The resolution proposes a new "Ethnic Studies Program and other relevant studies to provide culturally relevant pedagogy". It gives no justification for how this would contribute to student success, nor any practical rationale for the creation of a new program and its associated administrative apparatus at a time when substantial budget cuts are likely forthcoming, and when numerous such courses already exist at Cabrillo in programs such as Anthropology, Art, Communication Studies, English, History, Sociology, Philosophy, and Women's Studies. How would the college ensure that such "culturally relevant pedagogy" is rooted in rigorous methods instead of ideological agendas, given the increasing volume of criticisms of such pedagogies in recent years?

The resolution proposes a "required general education course that focuses on the construction and deconstruction of racism". Adding more units or a single universal bottleneck class to the completion of programs of study at Cabrillo is in direct contravention of the goals of Guided Pathways, and would likely further harm our metrics in the Student Centered Funding Formula. Perhaps most worrisome, the resolution proposes that the college "address institutional racism on our campus by critically examining our policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that they are antiracist". On its face, antiracism sounds like a good thing, and something that no reasonable person would oppose. However, in its current Orwellian meaning taken from the doctrines of critical race theory currently popularized by figures like Ibram Kendi and Robin DiAngelo, "antiracism" adopts the form and function of a cult. Antiracism is presented as a lifelong commitment to a goal that can never be achieved. Any opposition to its dictates are dismissed as an expression of internalized racism, so it presents a classic kafkatrap: One must either admit one's racism and commit to a never-ending attempt to cleanse this original sin, thus proving the theory, or deny one's racism, thus also proving the theory. This is not a rational basis for the policies and procedures of any institution other than perhaps a church, and certainly not for a public institution of higher learning. We should look to the experience of Evergreen State College, which has been down this road recently, as a cautionary tale.

26. Madison Raasch:

Hello members of the board, President Wetstein and campus community. I would like to start by acknowledging we exist on the stolen, colonized land of the Amah Mustun Tribal band. I am writing to express my support for changing the name of the institution. During my term as the 19-20 Student Trustee, I had the pleasure of understanding the college's deep commitment to equity and the college community's culture of taking initiative on acknowledging and honoring history from a social/racial justice perspective. The college needs to acknowledge how deeply inappropriate keeping the name of the institution is given the history of the college's namesake- which includes his profiting off of the genocide, oppression and sexual exploitation of native peoples. The Board has a responsibility to take this directive from the grass-roots movement of staff, faculty and students, which has been organizing and advocating around this issue at various levels for years, and approve a process to rename the institution. The board should adopt the recommendations laid out in the resolution titled "Changing the Name of Our Institution" by college staff/faculty. Those recommendations include a further commitment to antiracism as a college by directing the Faculty Senate to develop an Ethnic Studies program as well as to develop a required general education course focused on the construction and

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deconstruction of racism. In addition, the college needs to center student and POC voices in the decision-making process. Should a college task-force be formed, that task force should consist of at least one-third current/former/prospective student members. The college should also facilitate listening tours and allow online suggestion submission/ ranked-choice voting for accessible and broad community/student input. Should the college approve this item, I would like to see the college pursue a name that intentionally honors POC history. In doing some student organizing around this issue, students have suggested to me naming the college after figures like London Nelson, Dolores Huerta, Eduardo Carillo, or Angela Davis- suggesting that students prefer a name in honor of POC history. I think it's appropriate to take the suggestions of students seriously, since the name is placed on our degrees/certificates. In the event that a decision to deny this initiative based on the cost of implementation, I would like to see the college be creative in their implementation to make it work. I sincerely believe that this issue deserves meaningful prioritization and that this is long overdue. To mitigate concerns about cost, the college could pursue a partial or drawn-out roll out, similar to the process the college is undergoing with the roll out of the new logo design. Thank you to all the folks that have taken initiative on this issue, I look forward to the Board's decision.

27. Kelli Horner: (Please read-will not be present)

My name is Kelli Horner. I am a tenured faculty at this college. I am the MESA Director, the STEM Center Coordinator, and a member of the Engineering faculty. As a person studied and devoted to problem solving in the dryest sense of these terms I fit the current norms of an engineer. The current norms are what has led us to the position we are all in right now, no matter what physical structure we sit, stand, or sleep in, we are all part of the chaos around us that involves education, economy, and the environment. If we can begin to acknowledge our broken system by redistributing the importance place name, further acknowledging our history, and teaching this acknowledgement to our future students, the connection we will have made with our ourselves, our ancestors and our future generations will be prouder and stronger. We will have more community support, more funds to continue creating the college that our students and community can be proud of .I am in full support of both a name change for the college and a formalized development of an Ethic Studies Program into our institutional structure.

My name is Kelli Horner. I am a tenured faculty at this college. I am the MESA Director, the STEM Center Coordinator, and a member of the Engineering faculty. In moving forward with any of the task force and/or subcommittee options listed in the action item documentation for the "Naming of Cabrillo College and the Process for Possible Renaming" I want to make sure these groups take in the extremely important consideration, voice, and knowledge of the local indigenous community. I know the process will not be easy, but in my mind we have no other choice than to make this change a reality and in so doing there is action; action in change towards sustaining our social justice movement.

28. Jane Tobias: (Please read-will not be present)

Hello. My name is Jane Tobias and I am a former student. I live in the 4th trustee area. I'd like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College. The college should change its name because Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was a conquistador who slaughtered and enslaved the native peoples of the Americas. By naming our college after him we honor his

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appalling legacy. Instead our college should honor the legacy of a leader who represents the communities cabrillo serves, and the values the college strives to uphold. As other students and community members have suggested I support renaming Cabrillo College, Huerta College in honor of Dolores Huerta. While I understand potential concerns about the costs of implementation, I think changing the name is important enough to intentionally prioritize

29. Emmy Mitchell:

Hello, my name is Emmy Mitchell-Lynn and I am a former Cabrillo student and Student Senator, as well as a community member. I live in the 6th Trustee area. I would like to express my desire to see the Board and college change the name of Cabrillo College. The college should change its name because over the last 60 years the name Cabrillo has come to convey a negative image that no longer reflects the values of the school. The name was chosen with good intention, nominated by a local journalist and selected by the founders to honor an adventurous explorer whose image might inspire students to “undertake a similar search for their own new world of personal achievement and leadership” (Cabrillo website). Language evolves, however, and at this point in history the affiliation with the man named Joao Rodrigues Cabrilho has become negative due to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to his tactics of colonization, and the lasting impact his presence and influence had on tens of thousands of indigenous peoples. He and his subordinates enslaved, murdered, raped, brutalized and destroyed the cultures of these peoples. His name is a stain on their history and holding on to it as the name of our institution is not only insulting, but is reaching the point of being embarrassing. For this reason, I believe it’s appropriate to consider reviewing the history and changing our name to something that is more reflective of the equitable nature of our college, and the intentions we hold for our community.

- While I understand potential concerns about the cost of implementation, I believe that changing the name is important enough to intentionally prioritize. This is an investment in our future as a school, and it could make or break us. The cost of NOT doing this will ultimately outweigh the immediate expenses in terms of enrollment decline and a dropoff in community support. We want to be on the right side of history, and it’s worth the investment to make the change.
 - To mitigate concerns about potential cost, the board/college could consider implementing a partial roll-out of the name change and work towards a full roll-out over time.
- I also request that:
 - The Board maintains full transparency in the decision-making process and provides ample opportunity for community input (much more so than was provided for the bond issue).
 - The potential name-change college task force consists of at least ⅓ current, former, or prospective student members.
 - The Board prioritizes current student, former student, and broader community member input by facilitating an online name submission system, with text entry function available so community members can propose and explain

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their reasoning for the suggestion, as well as an online, ranked-choice voting system for the community to vote on potential names.

We have the ability to make this happen, and part of our mission statement is a commitment to quality and equity, so let's let our actions match our words. Thank you for your time and consideration.

30. Vanessa Carlton:

As a Black woman I can tell you first-hand how dehumanizing it feels to exist in a society where rapists and murderers are looked at as heroes with statues and schools in their name, while the history of the true hero's and people who sacrifice for this country remain unheard of. I live in a society where a system is working against me and my voice as a Black woman often goes unheard both at a local level in Aptos, and on a wider level as well.

As a mother in this community I have had to advocate for my son's education at Valencia Elementary in Aptos. This was to Highlight Black History Month at a point in the curriculum where they were learning about the Puritans. With the advocacy support from NAACP, I was able to get the school to recognize Black History Month although the month was nearly over. On March 2nd following what should have been Black History month, the school and the nation celebrated Read Across America Day where Dr. Suess is honored. This individual began his early writing profiting off racism and bigotry- which is grossly depicted in his early writing. It's important that children of color see themselves in the curriculum doing great things besides what we know of our Freedom Fighters. This incident took place after my Black son did a project on European Explorers. He was assigned Sir Frances Drake, who was a pirate and slave owner. It's traumatizing for Black children and children of color to be taught Eurocentric curriculum where these false heroic myths uphold and perpetuate white supremacy.

It's imperative that as a college and an institution of higher learning, this college help set the tone within the community on how to move forward to be anti-racist. This name change is a step in the right direction and will give light on how other institutions within the community can make more bold anti-racists changes so our children can live in a more safe and just society.

31. Nicole Crane: (Please read-will not be present)

I would certainly support changing the name of Cabrillo College, but not under these circumstances, and not at this time. I myself work with indigenous people, including members of the Amah Mutsun. I am certainly sensitive to the feelings and tarnished history that a name like "Cabrillo" invokes. We are at a moment in history, at long last, where we are finally taking the time to reflect on how the story of history in this country is told, and the untruths within them. Retelling that story will take a thoughtful approach to get it right. And especially in this time of online educational materials, we need to start NOW retelling it 'officially'. Rewriting that history might include renaming institutions, taking down statues and memorials (or at least reframing their place in history), and other measures. However we need to do all of this carefully and thoughtfully, with ALL voices heard, and implications assessed. Regarding the changing of Cabrillo College's name, I agree strongly with Jeff Bergamini on most of his points, and significantly on the point about the fiscal and other ramifications of a name change without

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the proper planning and input. This resolution above states "a grassroots movement of students, staff, faculty, and administrators at Cabrillo College recommends", I would like to know who those people and voices are and who is not included. I would like to see evidence in numbers not in anecdote, but most importantly putting forth a resolution like this now, during the summer, and on short notice ensures a lack of participation in the decision and is pointedly undemocratic. Changing the name of an institution like Cabrillo College is a lengthy and involved process with many ramifications and should not be done quickly or rashly. It should involve careful, well thought out planning. I cannot support this at this time with the information I have at hand, and the timeline I have been given to make this decision.

32. Kofi Akinjide, Ed.D.

Imagine being invited to participate in a 400-meter dash at the Olympics, but being required to start the competition 100 meters behind the starting line; not because of your character and/or abilities, but because of discriminatory policies, procedures, and practices that have been consciously and unconsciously established to perpetuate the status quo of oppression. This is what it is like to be a student, staff member, instructor, and/or administrator from a racially minoritized community at Cabrillo College and beyond. Racial Battle Fatigue, which is the psychological stress responses from being inundated with what Dr. Iris Marion Young calls the five faces of oppression, is real. Before students, staff members, instructors, and/or administrators arrive on campus for work and/or school, they are bombarded by a legion of overt, systematic, and extensive white normative messages that convey the social acceptability of racial exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural domination, and violence, which includes the name of our institution. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was a war criminal who systematically profited from the genocide, oppression, and sexual exploitation of indigenous people. We were not present when our institution was named, but we are present now, and to perpetuate the legacy of an enslaver-colonizer by continuing to bear his name on our institution is akin to holding a Bible for a photo opportunity while protesters are being beaten in the street for exercising their First Amendment right. It is akin to advocating for environmental justice while migrant workers pick the food that we eat in a culture that keeps them in a perpetual state of subjugation through deficit-based language. It is akin to accepting federal dollars as a Hispanic Serving Institution while neglecting the social, psychological, and emotional needs of students from racially minoritized communities. Many people are concerned about the cost associated with changing the name of our institution, especially during this season of recession, but I want to encourage all of us to look at our budget as a moral document that will do one of two things: either it will concretize our desire to be an antiracist institution or it will concretize our desire to perpetuate a racist idea that conveys the message that profits are more important than people, especially those from racially marginalized communities who are often labeled as insignificant and unworthy of recognition and affirmation as a result our actions and inaction. I submit my comments as an invitation to be on the right side of history.

33. Kris Kirby:

I want to say that I think that it's wrong to consider changing the name of Cabrillo College. It was chosen as the name back in 1959 that was acceptable to all back then and should stay. This current climate should not be dictated by a small group of people who want the name changed. I think you could find fault in any name nowadays with how sensitive some people have

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become. Was this even an issue before? No. Let's concentrate on the good things that Juan Cabrillo did. I love that he was Portuguese (as am I) This small group is saying that he did bad things back in the 1500's, it was a rough time back then. Come on, where is our common sense gone? The cost to change the school's name would be huge. Our highway is also named after him, are we changing that too? This has got to stop.

34. Mark Lee:

My name is Mark D. Lee (a sixth-generation Californian and resident of Santa Cruz County) and I am writing to you to communicate with the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees to not even consider the pleas to change the name of Cabrillo College based on ill-informed ravings of a few revisionist historians from our community to remove the name of a long time California legendary historic icon-Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo as the namesake of our beautiful campus, based on false facts of the early Portuguese explorer

Captain Cabrillo was the first European to explore present-day California, navigating along the coast of California from 1542–1543. He was never known to be a racist nor occupier of indigenous peoples. He could not have. The flawed historic findings of the few revisionist history activists are simply not true.

I am sorry but much to the consternation and despite the hysterical accusations by historic revisionists living here in our community, there is no evidence that this early discoverer of California was a racist nor abused native Americans. Cabrillo never occupied nor harmed indigenous communities while exploring California's coastline. He would never have the time in the one year of exploration of California's coastline and islands.

If you really do the historic research, Juan Cabrillo was actually financed by Spain to find access to China and Japan to open a trading route. So the naysayers of this first California explorer Captain Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo are completely off base.

This motion to the Board of Trustees requested by the hysterical revisionists of California history would be wasting taxpayers' money in an attempt to use history with the political motivation by revising history itself which is not the purpose of historic research and is actually anti-academic (I find ironic); nor relevant in the case of Cabrillo's extraordinary discoveries of California.

Don't fall for this proposal and keep the name of Cabrillo College as is, just like the rest of California cities and towns who have famous monuments, schools, bridges, parks (like San Diego, Ventura, Catalina and Santa Barbara) who celebrate the accomplishments of this early explorer of California.

Yes please vote NO to this ridiculous request to unilaterally changing the name of Cabrillo College - otherwise, you would be ignoring true history and allowing yourself and the taxpayers who have paid hundreds of millions of dollars over the years to support our community college to be subjected to the manipulation and hidden political agenda of a few attempting to revise history, which violates the 1st principal of academic research. Send a message to those who attempt to change the historic record they are not going to manipulate the Board Trustees for their own hysterical needs.

July 20th, 2020 8:37 a.m.

On June 27, 1542, Cabrillo set out from Navidad with three ships: the 200-ton galleon and flagship *San Salvador*, the smaller *La Victoria* (c. 100 tons), and the [16]

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lateen-rigged, twenty-six oared "fragata" or "bergantin" *San Miguel*. On August 1, Cabrillo anchored within sight of [Cedros Island](#). Before the end of the month, they had passed Baja Point (named "Cabo del Engaño" by de Ulloa in 1539) and entered "uncharted waters, where no Spanish ships had been before".^[17]

On September 28, he landed in what is now [San Diego Bay](#) and named it "San Miguel"; camped out right in downtown San Diego on the site where the present downtown County of San Diego Admin Building is located now at 1600 Pacific Highway, not far from those tall condo towers, where you are always aspiring to relocate in an area called "Little Italy". After a month he sailed out of San Diego Harbor (he called best large protected bay he ever discovered) - because you could sail and anchor right next to the shore; traded with the local San Diego native indigenous peoples living in modern day Mission Valley.

So his next stop was Santa Catalina Island, where he came ashore and set up a camp he called Avalon in Avalon Bay, spending a month sailing his three Galleons from Palo Verdes, landed in present-day Malibu and then off to the Islands of Santa Barbara known as the Channel Islands, one that he really liked called Saint Miguel Island.

Cabrillo then left after and sailed up first to Point Concepcion landed here to set up camp for a week, again claiming all of central California for Spain (Portugal); his three Spanish galleons proceeded further north passed Big Sur and sailed into

Monterey Bay to obtain fresh water near Carmel Valley River

From there, his three Spanish galleons headed onward to what is known today as Point Reyes in present-day Marin County landed here claimed it for Spain, before turning around and heading back south all the way to the Channel Islands back to his favorite Island, Saint Miguel.

On November 23, 1542, the little fleet arrived back in "San Salvador" (in Avalon at Santa Catalina Island) to overwinter and make repairs. There, around Christmas Eve, Cabrillo sailed north again to San Miguel and after stepped out of his boat he splintered his shin when he stumbled onto a jagged rock. The injury became infected and developed [gangrene](#), and he died on January 3, 1543, and was buried. A possible headstone was later found on San Miguel Island. His second-in-command brought the remainder of the party back to Navidad, Mexico where they arrived April 14, 1543.^[1]

The Juan Cabrillo expedition exploring most of the California coast only lasted about 14 months, before he died on San Miguel Island

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was a Spanish explorer, best known for exploring the West Coast of North America on behalf of the Spanish Empire. He was the first European to explore present-day California, navigating along the coast of California in 1542–1543. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: March 13, 1499, [Palma del Río, Spain](#)

Died: January 3, 1543, [San Miguel Island, CA](#)

Nationality: Portuguese

Spouse: [Beatriz Sanchez de Ortega](#) (m. 1532–1543)

Known for: First European in [California](#)

[Cabrillo National Monument](#) at [Point Loma](#) in [San Diego](#), California

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San Salvador replica[[edit](#)]

The [Maritime Museum of San Diego](#), in partnership with [Cabrillo National Monument](#), has built a full-sized, fully functional, and historically accurate replica of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's flagship, [San Salvador](#). The construction of the replica was based on historical and archeological research into early Spanish and Portuguese shipbuilding techniques.

The construction was carried out in full public view on the shores of San Diego Bay by professional boat builders, assisted by scores of volunteers. Her keel was laid in April 2011; her first official public unveiling was in September 2015 when she led a parade of tall ships. The replica ship now sails on regular tours in the waters of the [Southern California](#) coast as an educational historical resource

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed up the California Coast in 1542. a log of his travels was kept by Juan Paez in which many places and people were described. Historians have his description of Las Canoas, the place of the canoes, but they differ as to its location. Some say the Malibu Lagoon just north of Los Angeles is the place, while others argue for Point Mugu, another forty-five miles further north near Ventura. Using his data, the corrected data from modern cartographers, and the map, you decide where Cabrillo found the villages with all the canoes.

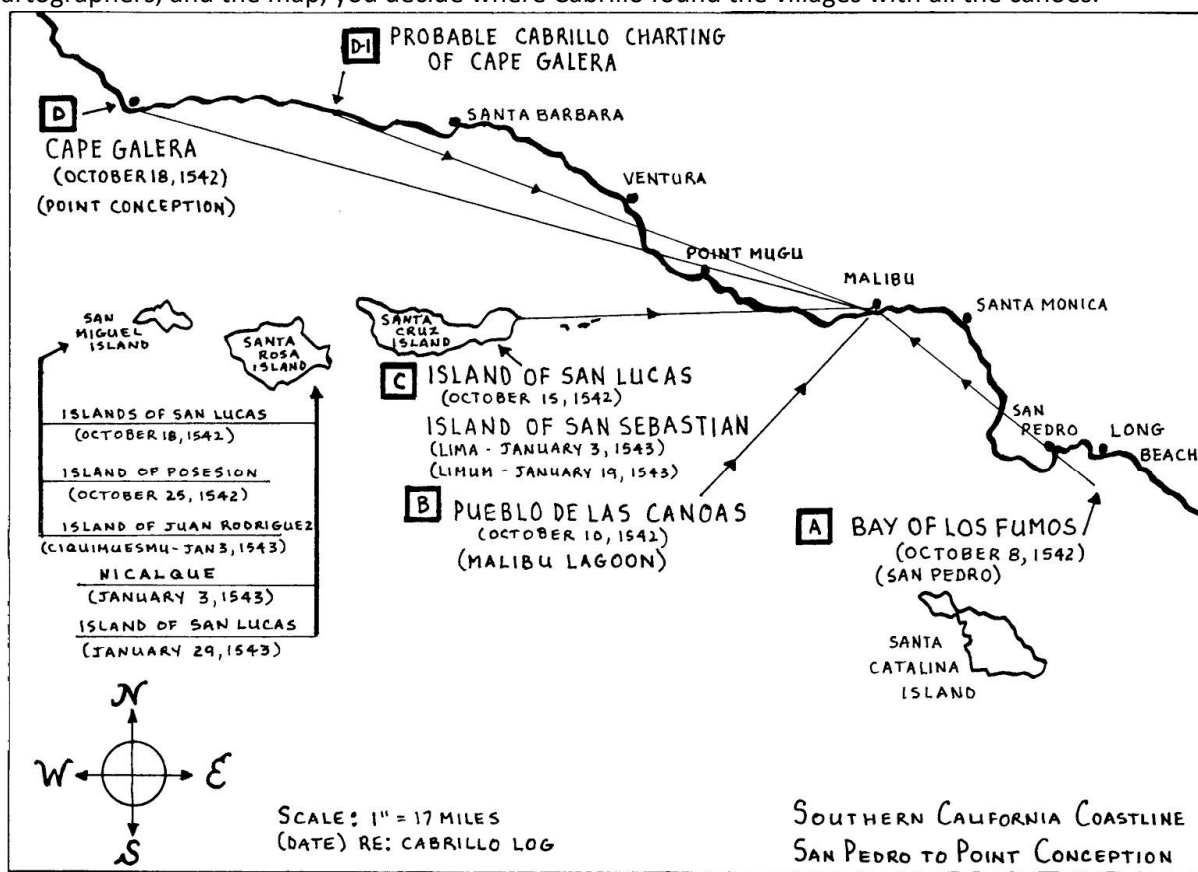


EXHIBIT I: Map depicting Cabrillo's navigational references to the Pueblo de las Canoas

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Nationality



Monument to Cabrillo in [Montalegre, Portugal](#), traditionally considered to be his hometown.

- Cabrillo's nationality – [Portuguese](#) or [Spanish](#) – has been debated for centuries. He was described as Portuguese by Spanish chronicler [Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas](#); in his *Historia General de los hechos de los Castellanos en las Islas y tierra firme del Mar Oceano*, written 60 years

after Cabrillo's death, Herrera referred to Cabrillo as [\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#) Several locations in Portugal claim to be his *Juan Rodriguez*

Cabrillo Português. birthplace. However, the source for Herrera's description is unknown.

Some historians have long believed that Cabrillo was from Spain, and a set of documents discovered in 2015 gave strength to that opinion.^[7] A witness from a 1532 lawsuit, named Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, testified under oath that he was born in Palma de Micergilio (now [Palma del Río](#)), a town in the [province of Córdoba](#) in Spain. Other details of the witness's biography match known facts about the explorer.^[4] A leader of San Diego's Portuguese community cautioned that the new evidence must be carefully evaluated, and requested that copies of the documents be turned over to the Portuguese government for study.^[3]

Lapela, in the parish of Cabril and a municipality of [Montalegre \(Portugal\)](#), is the region where allegedly the nickname "Cabilha" originated. It became the surname Cabrilho and was pronounced at the time *Cabrilhe* in Galician and *Cabrillo* in Spanish, according to the historian João Soares Tavares, biographer of João Rodrigues Cabrilho. The name still exists in Portugal as a surname, and several localities named

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Cabril in [Beira Alta](#) and neighboring regions as Castro Daire, Viseu or Pampilhosa da Serra have been claimed as Cabrillo's birthplace. In Lapela there is an ancient house where local tradition claims he was born. Local people, and alleged local descendants of branches of his ancient family with the same surname ("Rodrigues Cabrilho"), call the house *Casa do Galego* (*House of the Galician*) and *Casa do Americano* (*House of the American*)

On his way south, he decided to winter in the Channel Islands, but Cabrillo injured himself (some accounts say his arm others say leg, supposedly the injury sometime around Christmas 1542). Regardless of where the injury was located or how it happened, it became infected and Cabrillo passed away on January 3rd, 1543.

Rumor has it that he was buried on San Miguel Island. His crew placed him in a lead casket, wearing his armor, with his jeweled sword by his side, and placed him in an unmarked grave. A few treasure hunters over the decades have looked for his gravesite and jeweled sword, but have not discovered Cabrillo's final resting place. There is even speculation that his crew might have buried him elsewhere with Santa Cruz Island and even the Goleta area being other possible locations for where he was buried.



Juan Cabrillo Monument on San Miguel Island

His second in command brought the expedition back to Navidad, arriving on April, 14th, 1543. A monument was erected on San Miguel Island to Cabrillo. It was established in 1937 and overlooks Cuyler Harbor.

Regrettably, the rough waters, strong currents, and a multitude of rocks beneath the waves have prevented anyone from being able to salvage it. To complicate matters, since 1879, six additional ships have gone down in the area.

Additionally, the waters around the island are heavily populated with great white sharks.

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USPS Stamp

Nowadays, in addition to the marker located on San Miguel for Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, Cabrillo has several other monuments and places named after him in honor of his expedition up the California coastline. San Diego has the Cabrillo National Monument consisting of a statue, plaque, and even a museum. Cabrillo also has several streets, a lighthouse, a beach, a stretch of highway, and quite a few schools in California named after him. California even celebrates September 28th as "Cabrillo Day". The United States Postal Service also in 1992 had a 29 cent stamp with Cabrillo pictured on it. Lastly in 2015, the Maritime Museum in San Diego created a replica of the "San Salvador", the ship Cabrillo sailed upon during his expedition.

All comments listed were copied verbatim directly from email submitted for public comment.

Comments received via email, without a specific request to make a formal public comment at the 7/20 Board Meeting, were forwarded separately, via email, to President Wetstein and Board Chair, Trustee Mendoza..