

- At Grade – refers to the transverse crossing of the roadway and the railroad at the same grade (see Grade Separation).
 - C&M – Construction and Maintenance Agreement. Required for every road/rail crossing that covers the construction and future maintenance rights.
 - Conceptual Plan Approval – the Railroad's acceptance of the design as proposed. Allows the C&M and GO-88 B to go forward without the final written approval.
 - CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission. Responsible for rail safety in the State.
 - CPUC Formal Application (AKA Formal or Full Application) – required for a new public rail crossing that is to be constructed, including the establishment of a public crossing at an existing private crossing location. Sometimes be required to authorize alterations to an existing crossing where all parties cannot agree on the alterations, or for projects not meeting the requirements of GO 88-B.
 - Contract Short Clause – refers to the Standard Special Provision Section 5-1.20C. This brings to the contractor's attention that a railroad appears on the plans but there is no involvement.
 - Contract Long Clause – refers to the Information Handout that is attached to the contract bid. This is the Railroad Relations and Insurance Requirements that is an exhibit to C&M Agreements. Used when there is railroad involvement on the project.
 - DRC – District Railroad Coordinator.
 - Final Plan Approval – Railroad's official acceptance of the design with signed approval.
 - Flagger – a Railroad or approved third-party contractor whose responsibility is to ensure the safety of the rail operations/corridor and personnel working within the corridor.
 - FRA – Federal Railroad Administration (FHWA equivalent for the Railroad industry).
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- GO-88B – Commission General Order 88. Refers to CPU Commission Order that covers the criteria for altering public highway-rail crossings. A GO-88B is a requirement for project certification.
- Grade Separation – refers to a transverse crossing where the railroad and the roadway are separated (not at the same grade).
- MIPP – Manager, Industry and Public Projects. The Railroad's point of contact on projects.
- OH – the abbreviation for Overhead, where the roadway crosses on a structure over the RR corridor. (See Underpass)
- Phase 4 – the Construction phase of a project. Railroad support services required for construction activities are paid out of Construction Capital or Phase 4.
- Railroad Clearance – before a project can be cleared to be advertised or funded, the railroad involvement must be cleared or addressed. To certify that the project is ready to list, there must be a CPUC authorization for the project, Railroad approval of the design, and an executed railroad agreement to cover the construction phased work and future maintenance if applicable.
- Railroad Clearance Memo – a memo that acknowledges that the railroad requirements have been addressed ("cleared"). This is one of the requirements for project certification.
- RPLI – Railroad Protective Liability Insurance. Required when working within a rail corridor.
- RR Agreement – an agreement required to secure necessary railroad support services either during PS&E or Construction. An executed RR agreement for construction activities is a project certification requirement.
- RR ROE – a railroad right of entry is written notice from a railroad that the bearer has permission to be on the Railroad's property.
- RE – a project's Resident Engineer who is the District's on-site project liaison with the flagger(s) and MIPP.
- RWA – Right of Way Agreement. The obligating document used to secure Railroad services during PS&E and sometimes Construction phases. Used in lieu of a C&M under certain circumstances.

- Self-Insured – the State of California elects to be insured for certain liability exposures through a self-insurance program that is an annual appropriation from the General Fund. Under this form of insurance, the State and its employees are insured for any tort liability that may develop through carrying out official activities, including state official operations on non-state-owned property.
- Shoofly – refers to a temporary rail detour constructed to route traffic off of the existing track.
- UP – abbreviation for Underpass, where the railroad crosses on a structure above the roadway.

