

CA Clearances

June 18, 2026
Utility and Railroad

Clearance Letter

- One of three documents to get funding for your project
- It can only be written when all mitigation is known and scheduled

Railroad is clear

Railroad. Check on map.

- No railroad
- Railroad within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
- Railroad with no impact and coordinated with the railroad

How to get to a clearance for other utilities (non-railroad)

Check permit log

- Who is out there
- Reach out to them
- Find out where they are
- What is there status and details

Try to avoid them

- Consider SUE (Subsurface Utility Engineering)
 - 30% plans show the alignment and what you know
 - SUE Phase 1 contractor will identify all utilities horizontally (both underground, UG and overhead, OH).
 - These used engineering — map them and show them on the plans
 - Send to utilities to evaluate presence and accuracy

Clear non-railroad utilities (cont)

- Identify potential conflict
 - Can those locations be avoided
 - No consider potholes to further define
- SUE Phase II is potholes
 - Put these on the plans and evaluate
 - If cannot be avoided, plan to relocate the utility
 - Review for accuracy and if the correct answer
- Utility needs to get a permit and start relocations

Utility confirms their position

- Each and every utility must send a letter declaring their position and if there is a conflict the mitigation.
- Mitigations could be:
 - Avoid
 - Protect in place
 - Hand dig and then...
 - Relocation. This needs to state the relocation and the schedule

Utility declares their position

Clearance Letter

- Addresses the final decisions.
- Areas with no conflict
- Areas with a conflict and the mitigation. This is also in the special provisions.
 - Copy to Project Manager
 - Copy to Contracts & Specifications
 - Copy to URR
 - Copy to District and Construction

Clearance Letter sample

Questions

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