

## GLOSSARY

**Active Advance Warning**

Flashing yellow lights to warn in advance of the standard active warning signals.

**Aerially deposited lead**

Lead deposited within unpaved areas or formerly unpaved areas, primarily due to vehicle emissions. Aerially deposited lead is typically found within the top 0.6-m (2 feet) of material in unpaved areas within the highway right-of-way.

**Alluvium**

Sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, flood plain, or delta.

**Area of Potential Effect**

A term used in Section 106 to describe the area in which historic resources may be affected by a federal undertaking.

**Aquifer**

An underground bed or layer of earth, gravel, or porous stone that yields water.

**Aquitard**

A layer of rock having low permeability that stores groundwater but delays its flow.

**Asbestos**

Either of two incombustible, chemical-resistant, fibrous mineral forms of impure magnesium silicate, used for fireproofing, electrical insulation, building materials, brake linings, and chemical filters.

**Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)**

A regional planning agency working to solve problems within the Bay area, such as land use, housing, environmental quality, and economic development.

**Attainment area**

An area that meets air quality standards.

**Attenuation**

The reduction of noise.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

Pollution management practices and controls.

**Bus pads**

Bus pullouts located along the edge of highways with passenger waiting areas.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

A California law that requires state, local, and other agencies to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions.

**Cantilever**

A large pole and frame structure with flashing red lights that is positioned above the roadway to allow vehicles to see the warning devices more readily.

**Clast**

A rock fragment or grain resulting from the breakdown of larger rocks.

**Colluvium**

A loose deposit of rock debris accumulated through the action of gravity at the base of a cliff or slope.

**Creosol**

A slightly yellowish aromatic liquid distilled from guaiac or from beechwood tar; a constituent of creosote.

**Creosote**

A brownish oily liquid consisting chiefly of aromatic hydrocarbons obtained by distillation of coal tar and used especially as a wood preservative.

**Deadheading**

Operation of the trains with only the crew and no passengers as they return to the maintenance facility after scheduled hours of operation.

**Dewatering**

To remove water from (an excavation area, waste product or streambed, for example).

**Epicenter**

The point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.

**Fault**

A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are displaced relative to one another and parallel to the plane of fracture.

**Fluvial**

Of, relating to, or inhabiting a river or stream.

**Geomorphic**

Of or resembling the earth or its shape or surface configuration.

**Groundwater**

Water beneath the earth's surface, often between saturated soil and rock, that supplies wells and springs.

**Hazardous waste**

Substance, such as nuclear waste or an industrial byproduct, that is potentially damaging to the environment and harmful to humans and other living organisms.

**Hexavalent chromium**

A form of the metal chromium. Hexavalent chromium is used as a pigment in paints, inks and plastics; as an anti-corrosion agent in protective coatings; and in chrome plating. Workers in many different occupations are exposed to hexavalent chromium. Occupational exposures in California occur mainly among workers who: a) handle dry chromate-containing pigments; b) spray chromate-containing paints and coatings; c) operate chrome plating baths; and d) weld or cut chromium-containing metals such as stainless steel. It is recognized as a human carcinogen.

**Gates**

Moveable arms with small flashing lights that come down across the roadway to halt traffic during train operation. Pedestrian Gates are the same as regular gates except used on pedestrian and bicycle crossings.

**Grade-crossing**

A location where a public highway, road, street, or private roadway, including associated sidewalks and pathways, crosses one or more railroad tracks at grade.

**Liquefaction**

The process of making or becoming liquid.

**Magnitude**

A measure of the amount of energy released by an earthquake, as indicated on the Richter Scale.

**Phenol**

A corrosive poisonous crystalline acidic compound  $C_6H_5OH$  present in coal tar and wood tar that in dilute solution is used as a disinfectant.

**Physiographic**

The study of the natural features of the earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, current, and distribution of flora and fauna.

**Quick Curb**

A median in the roadway, leading up to the crossing, separating lanes of different direction of travel to help prevent vehicles from driving around gates.

**Right-of-way**

A public or private area that allows for passage of people or goods, including, but not limited to, freeways, streets, bicycle paths, alleys, trails and walkways. A public right-of-way is dedicated or deeded to the public entity for use under the control of a public agency.

**Seismicity**

The frequency or magnitude of earthquake activity in a given area.

**Serpentinite**

Rare rock type that is developed only in subduction zones, where one tectonic plate is subducted under another.

**Shoring**

To support by or as if by a prop.

**Subsurface**

Of, relating to, or situated in an area beneath a surface, especially the surface of the earth or of a body of water.

**Underground storage tank (UST)**

A tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground.