

**Layout Design and Operation Design Challenge  
At the Bay Area Layout Design & Operations Meet  
January 30, 2021 – This Year Virtually**



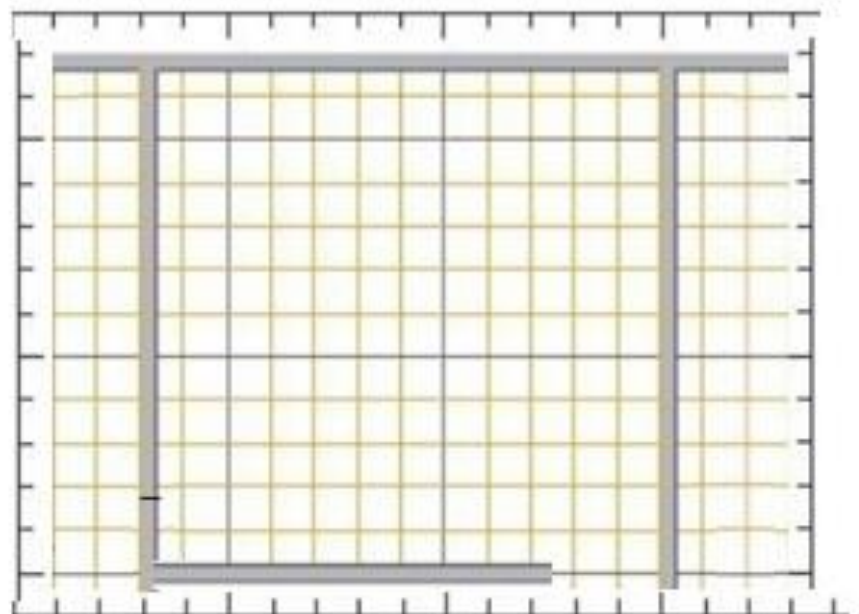
*WP switcher working West San Jose yard*

You are receiving this email because you have attended past Bay Area SIG meets. Information about the meet is available at <http://www.pcrnmra.org/sigs/>

This year's meet will be held virtually and will include several clinics focusing on railroads far from the Bay Area. Hopefully we will also have some discussions of railroads closer to home as well. This year's challenge is based on the San Jose area. The Western Pacific was a late interloper into Southern Pacific Country but it was a very important part of the San Jose Railroad scene.

This year the challenge is to design a layout and/or an operation plan for the Western Pacific San Jose Branch. The space for the challenge is 10 feet by 10 feet of a typical bedroom. For the challenge you can choose any scale and era. All plans should reflect the prototype as much as possible. Selective compression is allowed.

Here is a drawing of the space:

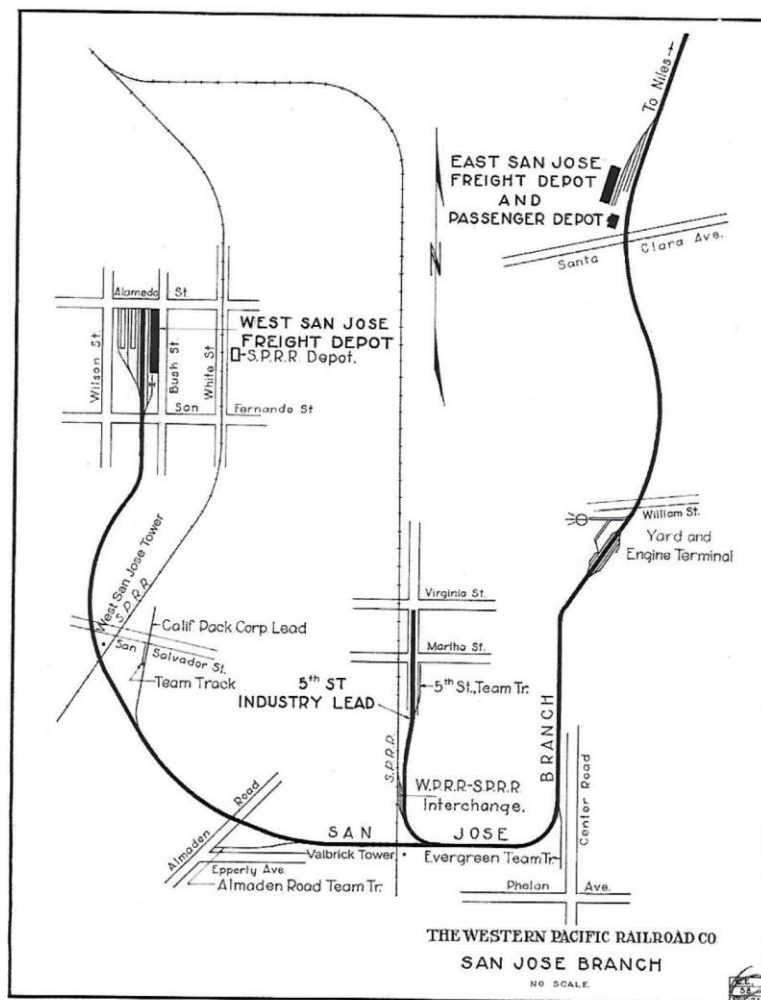


Grid is 12"

## History

The Western Pacific was the last Transcontinental and was completed from Salt Lake City, UT to Oakland, CA in 1909. They extended south into San Jose in the 1920's. Here is a brief history.

- Surveyed route 1916-1918. CA RR Comm, USRA refused authority to build.
- Construction Started October 12, 1920
- Revenue Service to East San Jose 9/1/1921 and to the end of the branch 5/1/1922
- Passenger Service to East San Jose from 5/14/1923 to 9/27/1931
- Profitable Branch for freight - 1979 carloads 10,893
- Auto Plants closed in 1982, 1983
- UP dismantled the branch early 2000's
- Valley Transit Authority December 2002
- Other trackage abandoned 2005



The biggest industries in the San Jose area at the time were fruit canneries and there were many. There were other industries as well including lumber, petroleum wholesalers, warehouses and a brickyard. Some tracks were shared with the Southern Pacific. There were two interlocking towers, several team tracks, a couple yards, an engine house and a freight house. Early passenger service was short steam trains and doodlebugs.

It's easy to participate: simply develop a layout design or a general operations plan or both for the WP San Jose Branch along with a page or two of supporting information.

- Draw your plan
- Create your operation plan
- Be as detailed as you desire
- Put it into a presentable format. We will be holding the Bay Area SIG meet virtually this year.
- Send it to Bruce Morden [bdmorden@sbceo.org](mailto:bdmorden@sbceo.org)

The organizers will pull submissions together into a computer presentation for discussion with the group. Each challenger will have five to ten minutes to present his or her design to the meeting on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. After the presentations of the designs, there may be discussion of the various approaches. Because the meeting will be virtually, you do not have to travel to make your presentation, just have an internet connection to participate in the Zoom meeting. The good news is that there is no winning or losing ... the bad news is you will not receive any lovely gifts for participating.

If you are interested in participating in the challenge or have questions regarding the challenge, please let Bruce Morden [ [bdmorden@sbceo.org](mailto:bdmorden@sbceo.org) ] know by return email as soon as possible. A list of resources along with some maps and photos are available to serious challengers. Most will be part of the presentations on the Saturday of the meet. If you have questions, e-mail Bruce.

Your submissions for the Design Challenge are due no later than January 20, 2021. This is not a lot of time and so we are looking at rough sketches and design thoughts and operational concepts not a finished ready to build design or operating scheme. Our goal is four or five participants.

So pull out your design tools and operations resources and let's have some fun!



*San Jose Turn at Williams Yard in East San Jose*