

**SECTION 34 11 27**  
**BALLASTED TRACK**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.01 SECTION INCLUDES**

- A. Subballast.
- B. Ballast.
- C. Tie placement.
- D. Rail installation.
- E. Tamping.
- F. Surfacing and aligning track.

**1.02 RELATED SECTIONS**

- A. Refer to Section 34 05 17 – Common Work results for Trackway and related requirements.
- B. Refer to Section 34 11 93 - Track Appurtenances and Accessories, for procurement and related requirements for rail fastener materials.
- C. Refer to Section 34 11 31 - Concrete Crossties, for procurement and related requirements for concrete tie materials.

**1.03 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT**

- A. General: Ballasted track will not be measured separately for payment. All costs in connection therewith will be considered as included in the applicable Contract lump sum price or the Contract unit price per linear foot for trackwork of the different types indicated as listed in the bid item in the Bid Schedule of the Bid Form.

**1.04 REFERENCES**

- A. American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA).  
AREMA Manual.
- B. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
  - 1. ASTM C29/C29M Test Method for Unit Weight and Voids in Aggregate
  - 2. ASTM C88 Test Method for Soundness of Aggregates by Use of Sodium Sulfate or Magnesium Sulfate
  - 3. ASTM C117 Test Method for Material Finer Than No. 200 Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing

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4. ASTM C127 Test Method for Specific Gravity and Absorption of Coarse Aggregate
  5. ASTM C136 Method of Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates
  6. ASTM C142 Test Method for Clay Lumps and Friable Particles in Aggregates
  7. ASTM C535 Test Method for Resistance to Degradation of Large Size Coarse Aggregate by Abrasion and Impact in the Los Angeles Machine
  8. ASTM C702 Method for Reducing Field Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size
  9. ASTM D75 Practices for Sampling Aggregates
  10. ASTM D2922 Test Methods for Density of Soil and Soil-Aggregate in Place by Nuclear Methods (Shallow Depth)
  11. ASTM D3017 Test Method for Moisture Content of Soil and Soil-Aggregate in Place by Nuclear Methods (Shallow Depth)
  12. ASTM D4791 Test Method for Flat Particles, Elongated Particles, or Flat and Elongated Particles in Coarse Aggregate.
- C. State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Standard Specifications:
- Section 17 Watering
- Section 26 Aggregate Bases
- D. State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Standard Test Methods:
1. Calif. Test 201 Method of Soil and Aggregate Sample Preparation
  2. Calif. Test 202 Method of Tests for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates
  3. Calif. Test 205 Method of Determining Percentage of Crushed Particles
  4. Calif. Test 216 Method of Test for Relative Compaction of Untreated and Treated Soils and Aggregates
  5. Calif. Test 217 Method of Test for Sand Equivalent
  6. Calif. Test 229 Method of Test for Durability Index
  7. Calif. Test 301 Method of Test for Resistance "R" Value of Treated and Untreated Bases, Subbases and Basement Soils by the Stabilometer

**1.05 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Refer to Section 01 33 00 - Submittal Procedures, and Section 01 33 23 - Shop Drawings, Product Data, and Samples, for submittal requirements and procedures.
- B. Submit ballast shipping, handling, and placing plan.
- C. Provide additional submittals as required herein.

**1.06 QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- A. Track sub grade is the top of subballast. The track sub grade may vary from the design elevations and the line cross sections within the range of plus or minus 1/2 inch.
- B. Prior to commencement of trackwork construction, the Contractor will determine the condition of the trackbed for all track types as to line, grade, and cross section, and compaction.
  - 1. Sub grade settlement discovered at this time shall only be corrected by repairing the sub grade as provided herein.
  - 2. Subballast shall be placed and compacted in accordance with the requirements provided herein.
  - 3. Prior to the placement of ballast or other construction on the sub grade the Contractor shall submit to the Engineer a report confirming the readiness of the sub grade.
- C. Except for the modifications, amplifications, deletions, and additions indicated herein, construct ballasted track in accordance with the requirements of the AREMA Manual.
- D. Ballast is subject to inspection and testing by the Engineer at any time between quarry production and acceptance of track. Ballast that does not conform to these Specifications will be rejected, and the Engineer will notify the Contractor to stop further ballast operations until the defective material has been removed and replaced without additional cost to the District.

**1.05 BALLAST TESTING AGENCY**

- A. Engage an independent testing agency to test the ballast at the quarry source to ensure that the classification, quality, and grading of the ballast at the time of shipment conforms to the specified requirements herein.

**1.06 BALLAST SHIPPING AND HANDLING**

- A. Load only into rail cars or trucks that are in good order, tight enough to prevent leakage and waste of material, and clean and free from rubbish and any substance that may foul the ballast.
- B. Handling
  - 1. Handle prepared ballast at the producing plant, during shipment, and at the site so that it is kept clean and free from segregation. Ballast containing any substance that may foul or damage the ballast will be rejected.
  - 2. Do not make repeated passes of equipment over the same level in the stockpile area.

3. Prepare a plan for the proposed transporting from the source, handling, stockpiling, and final distribution and placing of ballast in track; including the location of all stockpiles and the identification, quantity, and condition of all equipment. Submit the plan for the Engineer's approval prior to shipment.

**PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

**2.01 DISTRICT-FURNISHED MATERIALS**

- A. Refer to Section 01 64 13 - District-Furnished Materials and Equipment, of the Contract Specifications for description and quantity of District-furnished materials.

**2.02 CONTRACTOR-FURNISHED MATERIALS**

- A. All products, tools, materials, equipment and labor required to complete all aspects of the work shall be furnished by the Contractor.

**2.03 SUBBALLAST MATERIAL**

- A. Subballast shall comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 26, Class 2 Aggregate Base, 3/4-inch maximum grading, with the following additional requirements: Aggregate for subballast shall consist of crushed stone or gravel (reclaimed material will not be allowed), and shall consist of material of which at least 25 percent by weight shall be crushed particles as determined by California Test Method No. 205. Composition of subballast, in percentages by weight, shall conform to the grading shown in Table 1, determined in accordance with California Test Method No. 202.

<b>Table 1 - Percentage Passing Sieves</b>	
<b>Sieve Sizes</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
2-inch	0
1-1/2 inch	100
3/4-inch	90-100
No. 4	35-55
No. 30	10-30
No. 200	2-9

- B. Subballast shall conform to the additional requirements shown in Table 2.

<b>Table 2 - Additional Requirements</b>		
<b>Tests</b>	<b>California Test Method No.</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Resistance (R-Value)	301	78 min.
Sand Equivalent	217	22 min.
Durability Index	229	35 min.

- C. At the time subballast is placed, it shall be free from organic matter and other deleterious substances.

**2.04 BALLAST QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Ballast shall be newly acquired from the supplier. Under no circumstances shall used ballast or ballast removed from existing track be used.
- B. The amount of deleterious substances present in the prepared ballast shall not exceed the limits shown in Table 3, when performing the following specified tests.
- C. Particles having a width to thickness or length to width ratio greater than three shall not exceed five percent by weight of the total as determined by ASTM D4791.
- D. The percentage of wear, when tested in the Los Angeles abrasion machine in accordance with ASTM C535, shall not exceed the percentages shown in Table 4:
- E. The soundness of the prepared ballast shall be such that, when tested in the sodium sulphate soundness test in accordance with ASTM C88, the weighted average loss shall not exceed five percent after five cycles of the test.
- F. Water absorption shall not exceed one percent when tested in accordance with ASTM C127.
- G. Determine ballast weight per cubic foot in accordance with ASTM C29.
- H. Ballast samples shall be obtained in accordance with ASTM D75. Test samples shall be reduced from field samples to testing size in accordance with ASTM C702.

<b>Table 3 - Deleterious Substances</b>		
<b>Test For</b>	<b>Percent By Weight</b>	<b>Test Method</b>
Material Finer than No. 200 Sieve	1	ASTM C117
Clay Lumps and Friable Particles	0.5	ASTM C142

<b>Table 4 - Percentage Of Wear</b>	
<b>TYPE</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Granite	35
Traprock	25
Quartzite	30

**2.05 BALLAST GRADING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Provide ballast gradation shown in Table 5.
- B. Determine the grading of the ballast in accordance with ASTM C136.
- C. Ballast samples shall be obtained in accordance with ASTM D75. Test samples shall be reduced from field samples to testing size in accordance with ASTM C702.

<b>Table 5 - Ballast Gradation</b>	
<b>Size of Square Sieve Opening</b>	<b>Percent Passing By Weight</b>
3 inches	100
2-1/2 inches	90 to 100
1-1/2 inches	25 to 60
3/4 inch	0 to 10
1/2 inch	0 to 5

**2.06 SOURCE QUALITY CONTROL**

- A. Subballast material shall be sampled and tested in accordance with the California Test Methods specified herein, to determine compliance with specified requirements. Samples shall be taken from material as delivered to the site, and shall be prepared in accordance with California Test Method No. 201.
- B. The Contractor shall establish the ballast quality, grading, and washing requirements at the time of shipment to ensure that the ballast conforms to the requirements herein when installed in trackwork.
- C. Tests of ballast at the quarry source conducted by the independent testing agency shall included the following:
  - 1. A test sample not less than 150 pounds shall be taken from a quarry test run of prepared ballast in accordance with the requirements of ASTM D75.
  - 2. Perform the tests and inspections in accordance with Articles 2.04 and 2.05 herein on the ballast samples.
- D. Engineer's Approval
  - 1. Obtain Engineer's approval of ballast material prior to commencing delivery of the ballast to the site.
  - 2. If, during ballast installation, the source of ballast changes, the Contractor shall perform tests at the new production site in accordance with these Specifications. The ballast shall have the same classification, quality, and grading as the former

ballast used. Delivery to the site shall not commence until the Engineer has approved the new ballast source.

### **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

#### **3.01 INSPECTION**

- A. The Contractor shall call for an inspection, at least one week in advance, by the Engineer and obtain approval of the prepared sub grade or sub base before proceeding with the subballast course.
- B. The sub grade or sub base to receive subballast, immediately prior to spreading, shall conform to the compaction and elevation tolerances indicated for the material involved and shall be free of standing water and loose or extraneous material.

#### **3.02 SUBBALLAST INSTALLATION**

- A. Subballast course shall be applied over the prepared sub grade or sub base and compacted in accordance with Section 26 of the Caltrans Standard Specifications.
- B. Subballast course shall be minimum uniform thickness after compaction of dimensions indicated. Where not indicated, compacted thickness shall be 6 inches.
- C. All compaction expressed in percentages in this Section refers to the maximum dry density of the material as determined by California Test Method No. 216.
- D. Aggregate for subballast shall be delivered as uniform mixture of fine and coarse aggregate and shall be spread in layers without segregation.
- E. Subballast material shall be free of pockets of large and fine material. Segregated materials shall be remixed until uniform.
- F. Subballast material shall be moisture-conditioned to near optimum moisture content in accordance with the applicable requirements of Section 17 of the Caltrans Standard Specifications.
- G. Subballast 6 inches and less in thickness may be spread and compacted in one layer. For thickness greater than 6 inches, the subballast shall be spread and compacted in two or more layers of uniform thickness not greater than 6 inches each.
- H. Relative compaction of each layer of compacted subballast material shall be not less than 95 percent as determined by California Test Method No. 216.
- I. Thickness of finished subballast course shall not vary more than 1 inch from the indicated thickness at any point. Subballast that does not conform to this requirement shall be reshaped or reworked, watered, and re-compacted to achieve compliance with specified requirements.
- J. The surface of the finished subballast course at any point shall not vary more than one inch above or below the indicated grade.

**3.03 DOCUMENTATION AND PROTECTION OF FACILITIES IN TRACKBED**

- A. Survey and document the condition of facilities in the trackbed, including buried conduits in the track bed, conduit stub-ups, precast concrete trenches, sub drains and filter beds, cleanouts, ballast screens, and manholes. Incorporate the information in a report and submit to the Engineer prior to starting construction work and the operation of heavy equipment and vehicles on the trackbed.
- B. Protect all facilities in, under, or on the trackbed during track construction. Repair all damage to the facilities, at no additional cost to the District, which was caused by the Contractor's operations, and which was not a pre-existing condition as indicated in the Contractor's survey report.

**3.04 PRELIMINARY BALLAST LAYER**

- A. Preparation: Correct all rutting and other damage to the sub grade prior to placing ballast.
- B. Installation: A layer of ballast 6 to 8 inches deep shall be placed on the prepared sub-grade or subballast for all main tracks, ready for compacting without further shaping. The ballast shall be compacted with not less than three passes of a vibratory roller of gross weight not less than 5,000 pounds, a drum not less than 58 inches wide and not less than 42 inches in diameter. The vibration frequency shall be between 1,100 and 2,000 vibrations per minute and shall impart a dynamic impact of not less than nine tons. Avoid damage to existing facilities including sub-drains, stub-ups, conduits, and other structures.
- C. Ballast Deck Bridges: Install a preliminary ballast layer on main track ballast deck bridges directly over the waterproofing protection boards, taking care not to damage the protection boards and the perforated deck drains.
- D. Ballast Finish: The top of the preliminary ballast layer shall be a level, flat plane, uniformly compacted prior to cross tie distribution.

**3.05 CROSS TIE DISTRIBUTION**

- A. Position all ties with a jig in final location and normal to the centerline of track.
- B. Position all ties within plus or minus 1 inch of required spacing, without accumulation.
- C. Placing Ties
  - 1. Place ties so the bottom of each tie will bear fully on initial layer of ballast.
  - 2. Alternate the ends of cross ties with contact rail bracket anchor inserts, except at special locations as indicated on the Contract Drawings.

**3.06 RAIL INSTALLATION**

- A. Lay, join and anchor CWR and jointed rail as provided herein.

**3.07 TAMPER-LINER MACHINE**

- A. Provide a production type tamper-liner capable of lifting, lining, and surfacing track and turnouts within the specified track tolerances and with the specified ballast. The machine shall be capable

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of external control of both line and grade. The machine shall be capable of external control of alignment utilizing a laser guidance system.

- B. Each lift of ballast shall be thoroughly tamped, with a squeeze type vibrating tamping machine, from a point 18 inches inside each rail on both sides of the tie to the end of the ties. The ballast shall be packed tight under and around the tie for the length specified. Tamping shall not be permitted at the center of the tie between the above stated limits. Both ends of the tie shall be tamped simultaneously, and tamping inside and outside of the rail shall be performed at the same time.
- C. Lift both rails together as uniformly as possible.
- D. Operate tamper machine in accordance with the machine manufacturer's printed instructions. Provide a copy of the instructions to the Engineer.
- E. Do not operate the machine on tangent tracks unless the laser guidance system is utilized.
- F. Tamper operation shall not damage ties. All ties damaged in any fashion by tamping of ballast shall be replaced at no cost to the District. Patching or other repairs of ties will not be accepted.

### 3.08 PRELIMINARY SURFACING AND ALIGNING

- A. General
  - 1. Surfacing and/or aligning of the track shall not be performed when the rail temperature is higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - 2. Track surfacing and aligning shall be performed by methods which will prevent bending of the rail, straining of the rail joints, and damage to the ties or rail fastening assemblies.
  - 3. All switch and switch machine rods shall be removed prior to tamping. The rods shall be replaced and the switch readjusted, as required herein, when tamping is completed.
- B. Control and check the alignment of the track on the preliminary ballast with the necessary alignment and grade stakes.
- C. Ballast:
  - 1. Handle, transport, and place ballast to avoid segregation and generation of fines.
  - 2. Place and maintain sufficient ballast in the cribs and shoulders to anchor the cross ties and prevent movement or buckling of the track due to temperature changes or equipment operation.
- D. Lifting:
  - 1. Track shall be lifted so that it will be necessary to give it a finishing lift of not less than one inch nor more than 2 inches to bring it to final grade. Alignment shall be maintained during the lifting operation.

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2. Ties that have been pulled loose shall be replaced to proper position, and shall have a bearing against the rail, and shall be secured to the rail.
3. The amount of each lift, including that required for superelevation, shall not exceed 4 inches nor endanger the horizontal or vertical stability of the track.

**3.09 FINAL SURFACING AND ALIGNING**

- A. A finishing lift and alignment shall be made to bring tracks to the true line and grade within the specified tolerances after completion of the preliminary surfacing and aligning.

**3.10 BALLAST REGULATION**

- A. After final surfacing and aligning is completed, ballast shall be dressed as indicated. The portion of the sub grade outside of the ballast shall be trimmed an even surface sloped for drainage.

**3.11 BALLAST CONSOLIDATION**

- A. Compact ballast with rail mounted equipment specifically designed to dynamically stabilize the track structure through the rail.
- B. Dynamic track stabilizer capable of applying stabilizing forces into the track structure at a continuous speed of 1/2 mph. The equipment shall have an operational measuring system that provides for accurate measurement and control of stabilization.
- C. The ballast shall be stabilized after each pass of the tamping machine.

**3.12 CONTACT RAIL INSTALLATION**

- A. Contact rail insulator brackets shall not be bolted to the crossties until completion of ballast dressing and consolidation.
- B. Ballast shall conform to full section after completion of contact rail installation.

**3.13 MANUAL TAMPING**

- A. No manual tamping shall be performed.

**3.13 SPACING AT TIE ENDS**

- A. Conduit stub-ups, manholes, buried vaults, cableways, foundations, walls, obstructions or other trackway construction shall be at least 12 inches outside of a line created by connecting adjacent tie ends.
- B. Additional space shall be provided to ensure 12 inch clearance behind third rail assemblies. Ties or tie layouts shall not be modified to accommodate this requirement.

**3.14 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL**

- A. Contractor Testing: Sample ballast at the time of deposit on the trackbed, and perform a minimum of one gradation test and one test on material finer than No. 200 sieve for every 1,000 cubic yards of ballast delivered to the jobsite to ensure uniformity and conformance with the requirements specified herein. Submit a report of the test results to the Engineer.

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- B. The Engineer may take additional samples of in-place ballast. The Contractor shall assist and cooperate with the Engineer in taking such samples.
- C. Any in-place ballast not meeting the requirements herein shall be replaced by the Contractor at no additional cost to the District.
- D. Subballast Field Quality Control:
  - 1. Test the relative compaction of each layer of compacted subballast in accordance with California Test Method No. 216.
  - 2. Perform tests in accordance with ASTM D2922 to determine compliance with specified requirements for density and compaction of subballast, and with ASTM D3017 to determine moisture content of the installed subballast.

**END OF SECTION 34 11 27**