



The first of two companies called Western Pacific Railroad was established in 1865 to build the westernmost portion of the transcontinental railroad between San Jose, California (and later Oakland, California), and Sacramento. This first WP was completed in 1869 and was absorbed into the Central Pacific Railroad in 1870. The second company to use the name Western Pacific Railroad was founded in 1903 and was financed by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad to form a WP-D&RGW transcontinental route to compete with the Southern Pacific (original Central Pacific)-Union Pacific transcontinental route. The 1909 WP line paralleled the 1869 WP line from Sacramento to San Jose and Oakland and acquired the Alameda & San Joaquin Railroad to use 20 miles of its line south of Stockton. The WP is noted for the engineering feats needed to cross the Sierra Nevada via the Feather River drainage and the line came to be called the Feather River Route. The WP was acquired in 1983 by Union Pacific.

The WP crosses the perfectly flat terrain in the Sacramento Valley.



A UP consist of mostly tanker cars plies the former WP route in the Sacramento Valley.