To Our Valued Conference Exhibitors:

We are writing to inform you of an important update regarding the booth locations for the future **2026 Annual Conference**. After careful consideration and months of planning, we have decided to relocate all booth selections within the exhibit hall (please see a layout map and the end of this email message). This decision has been made with several key objectives in mind:

- 1. **Enhanced Fire Exit Egress:** The new booth layout will improve accessibility to fire exits, ensuring a safer environment for all attendees in the event of an emergency. This adjustment aligns with updated safety regulations and enhances overall security.
- 2. **Increased Exhibit Space:** By reconfiguring the booth arrangement, we will be able to accommodate more exhibitors, thereby expanding the variety of products and services available to our attendees. This change aims to offer a more comprehensive and diverse exhibition experience.
- 3. **Optimized Lunch Lines:** The relocation will facilitate a more efficient setup for the lunch lines, reducing wait times and streamlining the food service process. This improvement is designed to enhance convenience and allow attendees to enjoy their meals quickly and allowing more time to visit with exhibitors.
- 4. **Improved Attendee Experience:** Our primary goal is to elevate the overall experience for our attendees. The new booth layout is intended to create a more engaging and enjoyable environment, with better traffic flow and greater accessibility to key areas of interest.

Tiered Membership Preference:

In our ongoing efforts to recognize and reward our dedicated Associate Members, we are pleased to introduce a preference policy for vendor booth selection at the 2026 Annual Conference. This policy is designed to honor the commitment of vendors who have supported us through extended memberships.

To ensure a fair and structured process, we will be implementing a tiered preference system based on the length of your membership with Rural Water Association of Utah.

The details of the tier placement policy are outlined as follows:

- <u>TIER ONE:</u> Vendors who are exhibiting with us in 2025, with memberships extending over 30 years will receive priority in booth selection. These vendors may pre-register for the 2026 conference starting December 16th, 2024, at 9 am. This tier acknowledges those who have demonstrated long-term dedication and support.
- <u>TIER TWO:</u> Vendors who are exhibiting with us in 2025, with memberships between 20 and 29 years will be placed in tier 2. These vendors may pre-register for the 2026 conference starting January 13th, 2025, at 9 am. This tier reflects significant loyalty and contribution over a substantial period.
- <u>TIER THREE:</u> Vendors who are exhibiting with us in 2025, with memberships between 10 and 19 years will be placed in tier 3. These vendors may pre-register for the 2026 conference starting January 27th, 2025, at 9 am. Your ongoing commitment is valued and will be acknowledged accordingly.

- <u>TIER FOUR:</u> Vendors who are exhibiting with us in 2025, with memberships between 1 and 9 years will be placed in tier 4. These vendors may pre-register for the 2026 conference starting February 10th, 2025, at 9 am. We appreciate your continued engagement and support.
- <u>TIER FIVE:</u> Vendors who exhibited with us in 2025 but have NO CURRENT membership (as of December 1, 2024) will be placed in tier 5. These vendors may pre-register for the 2026 conference starting February 24th, 2025, at 9 am. We are committed to ensuring that every vendor has a suitable space.
- ALL PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 7TH AT 4 PM
- <u>ALL OTHER VENDORS:</u> All other vendors who do not fall into a previously mentioned tiers will be allowed to purchase any remaining booths starting March 12th, 2025 at 9 am.

If you disagree with this tier placement, <u>please submit a tier dispute form here</u> before November 15th, 2024, and we will do everything we can to verify and allow tier changes. This tiered approach ensures that our long-standing members are given appropriate recognition while also maintaining a balanced and equitable process for all vendors.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement these changes. Our team is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and to providing support throughout this process. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our conference management team.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all in St. George in the spring.

If you have questions or concerns, please email <u>Kelsey.Johnson@rwau.net</u> or Jamie.Rhodehouse@rwau.net.

Sincerely,





