



WESTERN UNDERGROUND
COMMITTEE

www.westernunderground.org

Spring 2026 Conference

Welcome Reception, April 20, 2026

Conference, April 21-23, 2026

The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa

5420 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad, CA, 92008

www.thehotelsolea.com/ www.westincarlsbad.com.

All conference sessions to be held at the Westin Carlsbad Resort and Spa
Conference Hosted by: SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC



Platinum Sponsor & Welcome Reception Host:



Learning Session Sponsors:



Technical Tour Host and Transportation Sponsor:



Welcome Reception

The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa
 5420 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad, CA, 92008
 All rooms are at the Hotel Solea

LOCAL RESORT GUIDE

Explore the amenities our resort has to offer, along with a variety of attractions, dining choices, and much more to enjoy during your stay in Carlsbad.



Welcome to Carlsbad!

HOTEL SOLEA

- 2 Building 2
- 4 Building 4 - Family Suites
- 5 North Corporate Connect
- 6 Terramar
- 7 Soles Pool
- Verise Restaurant
- Caffe Al Volo

THE WESTIN CARLSBAD

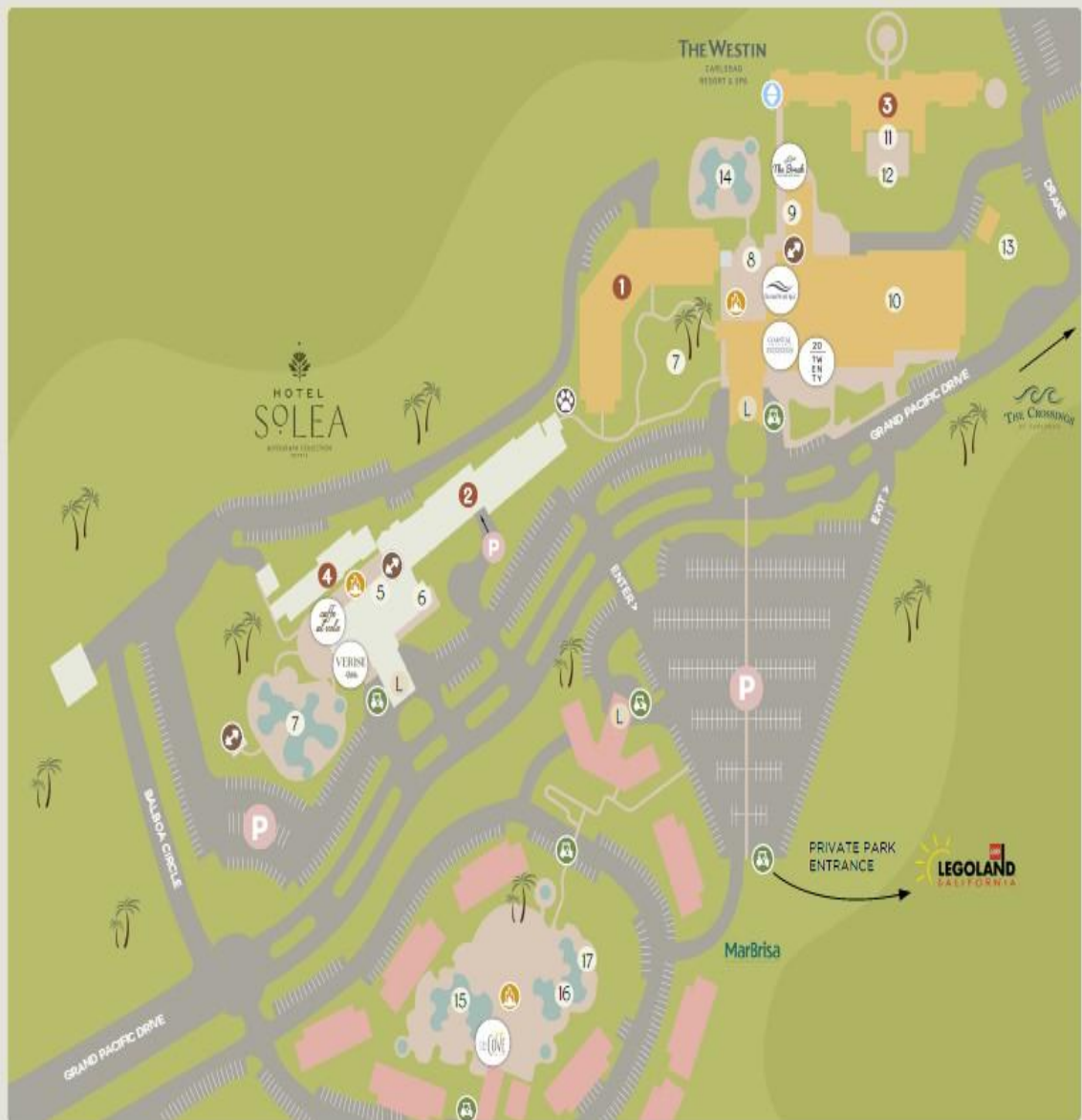
- 1 Building 1 - Poinsettia
- 3 Building 3 - Grand View
- Grand View Elevator
- 7 Pacific Lawn
- 8 Palm Court
- 9 South Corporate Connect
- 10 Conference Center
- 11 Water Tower
- 12 The Atrium
- 13 Ocean Blue Lawn
- 14 Oceania Pool
- The Break
- Coastal Cafe
- 20|Twenty Restaurant

AMENITIES

- Ocean Pearl Spa
- 24hr Fitness Center
- Self-Parking
- Fire Pit
- Dog Relief Area
- Golf Cart Shuttle Stop

MARBRISA

- The Cove Bar and Grill
- 15 Carlsbad Pool
- 16 La Jolla Pool
- 17 Waterslide





WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
 GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
 APRIL 20-23, 2026

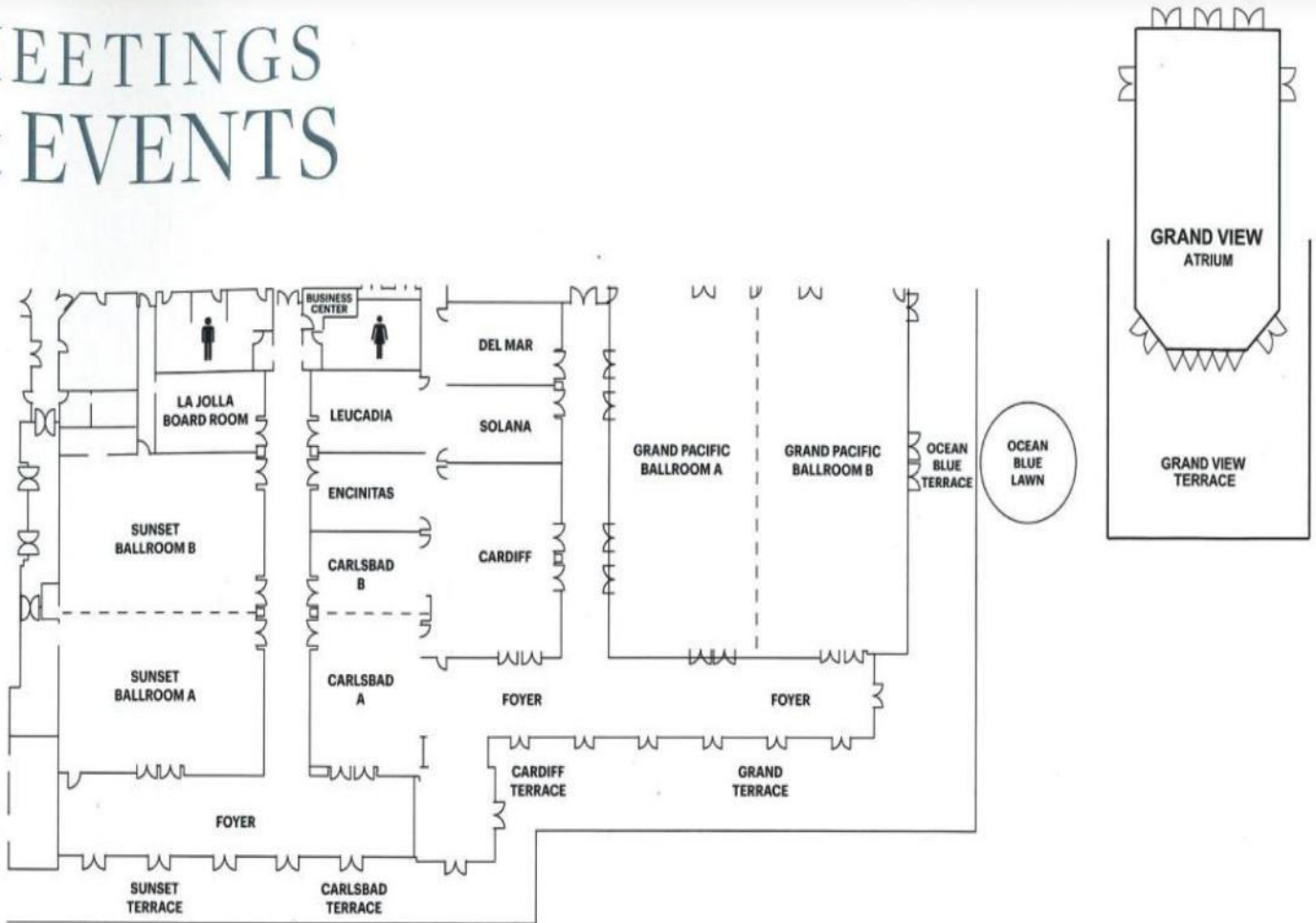
INTERNET CODE FOR MEETING ROOMS & LOBBY

AREA WIFI Name: Westin Conference

Password: Guest2026

Location of Conference Rooms

MEETINGS & EVENTS





WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
 GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
 APRIL 20-23, 2026

INTERNET CODE FOR MEETING ROOMS & LOBBY

AREA WIFI Name: Westin Conference

Password: Guest2026

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Monday Activities:

2:00pm – 4:00pm Executive Board Meeting
 5:00pm – 7:00pm Welcome & Networking Reception
Hosted by WESCO

LOCATION

**Water
 Tower
 Water Tower**

Tuesday Activities:

7:00am – 7:30am Registration
 7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast Learning Session **Hosted by Pacific Power Reps**
 8:30am – 9:15am General Opening Session
 9:15am – 10:15am Platinum Sponsor, **WESCO**
 10:15am – 10:30am BREAK
 10:30am – 11:30am Safety Subcommittee
 11:30am – 12:30pm Lunch Learning Session **Hosted by ABB**
 12:30pm – 1:15pm Safety Subcommittee
 1:15pm – 2:15pm Mutual Problems Session, Closed Door, **Utility Members ONLY**
 2:15pm – 2:30pm BREAK
 2:30pm – 4:00pm Subcommittee Breakout Sessions
 5:00pm – 8:00pm Manufacturers Showcase Expo *(See Page#6 for Shipping Info.)*

Sunset Foyer

Grand Pacific Ballroom

**Various
 Grand View Atrium**

Wednesday Activities:

7:30am – 8:00am Registration
 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast Learning Session **Hosted by Okonite**
 9:00am – 9:45am General Session
 9:45am – 10:00am BREAK
 10:00am – 12:00pm Mutual Problems Session, Closed Door, **Utility Members ONLY**
 12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch Learning Session **Hosted by AMERICAN POLY WATER**
 1:00pm – 1:15pm BREAK/LOAD BUSES
 1:15pm – 4:30pm **TECHNICAL TOUR HOSTED BY SDG&E SKILLS CENTER**
 5:30pm – 8:30pm WUC Fellowship Dinner: **BJ's Brewhouse**

Sunset Foyer

Grand Pacific Ballroom



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
APRIL 20-23, 2026

INTERNET CODE FOR MEETING ROOMS & LOBBY

AREA WIFI Name: Westin Conference

Password: Guest2026

Thursday Activities:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 8:00am – 9:00am | Breakfast Network Session Hosted by WUC Utility Members ONLY |
| 9:00am – 9:00am | Moment of Silence for Fallen Comrades |
| 9:00am – 9:15am | WUC Executive Board – Treasurer Report and Bylaws and Call For Board volunteers |
| 9:15am – 11:30am | General Session |
| 11:30am | Conference and Meeting Adjourn |

Grand Pacific Ballroom



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
 GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
 APRIL 20-23, 2026



INTERNET CODE FOR MEETING ROOMS & LOBBY AREA

WIFI Name: Westin Conference

Password: Guest2026

Monday, April 20

- 2:00pm – 4:00pm: **Executive Board Meeting**
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm: **Welcome & Networking Reception**
 - Hosted by Platinum Sponsor **WESCO**
 - Website: www.wesco.com

Water Tower
Water Tower

Tuesday, April 21

- 7:00am – 7:30am: **Registration**
- 7:30am – 8:30am: **Breakfast Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY**
 - **Hosted by Pacific Power Reps**
- 8:30am – 9:15am: **General Opening Session**
 - Tom Fieldse, Southern California Edison
 - Chairperson
 - Welcome Remarks and Recognition of Board Members
 - Bobby DeLouis, San Diego Gas & Electric
 - Treasurer / Vice Chairperson
 - Member Self Introductions and Years of Service
 - San Diego Gas & Electric (15mins.)
 - Host Utility Welcome
 - Will Speer Vice President SDG&E
- 9:15am – 10:15am: **Platinum Sponsor, WESCO**
 - **Presentation: Introduction to WESCO**
- 10:15am – 10:30am: **BREAK**
- 10:30am – 11:30am: **Safety Subcommittee**
 - Safety Chairperson: **VACANT, please contact WUC Board if interested in this position.**
 - **Presentation 1: SDG&E Industrial Athletics Program**
 - Presenter: Aaron Hartsock
 - Description: The Industrial Athlete Pros program at SDG&E focuses on the ongoing musculoskeletal health and fitness of industrial athletes. The program offers personalized protocols designed for specific work tasks, emphasizing correct body mechanics to reduce injuries. It includes a stretch and flexibility program, a core training program, and a total body warm-up to prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) and repetitive stress injuries (RMI). The program also provides a ready-to-implement recovery program for industrial athletes returning to work after an injury.
- 11:30am – 12:30 pm: **Lunch Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY**
 - **Hosted by ABB**

Sunset Foyer

Grand Pacific Ballroom



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
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- 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm: **Safety Sub Committee** **Grand Pacific Ballroom**
 - **Presentation 2**
 - Presenter: **Jenny Lavin: Union Care Solutions**
 - Description: There are several key components that are part of an effective mental health program. When these resources are connected and utilized together, the workplace community becomes a network that is able to support from within, promoting leadership at every level. The “Circuit of Care” is designed to strategically engage across the industry to mitigate the inherent risks associated with the scope of work involved.
- 1:15pm- 2:15: **Mutual Problems**, Closed Door session *Utility Members ONLY*.
 Questions shall be reviewed in order received.
 Please email, Jun Golo: jgolo2@idahopower.com

- 2:15pm – 2:30pm: **BREAK**

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK-OUT MEETINGS

- 2:30pm – 4:00pm: **Subcommittee Breakout Meetings** (*Afternoon refreshments will be served*)
 - **Subcommittee 1 – Operations**

Chairperson: Harry Nelson, Lineman Foreman, Imperial Irrigation District

- **Presentation 1: Climbing Belts and Harnesses** **Grand Pacific Ballroom**

- Presenter: Kat Lea, JELCO
- Description:
- Website:

- **Presentation 2:**

- Presenter: Max Fuentes, **Utility Safety Pro**
- Description: **Leadership and Succession Planning for T&D Industries**
- This presentation will explore key strategies for effective leadership development and succession planning within the T&D utility industry. Attendees will gain insights into building strong leadership pipelines, identifying high-potential talent, and implementing practical frameworks to ensure organizational continuity. By addressing industry-specific challenges and best practices, the session aims to empower leaders to foster growth, resilience, and sustainable success in their teams.

- **Subcommittee 2&3 – Engineering & Substructures**

Chairperson: Steve Robles, Senior Electrical Engineering Technician, Riverside Public Utilities **Solana**

- **Presentation 1: Diagnostic Instrumentation**

- Presenter: Jay Gosalia Power Diagnostic Instrumentation Company
- Description: In service, transformers are subjected to external (through) faults and internal faults that generate high short-circuit currents in the windings. These currents induce substantial axial and radial forces (hoop stresses), which are normally contained by the mechanical support structure of the windings and core. However, repeated fault events impose cumulative mechanical stress that can degrade this support system, leading to winding displacement, structural deformation, and ultimately catastrophic failure. Such failures may also cause collateral equipment damage and pose safety risks to personnel. Conventional diagnostic methods are effective in assessing the electrical condition of transformers but not mechanical condition. This paper presents Sweep Frequency Response Analysis (SFRA) as an advanced diagnostic method for evaluating the mechanical integrity of transformers. The technique, its principles, field application, and diagnostic value in identifying mechanical displacements are discussed.



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- **Presentation 2**
 - Presenter: Nate Schwegman Priority Wire
 - Description: **Mitigating Wildfire with Fire Resistant Covered Wire**
 -
- **Subcommittee 5 – Planning** **Del Mar**

Chairperson: VACANT, please contact WUC Board if interested in this position.

Jun Golo- Idaho Power Company- interim Leading for this meeting

 - **Presentation 1: Monitoring Your Underground System Investment**
 - Presenters: Edgar Sotter Systems with Intelligence
 - Description:
 - **Presentation 2: SDG&E Corrosion Issues, Studies, and Resolutions**
 - Presenters: Dallas Cormier
 - Description: Corrosion is a leading cause of electric distribution equipment failures in both coastal and inland environments. In this field-driven presentation, Dallas E. Cormier, P.E., examines real failures of switches, connectors, insulators, transformers, anchors, and hardware to show how corrosion develops and how energized equipment accelerates damage. The session highlights proven mitigation strategies and material selections that utilities have successfully applied to extend asset life, reduce repeat failures, and improve system reliability.
- 5:00pm – 8:00pm: **Manufacturer Showcase Expo, Grand View Atrium**



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
 MANUFACTURER EXPO
 March 13, 2024



PLATINUM SPONSOR



VENDORS



Energy Products Unlimited, LLC
 Manufacturer's Representatives



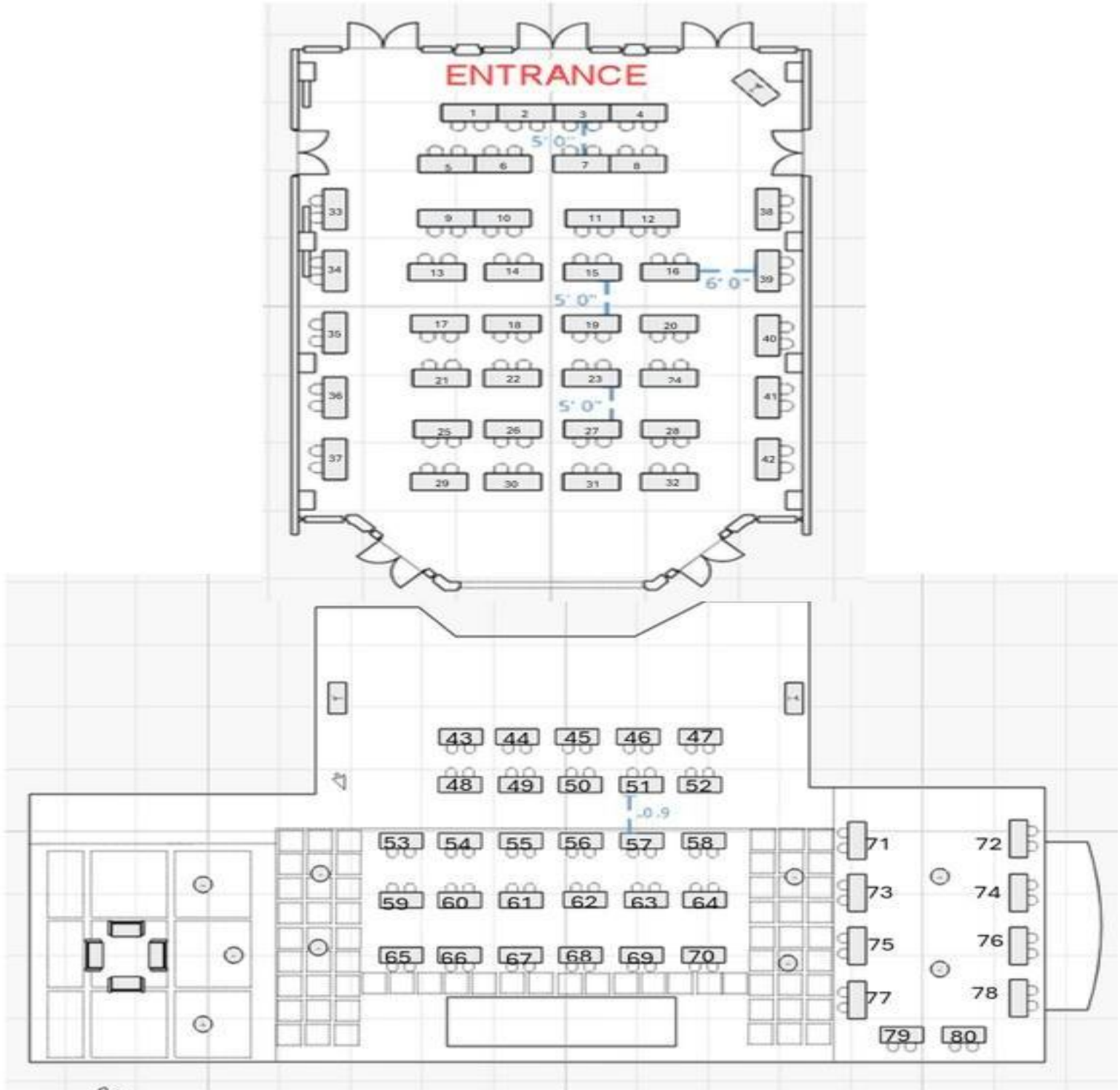


WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
MANUFACTURER EXPO
March 13, 2024



Booth Assignments & Event Floorplan

NOTE: Table assignments may be adjusted until event time at the discretion of the WUC Executive Board.





WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

April 20-23, 2026

Wednesday, April 22



Grand Pacific Ballroom

- 7:30am – 8:00am: **Registration**
- 8:00am – 9:00am: **Breakfast Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY**
 - **Hosted by OKONITE**
 - **Presentation:** Insight in aligning production, quality control, and engineering standards to meet demanding utility and industrial cable requirements
- 9:00am – 9:45am: **General Session**
 - **Presentation: Aviation Services and Drones**
 - Presenter: Hector Ubinas
 - Description: Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program at SDG&E became one of the first utilities in the nation to receive clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration to begin testing UAS for research, development and training. Since then, we have deployed drones for many uses to ensure safe and reliable service during wildfires, storms and other emergencies. The versatility of drones provides field crews with eyes in the sky to improve inspections of electric and gas lines, particularly in areas that are off-limits to helicopters or difficult to access by other means.
- 10:00am – 12:00pm **Mutual Problems**, Closed Door session *Utility Members ONLY*.

Questions shall be reviewed in order received.
Please email, Jun Golo: jgolo2@idahopower.com

- 12:00pm – 1:00pm: **Lunch Learning Session for Utility Members ONLY**

- **Hosted by American Polywater**

- 1:00pm - 1:15pm: **BREAK/LOAD**

1:15pm – 4:30pm: **Technical Tour,**

**San Diego Gas and Electric Skills
Center 9060 Friars Road
San Diego CA 92108**

Technical Tour Schedule of Events

- 1:00pm Bus Arrives at Hotel for Boarding
- 1:30pm Depart for Skills Center
- 2:30pm-3:30pm Tour Start
- 3:45pm Depart Skills Center
- 4:30pm Arrive at Hotel



WESTERN UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE
GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION
April 20-23,2026



- 5:30pm – 8:30pm

WUC FELLOWSHIP DINNER
BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse
5613 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, CA 92008

Thursday, April 23

- 8:00am – 9:00am: **Breakfast Network Session, Utility Members ONLY** **Grand Pacific Ballroom**
 - **Hosted by WUC**
- 9:00am – 9:00am: **Moment of Silence for Fallen Comrades**
- 9:00am – 9:15am: **WUC Executive Board -**
 - **Treasurer Report**
 - **Bylaw Discussion**
 - **Call for Executive Board Volunteers**
- 9:15am – 11:30am: **General Session**
 - **Presentation: Wildfire Mitigation**
Forum: Description: Panel Discussion on Wildfire Mitigation efforts in the industry
 - **Presenters**
 - Genevieve Cross, Senior Manager Southern California Edison
 - Jon Axtman, Director T&D Wildfire Mitigation, Idaho Power Company
 - Willie Thomas, Wildfire Mitigation Group San Diego Gas & Electric
 - Karen McKelvie, Sr. Manager, Electric Program Manager Pacific Gas & Electric
 - This discussion will provide high-level wildfire mitigation program information from member utilities. Each presentation will be approximately 10 minutes with time for questions and roundtable discussion.
- 11:30am: **Conference and Meeting Adjourn**

Utility hosts are always needed for future conference planning.
If you are interested in detail, please see a member of the WUC Executive Board.
Hosting is a way to showcase the great work being done by your utility.