



## *Memo*

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To: Board of Directors  
From: Larrie Ann Davis  
Date: April 20, 2021  
Subject: ACWA & ACWA/JPIA Spring Virtual Conference

Attached is preliminary information regarding the ACWA/JPIA and ACWA Spring Virtual Conferences. The JPIA portion is scheduled for May 10, 2021 with the ACWA section of the conference running May 12-13, 2021. The pre-registration deadline is May 7, 2021.

Cost of Conference to the District:

Director Fees:	\$ 400.00
Conference Fee:	<u>\$ 375.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 775.00</b>

Director Farrell would also be attending the JPIA portion of the conference which would increase the total cost for him to \$975.00.

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2021 SPRING VIRTUAL  
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER

MAY 12 - 13



**MAY 12 - 13**

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



With the theme, *“Navigating a New Future Together,”* we encourage you to join us for **ACWA’s 2021 Spring Virtual Conference & Exhibition** to hear the latest developments on local, statewide and federal water issues during these unique times.

As with all ACWA conferences, this event also strengthens ACWA’s role as the leading voice in California water issues for more than a century, a historic role that depends on the knowledge, expertise and collaboration between our member agencies.

Keynote speakers and expert panelists will deliver insights into our industry that you cannot find anywhere else. Meanwhile, a virtual Exhibit Hall will showcase innovative products and services that may offer your organization the solution that you’ve been seeking. Additionally, continuing education credits will be available for legal, energy, financial and drinking water operator professionals. Virtual Networking Lounges will also allow you to meet your colleagues in a live Zoom space and hear from fellow water professionals throughout California.

If ACWA stands for anything, it stands for collaboration. This quality drives our success at coalition building, which will again prove essential in 2021. At the heart of ACWA’s success is the fundamental commitment to working together as a vast and diverse membership of local water agencies to find creative solutions to the challenges of the day.

I am very optimistic that this will be our last virtual conference, with our first in-person conference since late 2019 planned for Pasadena. However, with another consequential year ahead of us in California water, I strongly encourage you to join me and your colleagues at **ACWA’s 2021 Spring Virtual Conference & Exhibition, May 12-13**, to connect, learn and engage.

Register TODAY at [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)!

Steve LaMar  
ACWA Board President

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

## DWR DIRECTOR & CYBER SECURITY EXPERT JOIN ACWA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Wednesday, May 12 | 1:00 PM

**BOB FLORES**

Founder/President & Cyber Security Expert  
Applicology Inc.

Among the impressive lineup of California water leaders that have been invited to provide keynote presentations, Cyber Security Expert Bob Flores will be joining us on Wednesday afternoon. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to hear first-hand experience from a cyber security expert!



Thursday, May 13 | 9:00 AM

**KARLA NEMETH**

Director  
California Department of Water Resources

ACWA is pleased to welcome Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth to address our members on Delta Conveyance, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation, the Water Storage Investment Program and water use efficiency.

Check the ACWA website for  
updated conference information.

[WWW.ACWA.COM](http://WWW.ACWA.COM)

*"The health and safety of our members and employees is our highest priority. There is no such thing as a tolerable level of risk in this area. At the same time, we can approach planning a third virtual conference with a high degree of confidence in our ability to deliver an invaluable experience for attendees."*

**Dave Eggerton**  
ACWA Executive Director

# WEDNESDAY - MAY 12 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Programs are subject to change without notice.

10:00 AM

## Attorneys Program

### Developments in Proposition 218 and the Law of Water Rates

Water rates are under continuing legal attack throughout the state. Retail water suppliers must collect and fairly allocate the costs of service among their ratepayers, and even well-designed plans may come under attack from disgruntled users and their often entrepreneurial attorneys – who take the cases on contingency and bet on being able to collect their fees from the retailer. A class action case filed against 81 water retailers last year brought the threat of these suits and their financial impact into sharp focus. And recent case law proves to be a mixed bag for water agencies. This program will examine the impact of recent legal decisions, the threats posed by certain current cases, recent and proposed legislation affecting rate setting and collections, and propose some practical steps retailers might consider to reduce the risks of Prop. 218 challenges.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

## Federal Issues Forum

Navigate changing drought and water supply conditions, climate change, and the implementation of infrastructure legislation with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Federal Issues Forum will dive into the new Biden Administration's priorities, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA), and other important items.

## Finance / Local Government Forum

### Addressing Financial Impacts of COVID-19 on Disadvantaged Communities

Everything from facilitating in-person cash payments to addressing unpaid utility bills has drastically changed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn from the experts around the state what strategies you might be able to implement for your ratepayers and how to address their unique challenges. This discussion will also cover latest information on COVID-19 emergency relief funding to help with financial impacts related to water service.



CPAs may receive continuing education credit by attending this program.

1:30 PM

## Communications Program

### Applying 2020 Lessons Learned to Future Communication Strategies

As the state emerges from the COVID-19 shutdown, learn how communicators are adapting to what's becoming a hybrid world and continuing to utilize video production, video conferencing and web resources to engage with customers. Hear how the lessons learned during 2020 have permanently altered how we keep customers informed and discover what public agency communications could look like in the future.

## Human Resources Forum

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Why It Matters for Leaders

This interactive session presents the foundational understanding and importance of diversity, equity and inclusion. Leaders will explore unconscious bias and how it impacts their environment and work relationships with colleagues and staff. They will discover how their own values, culture and experiences affect interactions with colleagues, attitudes about work, and understanding of workplace values. Leaders will gain a deeper understanding of their role in promoting a diverse and inclusive work environment.

## Statewide Issue Forum

### California's Forest and Wildfire Resilience Plan

Wildfires have become more frequent and severe as our climate has changed, and urgent action is needed to address the state's undermanaged forested lands. Last year was the most destructive fire year on record in California; over four million acres were burned and countless structures and homes were lost. As a state, we cannot continue to delay investments in forest health while we wait for the next catastrophic wildfire.

Last year, California signed an agreement with the federal government for shared stewardship of California's forest and rangelands, in which each party has committed to a goal of reducing wildfire risks on 500,000 acres of forest land per year. This year, the Governor's Forest Management Task Force released a comprehensive Forest and Wildfire Resilience Action Plan that will serve as a roadmap for implementing that agreement. In this discussion, hear from those responsible for the implementation of this ambitious plan.

# WEDNESDAY - MAY 12 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

3:00 PM

## Region Issue Forum

### **Collaboration and Regional Planning: How to Achieve Large-Scale Water Projects on a Small-Scale Budget**

*Presented by ACWA Region 1*

This program explores the work of the North Coast Resource Partnership, a long-term water management coalition of Northern California Tribes, counties and diverse stakeholders working together on a variety of integrated projects to enhance water security, water system infrastructure, watershed and forest health, and local economies in California's north coast region. Learn about the North Coast Resource Partnership's background and its work to ensure clean and reliable drinking water supplies, energy independence, climate adaptation and economic strength in the region. Panelists will discuss the collaborative process needed to achieve the partnership's work, as well its successes and lessons learned.

## Statewide Issue Forum

### **Reconciling the Regulatory Overlap of Groundwater Programs**

SGMA, CV SALTS, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and more: While these groundwater programs were developed over time to address various issues, some of their requirements have begun to look similar, and they sometimes impose overlapping requirements. Join us for this panel to learn how agencies are reconciling this complex web of requirements.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.

## Water Industry Trends

### **PFAS Standards: Federal and State Outlook**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination threatens safe drinking water everywhere. PFAS are a group of manmade chemicals that do not break down and accumulate over time in both the environment and the human body – gaining them the nickname “forever chemicals.” Exposure to high levels of PFAS can lead to adverse health effects. Efforts to combat these contaminants is taking place on both the federal and state level with California on the frontline. Hear from federal and state speakers on how they are working to address PFAS in our drinking water and what to expect in the future.

VIRTUAL

## **ACWA REGION MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

MAY 5 - 6, 2021

### **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY**

to receive updates on the latest Region activities, ACWA Committees, as well as hear from ACWA Leadership on statewide priorities. You can also provide your feedback and input on regional and statewide topics and help guide the region activities for the coming year.

Lookout for registration information in your email.

All programs are subject to change without notice.

# THURSDAY - MAY 13 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Contact Hours may be available for qualifying programs.

9:30 AM

## Region Issue Forum

### Wildfire Recovery and Managing Public Expectations

*Presented by ACWA Region 4*

ACWA Region 4 will host a region issue forum that will highlight the significant impact the LNU Lightning Complex Wildfire had on five of the Solano Irrigation District's public water systems. The panel will also take a closer look at the public's expectations of a rural irrigation system built in 1960 that turned into a public water system in 2020.

## Statewide Issue Forum

### Achieving the Voluntary Agreements

Public water agencies across California embrace the Voluntary Agreements as the best approach to improving the California Bay-Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability. Since the California Natural Resources Agency and Environmental Protection Agency presented a framework for potential Voluntary Agreements in early 2020, stakeholders continue to work to overcoming some of the remaining obstacles. With the potential to achieve meaningful solutions for one of the state's most complex water management challenges, this panel will explore the path to success and what lies ahead.

## Water Industry Trends / Energy

### CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Rule Implications for Water Agencies

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is developing a medium and heavy-duty (greater than 8500 lbs) zero-emission fleet rule with the goal of maximizing zero-emission trucks and buses in California by 2045 everywhere feasible. California has

long held ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and views the transportation sector as a frontier for emissions reductions because it is the largest emitter. Public fleets, including water agency fleets, are included in this rule and will likely be subject to purchase requirements on new fleet vehicles as early as 2024. Tune into this very timely panel discussion to hear about the development of this rule and how it will impact purchase decisions for water agencies.



This program may count toward the Certified Energy Manager (CEM) continuing education credit.

10:30 AM

## Region Issue Forum

### Regional Collaboration Works: MWD's Regional Recycled Water Program

*Presented by ACWA Region 8*

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are working together on a large-scale program to develop recycled water as a new, much-needed potable source to the region. With planning in the works since 2009, an undertaking as extensive as the Regional Recycled Water Program involves equally extensive regional coordination and evaluation. Beyond providing an additional water source for Southern California, the program will ensure reliability, sustainability, and flexibility in future expansion of the water supply through raw water augmentation for many throughout the Los Angeles region.

For updated information, check:  
[WWW.ACWA.COM](http://WWW.ACWA.COM)

## Finance Forum

### Utility Operational Reviews: Why Do One and What to Expect?

This presentation will look at utility operational reviews and delve into the common reasons that boards and executive leadership choose to do them, such as developing solid information before launching a strategic planning effort; reassuring ratepayers that the utility is run efficiently; or wanting to compare with peer agencies. The discussion will include common areas typically analyzed during operational reviews, such as organizational structure; financial metrics; complexity of operations; quality of preventative maintenance systems; capital budgeting; rate setting policies; debt ratios; customer satisfaction; internal and external communications; and meter to cash systems. The panel will also examine typical areas in which utilities do well and areas that need improvement.

The presentation will include a specific case study of a recent operational audit conducted for the City of Corona Water, Wastewater and Electric Utilities. The panel will include representatives of the City of Corona as well as members of the consultant project team.

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CPAs may receive continuing education credit by attending this program.

## Statewide Issue Forum

### Water Rights and Preparing for the Next Drought

Due to another dry winter, drought and the possibility of curtailments are on water managers' minds. Hear from the State Water Resources Control Board on how they are approaching drought this year and what the water community can expect.



This program has been approved by the State Bar of California for attorneys to receive general MCLE credits.



**MAY 12 - 13**

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



**Wednesday - May 12, 2021**



*The programs qualify for continuing education credit.*

## CONFERENCE OPENING

**9:00 AM**



### Opening Remarks

Steve LaMar  
ACWA President



Dave Eggerton  
ACWA Executive Director

### 2021 ACWA Awards

Clair Hill & Excellence in Water Leadership

### ACWA JPIA Presentation

### Opening Keynote

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**10:00 AM**



### Attorney Forum

Developments in  
Proposition 218 and the  
Law of Water Rates

### Federal Issue Forum



### Finance/Local Government Forum

Addressing Financial  
Impacts of COVID-19  
on Disadvantaged  
Communities

**11:00 AM**

## NETWORKING LOUNGE

**11:30 AM**



### CHAT ROOMS

"Get to Know H2O" Trivia  
Gen Jam  
Drought Messaging



### VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative  
products and services!

## EXHIBITOR DEMONSTRATIONS

**12:30 PM**

### Presented by Esri

ArcGIS: Supporting Data Driven Decisions

### Presented by PelicanCorp

ScreenAccess - Automated risk, workflow  
and response management solution

**MAY 12 - 13**

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



**Wednesday - May 12, 2021 (CONTINUED)**



*The programs qualify for continuing education credit.*

**1:00 PM**



## **AFTERNOON KEYNOTE**

Bob Flores, CEO, Applicology Inc.

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**1:30 PM**

#### **Communications Forum**

Applying 2020 Lessons Learned to Future Communication Strategies

#### **Human Resources Forum**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Why It Matters for Leaders

#### **Statewide Issue Forum**

California's Forest and Wildfire Resilience Plan

**2:30 PM**



#### **NETWORKING LOUNGE**

Connect with friends, peers and industry leaders!



#### **VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL**

Learn about innovative products and services!

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**3:00 PM**

#### **Region Issue Forum**

Collaboration and Regional Planning: How to Achieve Large-Scale Water Projects on a Small-Scale Budget

Presented by Region 1



#### **Statewide Issue Forum**

Reconciling the Regulatory Overlap of Groundwater Programs

#### **Water Industry Trends**

PFAS Standards: Federal and State Outlook

**4:00 PM**



## **Under the Sea with ACWA**

A private behind-the-scenes virtual tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium

**5:00 PM**



**Women in Water Virtual Reception**



**MAY 12 - 13**

2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER



**Thursday - May 13, 2021**



*The programs qualify for continuing education credit.*

**8:30 AM**



### **SIP + STRETCH** *Sponsored by waterTALENT*

Start your morning with wellness and a cup of coffee! Join us for a guided stretch session and if you register now, the first 500 paid conference registrants will receive a Starbucks gift card.

## DAY 2 OPENING

**9:00 AM**



### **Opening Remarks**

Pam Tobin, ACWA Vice President

### **2021 ACWA Awards**

ACWA Fellowship & Undergraduate Scholarship



### **Keynote**

Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**9:30 AM**

### **Region Issue Forum**

Wildfire Recovery and Managing Public Expectations

Presented by Region 4

### **Statewide Issue Forum**

Achieving the Voluntary Agreements



### **Water Industry Trends / Energy**

CARB Advanced Clean Fleet Rule Implications for Water Agencies

**10:30 AM**



### **Finance Forum**

Utility Operational Reviews - Why Do One and What to Expect?

### **Region Issue Forum**

Regional Collaboration Works: MWD's Regional Recycled Water Program

Presented by Region 8



### **Statewide Issue Forum**

Water Rights and Preparing for the Next Drought

## CONFERENCE CLOSING

**11:30 AM**

### **Closing Keynote**



### **Closing Remarks**

Steve LaMar, ACWA President

# VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

## REACH DECISION MAKERS IN THE WATER COMMUNITY!

ACWA's successful virtual conference includes a virtual Exhibit Hall and virtual networking opportunities!

### What's Happening in the Hall...



#### Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time

Visit vendors from around the U.S. whose products and services may offer you just the right solutions for your agency.



#### One-on-One Time with Exhibitors

While visiting a virtual booth, you can chat directly with an exhibitor and/or schedule meetings for a more in-depth conversation.



#### Exhibitor Demonstrations

Check out the virtual exhibitor demos! Join select exhibitors for a 30-minute demonstration to learn about their products and services. Check the conference agenda for details on times and the topics of discussion.



#### WIN PRIZES!!

The virtual Exhibit Hall offers multiple ways for attendees to win prizes!

#### Exhibitor Passport Stamps

Visit participating virtual booths and answer questions to obtain stamps in a virtual exhibit hall passport. Earn stamps in your virtual Exhibit Hall passport for a chance to win prizes!

#### Schedule Virtual Meetings with Exhibitors

Meet with participating exhibitors for chances to win!

#### Watch Exhibitor Demos

Watch the Exhibitor Demonstrations from start to finish for a chance to win.

#### Fill out the polling questions.

Answer the most polling questions in the booths to win a prize.



### VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL

Learn about innovative products and services!

#### PREMIUM Virtual Booth Elements & Specifications:

**Video Streaming Playback:**  
Format: Provide up to 5 mp4 files and a Title for each

**Video Background Image:**  
Format: 1920px by 878px  
File Type: jpeg, png  
Best Practice: Landscape, simple graphic to complement the video over it. It can also be a background color.

**Exhibitor Logo:**  
Format: 250px by 250px minimum  
File Type: png, jpg, eps  
Best Practice: Provide a transparent logo

**Company Description:**  
Word Limit: No word limit but keep it to a couple of paragraphs long

**Company Contact Info & Social Media Links**

**Passport Game:**  
Provide a Question and 4 answer choices and correct Answer

**Photo Gallery/Slideshow:**  
Format: 800px by 450px  
File Type: png, jpg, eps  
Landscape and up to 10 images

**Downloadable Files & Links to Company Content:**  
Provide url links and PDF files and what you want to name each file. Up to 5 files.

**Booth Staff Contact Info & Social Media Links**

**Chat/Interactive Tool:**  
Provide information to Virtual Event Producer (surveys, questions, etc.), 1-3 polling questions.

**One-on-One Scheduled Video/Audio Appointments:**  
Provide available day and time

#### Exhibit Gamification

Passport Game drives booth visitation usually tied to drawings or giveaways.





## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

### Networking Lounge

Connect with friends, peers, and industry leaders through the Networking Lounge - a chat room with the ability to invite up to 10 people into video conference all without ever leaving the conference site.

### Chat Rooms

Join your colleagues in one of these topic-themed chat rooms!

- **"Get to Know H2O" Trivia**

Want to have some fun? Put on your water thinking caps and join ACWA's Stacey Siqueiros for a fun game of ACWA Trivia. Topics will delve deep into your ACWA and water knowledge so come prepared to show how well you know H2O! Winner will win a \$50 Amazon gift card.

- **Gen Jam**

Whether you're an established leader, or next generation water professional; this chat session is your opportunity to make new connections and learn about leadership program opportunities, designed to strengthen the next generation of water professionals. We hope you can join us!

- **Drought Messaging**

As California heads into its second consecutive dry year, local water suppliers are sharing information with customers about local investments in drought resiliency while promoting long-term water efficiency and, in some cases, communicating about mandatory conservation. Agencies know that water supplies can vary significantly throughout the state, making communications complicated. Tia Leberherz with California Water Efficiency Partnership and Mike Wade with California Farm Water Coalition share their advice on how urban and agricultural agencies can best communicate drought messaging.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### EXCLUSIVE PARTNER

ACWA JPIA

### 2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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*For more information  
about sponsorship,  
contact Stacey Siqueiros  
at [StaceyS@acwa.com](mailto:StaceyS@acwa.com)*

*Sponsors listed as of 4/8/2021*

## Women in Water Virtual Reception

Wednesday, May 12 @ 5:00 p.m.

RSVP May 7, 2021

<http://bit.ly/WIWSpring21>

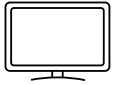
*Let's Be*

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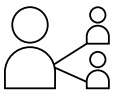


## REGISTRATION PRICING



### REGISTER ONLINE

Register online by **May 7, 2021** at [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com) to take advantage of the advance pricing.



### REGISTER ON SOMEONE'S BEHALF

Select from a list of people affiliated with your company in your account. If the registrant is not listed, you will need to create a portal profile for the registrant before registering.

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS

*Advantage pricing applies to ACWA public agency members, associates & affiliates.  
Standard pricing applies to non-members of ACWA.*

#### ADVANTAGE

#### STANDARD

#### 2021 ACWA Spring Virtual Conference Registration

\$375

\$565

### VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ACCESS

Registration must be paid prior to receiving access to the virtual conference. The conference access link and login information will be sent in a separate email by Monday, May 10, 2021.

Please check the ACWA web site at [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com) for updates on keynote speakers and program information.

## REGISTRATION TERMS & CONDITIONS

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - *Become a Member & Save!*

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an ACWA Associate, contact Stacey Siqueiros at [StaceyS@acwa.com](mailto:StaceyS@acwa.com). For public agency membership, please contact Tiffany Giammona at [TiffanyG@acwa.com](mailto:TiffanyG@acwa.com).

### CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES

All registration changes and cancellations must be made in writing by the event registration deadline. Valid cancellation requests will receive a refund of any registration fees paid minus a \$30 processing charge. For payments originally made by credit card, refunds can be issued back onto the credit card within 60 days. Otherwise, a refund will be issued by check. All checks will be made payable to the registrant's organization unless otherwise specified. No refunds or registration changes will be granted after the registration deadline. Submit request in writing to Teresa Taylor at [TeresaT@acwa.com](mailto:TeresaT@acwa.com). All registrations using credit codes are non-refundable.

### SUBSTITUTIONS

Event registrations are transferable from one participant to another within the same organization. Please submit your request in writing before the event registration deadline to Teresa Taylor at [TeresaT@acwa.com](mailto:TeresaT@acwa.com). Include the original registrant's name, the new person's name, title and email address with your request. Only one substitution is permitted per original registrant. The individual submitting the substitution request is responsible for all financial obligations (including any balance due) associated with the original registration. There is no fee to transfer an eligible registration.

### GROUP DISCOUNT

For every 5 paid individual registrations from the same organization, a 6th complimentary registration will be received. The complimentary registration must be for an individual from the same organization and is subject to applicable registration fees for any subsequent cancellations. Contact Teresa Taylor at [TeresaT@acwa.com](mailto:TeresaT@acwa.com) for details. Registrations using discount or complimentary codes are not eligible.

### OTHER PROVISIONS

If a technical failure at the attendee's home or workplace prevents access to the virtual conference, the attendee will not be given a refund. It is the responsibility of the attendee to confirm system requirements and test their computers prior to the start of the virtual conference. However, if a technical failure is the fault of the service provider and the virtual conference is cancelled, a full refund will be provided.

### NON-ATTENDANCE

If you are unable to attend the virtual conference, information on how to access program recordings, materials and features of the virtual event will be provided to all registered persons. Registrants who fail to attend the event, in part or in whole, are not eligible for a refund or credit and will be billed for any balance due.

***All Terms & Conditions are subject to change.***