



SCWA Legislative & Regulatory Update

September 21, 2026

The House recessed last Wednesday, a day earlier than previously scheduled, and is not expected to return to session until November 9. The early recess came as the chamber faced a required procedural vote related to articles of impeachment filed by Rep. Tom Massie (R-KY) against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

The Senate is scheduled to return Tuesday and is expected to continue legislative work during the coming weeks.

The Senate is continuing consideration of the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), legislation that would establish federal standards governing college athletics, including name, image and likeness agreements, athlete eligibility and transfers. The Senate voted 74-24 on September 15 to advance consideration of the legislation and voted 77-22 on September 17 to continue moving the bill forward. Additional Senate action is expected this week.

The Senate did not advance the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act last week. The legislation would establish a federal regulatory framework for digital assets and define the roles of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission in overseeing different parts of the market. Senate consideration of the legislation followed the release of revised and updated bill text during the week.

Senators are also continuing negotiations on legislation addressing the federal permitting process for energy projects. Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) have been involved in negotiations over the legislation. Several issues remain under discussion, including how the House would consider any legislation approved by the Senate.

The Senate could also consider the Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340), which passed the House last week by a vote of 417-3. The legislation addresses electricity infrastructure costs associated with large data centers and would establish requirements concerning the allocation of those costs. Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH) is sponsoring the Senate companion legislation. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) is considering bringing the House-passed bill to the Senate floor for a procedural vote.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has said the Senate will not vote on a fiscal year 2027 budget resolution before the midterm elections. Any further consideration of a budget reconciliation package later in the year would depend on the legislative schedule and other developments following the elections.

The House also voted last week for the third time on a resolution concerning U.S. military operations involving Iran. H. Con. Res. 93 would direct the President to end the hostilities absent congressional authorization or a declaration of war. Seven Republicans joined Democrats in supporting the resolution. Because concurrent resolutions do not have the force of law, the measure does not itself change existing authorities.

House Democrats are also discussing potential changes to their caucus rules following several recent votes in which Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) and Jared Golden (D-ME) supported procedural actions backed by Republicans. The proposed changes under discussion could affect members who do not meet certain caucus requirements or who vote with Republicans on selected procedural matters. Possible consequences include restrictions on serving in leadership positions, chairing committees or serving on certain exclusive committees.

The discussions are part of a broader review of House Democratic Caucus rules. No changes have been finalized, and any revisions would require approval by the caucus.

The House remains in recess and is not expected to reconvene until November 9. The Senate is scheduled to continue work this week, including consideration of the Protect College Sports Act. The chamber is also expected to consider nominations for federal judicial positions and potentially other executive branch positions.

The Senate may also consider the House-passed Ratepayer Protection Act. In addition, senators are expected to consider Congressional Review Act resolutions concerning Environmental Protection Agency waivers that allow California to establish vehicle emissions standards that are more stringent than federal requirements. The House has already passed those resolutions.

Senate Democrats are also expected to seek consideration of another resolution concerning presidential authority over military operations involving Iran.



Chuck Space, SCWA Executive Director
Southwest Car Wash Association