

SHELTER ISLAND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 2025, Well Height data report

DRAFT Issue date January 2026

Recommendation: Based on impact the continued weakness of precipitation has on the SI aquifer height we should maintain the current “Moderate Drought” intensity category (the second level of drought intensity).

Summary:

National and New York State drought categories grade Shelter Island in the initial drought intensity for each (“Watch” for NY State, “Abnormally Dry” for National DEWS ranking).

WAC evaluation of the Aquifer height for almost all monitoring wells are below the normal seasonal aquifer level in Shelter Island monitoring wells. Seasonal drawdown continued this month.

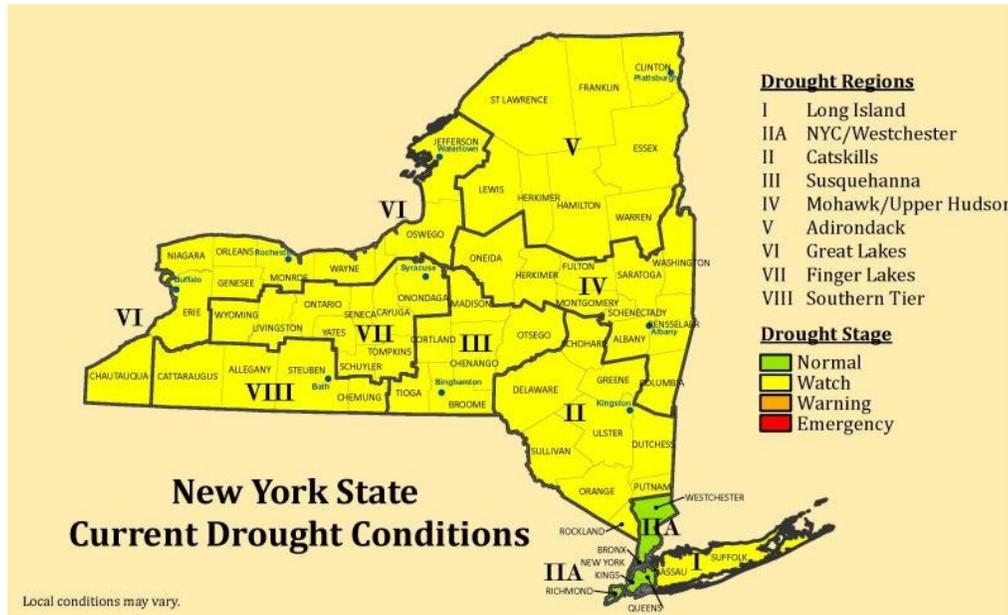
The *average* percentile rank for the Big 4 wells dropped from the 30th percentile to the 24th percentile. Trend over the last 20 months is down.

Precipitation as recorded in Shelter Island personal Weather Unground systems

Rainfall estimates for the last few months indicate low rainfall levels over the last few months.

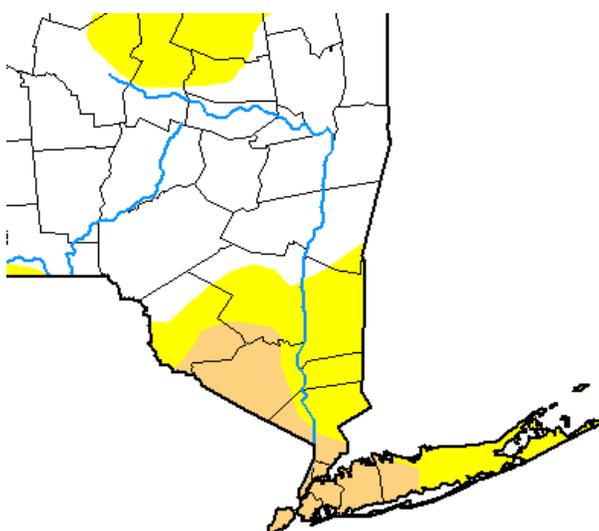
Section 1a - New York DEC Drought monitor.

The New York DEC Drought Monitor grades Nassau and Westchester as “Normal” (no drought) with the balance of the state (e.g. Shelter Island) in the “Watch” stage (the lowest category of drought).



Section 1b – National Drought Monitoring- DEWS:

Shelter Island and eastern Suffolk County rated continued as “Abnormally Dry D0”. All of Nassau County, western end of Suffolk and several upstate Catskill counties were downgraded to Moderate Drought.



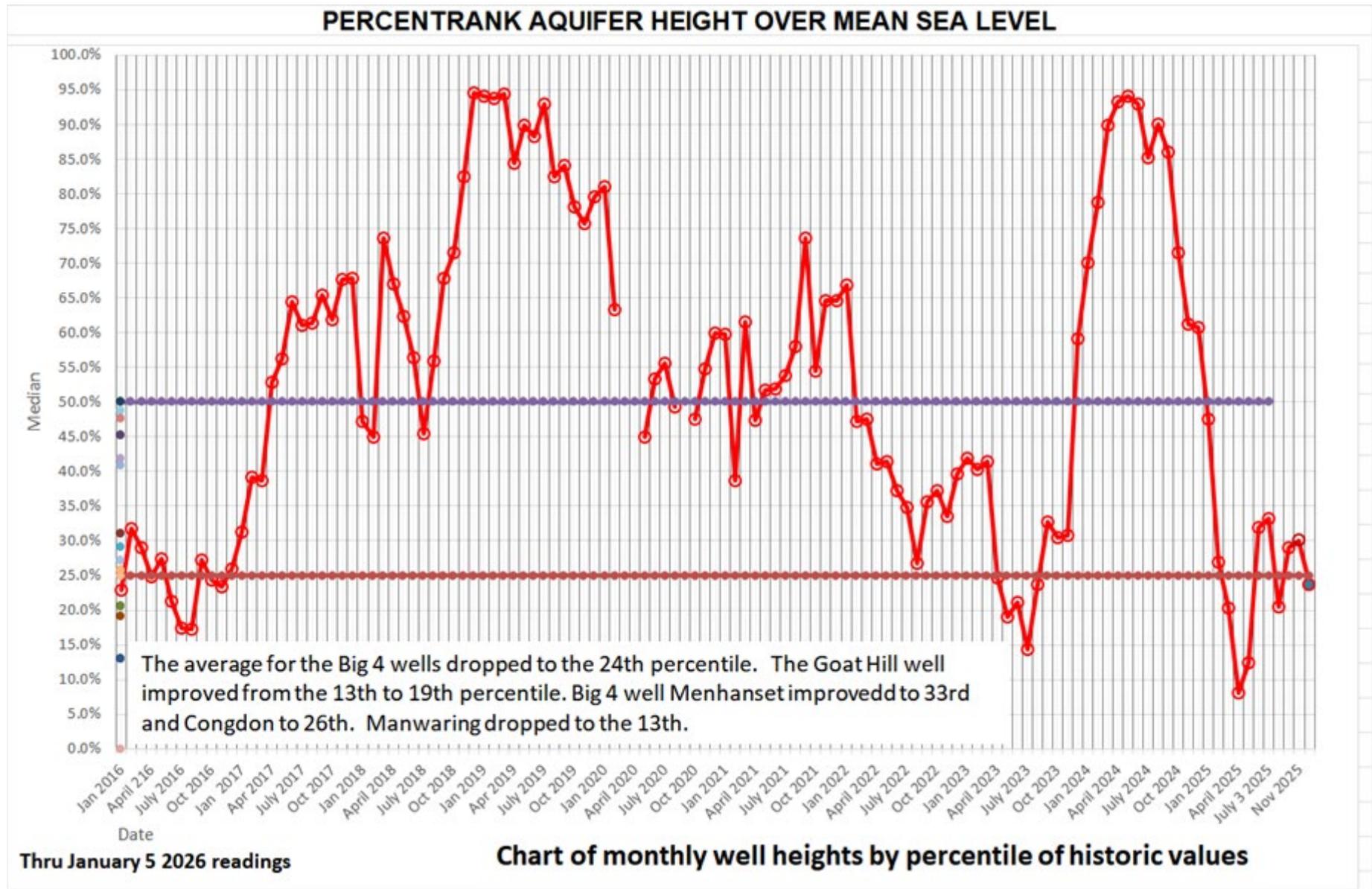
Map released: Thurs. January 15, 2026

Data valid: January 13, 2026



In an odd situation, the New York DEC describes Nassau and Westchester counties as Normal (no drought) while the National Drought Monitor rating has these counties in Moderate drought.

Section 2 – Chart showing “ranking of monthly well heights by percentile of historic values.” *The chart is a graphic of the data for the Big Four feeder wells showing the percentile rank for the current month versus history for each month. The average percentile rank for the Big 4 wells dropped from the 30th percentile to the 24th percentile. Trend over the last 20 months is down.*



Section 3 - Table of well readings compared to monthly median values.

Well readings compared to that month's Median for each well.

The seasonal draw down continued in December with only two wells above the median midpoint. Shallower wells were slightly higher to the median midpoint compared to the deeper Big 4 wells.

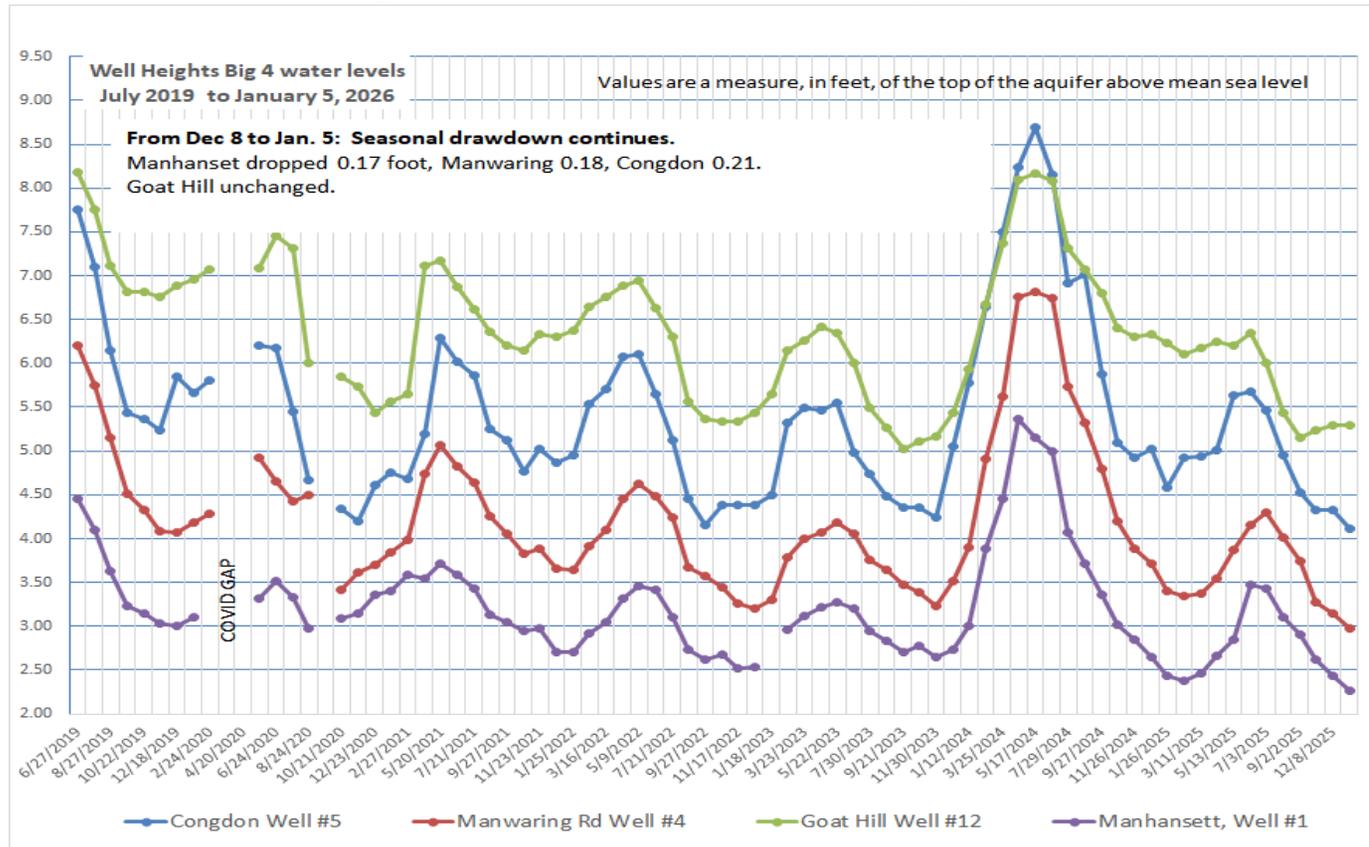
Well readings compared to the months Median for each well for:	Manhansett, Well #1	Rocky Pt/Belved. Well #2	Big Ram Island Well #3	Manwaring Rd Well #4	Congdon Well #5	Brander/Lilli put Well #6	Menantic Rd Well #7	Deer Park Lane Well #8	LITTLE RAM Well #9	DERING HARBOR Well #10	HAY BEACH Well #11	Goat Hill Well #12	SHOREWOOD Well #13	White Birch Rde #14
DECEMBER - Year End 2025	44	28	24	33	47	31	24	28	18	17	24	24	23	10
Median Value	2.45	1.84	1.40	3.47	4.62	1.81	1.80	2.88	1.42	1.78	2.08	5.60	1.42	1.63
Reading	2.27	1.68	1.44	2.97	4.11	1.75	3.90	2.88	1.35	1.63	1.91	5.29	1.17	1.40
Previous Month reading	2.45	1.73	1.41	3.15	4.32	1.85	2.90	3.05	1.25	1.71	2.06	5.29	1.27	1.50
Change from prev. month	(0.18)	(0.05)	0.03	(0.18)	(0.21)	(0.10)	1.00	(0.17)	0.10	(0.08)	(0.15)	0.00	(0.10)	(0.10)
current month value	Big 4			Big 4	Big 4							Big 4		
Reading date Jan 5 2026														
					7.15									
	3.97				6.92									
	3.85				6.61									
	3.65				6.46									
	3.36				6.39									
	3.18				6.38									
	3.18				6.11									
	3.08			5.35	6.07	2.80								
	3.07	2.57		5.17	6.03	2.71								
	3.01	2.14		4.46	5.85	2.61		4.44						
	2.89	2.09	1.92	4.32	5.57	2.59	3.90	4.08			2.96			
	2.73	2.07	1.85	4.27	5.51	2.59	2.37	3.99			2.36	7.43	2.29	
	2.73	2.06	1.80	4.25	5.17	2.56	2.26	3.91			2.33	7.21	1.94	
	2.71	2.05	1.77	4.07	5.06	2.46	2.25	3.70			2.28	6.89	1.85	
	2.70	2.05	1.70	4.02	5.05	2.45	2.25	3.70	2.01	2.39	2.28	6.82	1.82	
	2.66	2.05	1.68	3.72	5.03	2.28	2.14	3.43	1.86	2.12	2.27	6.75	1.73	
	2.56	2.04	1.67	3.70	4.93	2.27	2.07	3.39	1.80	2.00	2.22	6.56	1.69	
	2.54	2.00	1.63	3.66	4.89	2.18	2.06	3.38	1.68	1.98	2.19	6.33	1.66	2.05
	2.53	1.91	1.59	3.65	4.86	2.16	2.06	3.30	1.60	1.90	2.17	6.30	1.65	2.03
	2.52	1.91	1.46	3.51	4.81	2.01	1.99	3.29	1.56	1.90	2.16	5.90	1.56	1.99
	2.51	1.89	1.44	3.50	4.77	1.96	1.89	3.27	1.55	1.83	2.12	5.69	1.53	1.88
	2.45	1.85	1.40	3.47	4.65	1.88	1.84	2.89	1.43	1.82	2.10	5.61	1.42	1.66
Median Value	2.45		1.40	3.47	4.62	1.81		2.88	1.42	1.78			1.42	
	2.37	1.83	1.38	3.46	4.61	1.79	1.76	2.87	1.41	1.70	2.06	5.59	1.37	1.6
	2.36	1.77	1.36	3.36	4.51	1.77	1.72	2.83	1.36	1.67	1.97	5.57	1.37	1.51
	2.32	1.69	1.35	3.31	4.41	1.76	1.72	2.83	1.35	1.63	1.96	5.44	1.36	1.46
	2.29	1.68	1.30	3.25	4.40	1.75	1.68	2.82	1.35	1.63	1.95	5.43	1.35	1.40
	2.27	1.66	1.27	3.20	4.38	1.75	1.60	2.81	1.25	1.59	1.92	5.43	1.26	0.99
	2.24	1.62	1.21	3.15	4.35	1.74	1.54	2.79	1.24	1.58	1.91	5.41	1.24	
	2.23	1.54	1.15	3.07	4.30	1.67	1.48	2.75	0.62	1.32	1.79	5.29	1.21	
	2.21	1.51	1.10	3.07	4.18	1.66	1.38	2.71	0.44	1.26	1.72	5.22	1.17	
	2.18	1.49	0.84	3.03	4.11	1.52	1.22	2.52	0.26		1.65	5.17	1.04	
	2.14	1.39	0.82	2.98	4.11	1.45	1.11	2.43			1.60	5.13	0.84	
	2.13	1.34	0.69	2.97	4.10	1.38	0.88	2.37			1.58	5.12	0.72	
	2.13	1.32		2.94	4.06	1.26	0.80	2.23			1.43			
	2.09	1.12		2.91	4.01	1.22		2.20						
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	Big 4			Big 4	Big 4							Big 4		
CURRENT MONTH ANALYSIS														
percentrank current read to historic range	37%	37%	57%	13%	27%	33%	100%	52%	29%	31%	26%	19%	14%	11%

Section 4 - “Raw” aquifer readings for the Big 4 wells.

Raw well height graph is independent of the median history. It presents a direct comparison of aquifer heights by month.

Seasonal drawdown continues, although Goat Hill was unchanged. Drop for the other wells was about 0.2 inches.

	Previous	Current		Previous	Current		
Congdon	4.32	4.11	Lower	Manwaring	3.27	2.97	Lower
Goat Hill	5.29	5.29	No change	Manhansett	2.44 (est.)	2.27	Lower



Section 5 – Precipitation

Precipitation as recorded in Shelter Island personal Weather Underground systems

Rainfall estimates for the last few months indicate low rainfall levels over the last few months.