

# SHELTER ISLAND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**JANUARY 2026**

**Well Height data report**     DRAFT Issue date January 2026

**Recommendation:** Maintain the current Shelter Island “Moderate Drought” intensity category, the second level of drought intensity. A communication to the public advising residents of the current low aquifer level n

## **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).

Aquifer height for almost all monitoring wells was significantly below the normal seasonal aquifer levels in Shelter Island monitoring wells. Evaluation of Shelter Island aquifer health data shows water level at the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile for the average of the Big 4 wells.

## **Aquifer Height Reports from the NY DEC and the National U.S. Drought Monitor**

**Section 1a** - New York DEC Drought monitor- No changes since the last report – Shelter Island in “Watch” status.

### **Section 1b – National Drought Monitoring- DEWS:**

No changes since the last report –Shelter Island “Moderate Drought” status.

## **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.*

Average percentile rank for the Big 4 wells dropped from 30<sup>th</sup> (November), 24<sup>th</sup> (December) and now 20<sup>th</sup> percentile.

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

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

Only 2 wells were over the median mid-point, and these two were at or near the highest level recorded in January. The Menantic well (#7) was 0.67 feet over the previous peak reading, and Deer Park (#8) where there was only a single record above the previous height. This compares significantly with the rest of the values, few of which were above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. The Menantic and Deer Park situation is under review with the Town Engineer, SCWA, USGS and the WNWD.

## **Section 4 – Raw well height readings for the Big 4 wells**

*Raw well height graph is independent of the median history.*

Three of the wells continued to decrease, and the fourth (Goat Hill) continued with little change in the last five months.

**Section 5 – Precipitation**

*Precipitation as recorded in Shelter Island personal Weather Unground systems:*

Actual rainfall (liquid) measurements for the start of the month was about 1.5 inches. The liquid equivalence for a 12 inch snowfall adds about 1.2 inch liquid precipitation (2.7-inch combined liquid total).

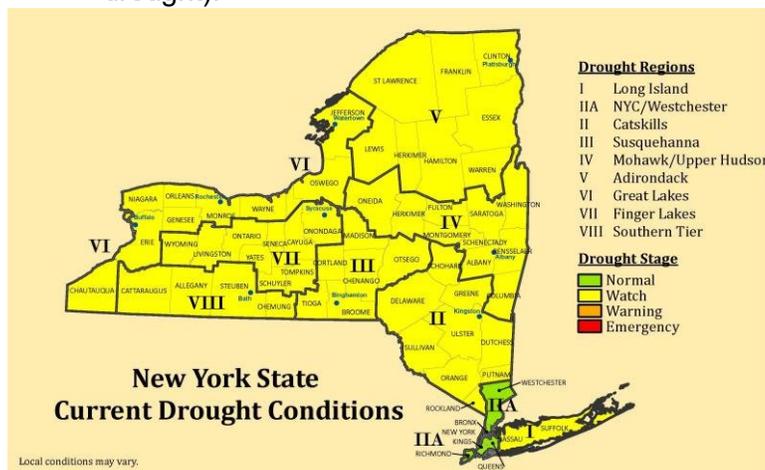
**Summary:**

**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 in in the “Watch” stage, which is the lowest category of drought intensity.

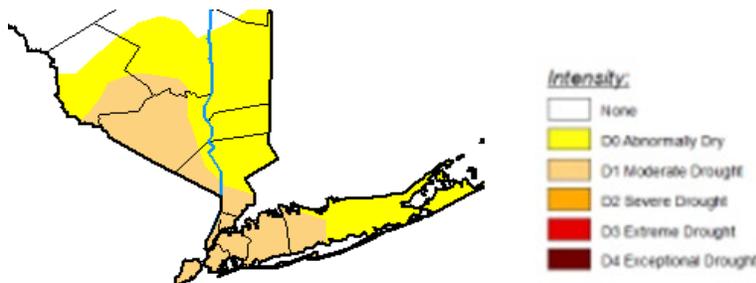
**Section 1a - New York DEC Drought monitor.**

The New York DEC Drought Monitor grades only 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:**

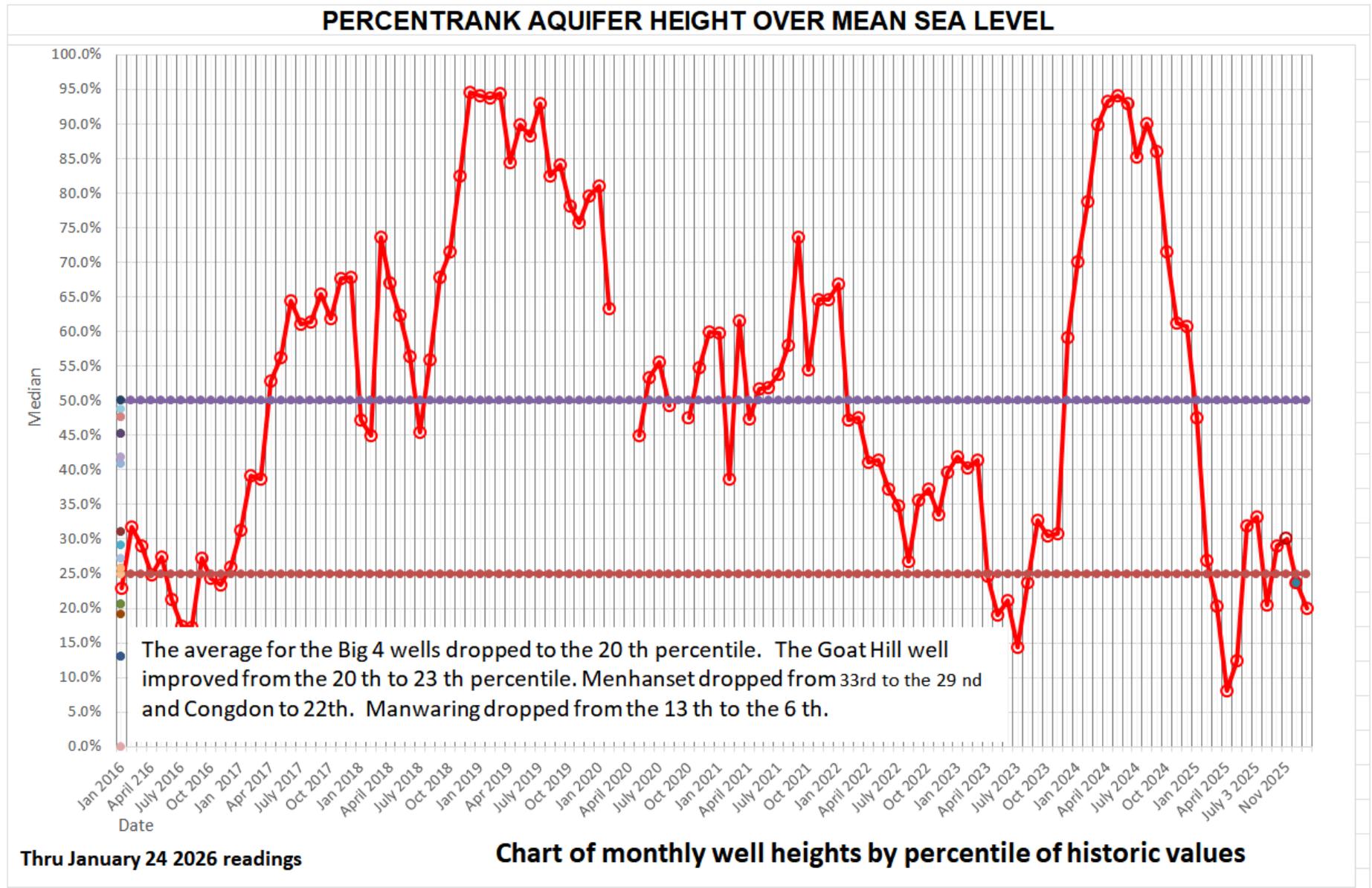
All of Nassau County, western end of Suffolk and several upstate Catskill counties remain in “DO Moderate to Moderate Drought” status.



**January 27, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

## Section 2. Ranking of monthly well heights by percentile of historic values.

The average percentile rank for the Big 4 wells dropped from the 24<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile.



### Section 3 – Comparison showing aquifer height readings for the month compared to the median history

Only two wells were over the midpoint, and these have unexplained high values [wells 7 and 8]. Investigation with USGS and SCWA planned.

Well readings compared to the months Median for each well for:	Manhasset, 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
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>	45	29	25	34	48	32	25	29	19	18	25	25	24	11
<b>Median Value</b>	2.45	1.83	1.40	3.47	4.62	1.80	1.84	2.88	1.41	1.74	2.06	5.59	1.40	1.60
<b>Reading</b>	2.19	1.44	1	2.88	4.05	1.7	4.57	4.39	0.79	1.37	1.81	5.32	0.94	1.03
<b>Previous Month reading</b>	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
<b>Change from prev. month</b>	(0.26)	(0.29)	(0.41)	(0.27)	(0.27)	(0.15)	1.67	1.34	(0.46)	(0.34)	(0.25)	0.03	(0.33)	(0.47)
<b>current month value</b>	Big 4			Big 4	Big 4							Big 4		
<b>Reading date Jan 24 2026</b>														
					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	2.80								
	3.08				6.07	2.71								
	3.07	2.57		5.35	6.03	2.61		4.44						
	3.01	2.14		5.17	5.85	2.59		4.39						
	2.89	2.09	1.92	4.46	5.57	2.59	4.57	4.08			2.96		2.29	
	2.73	2.07	1.85	4.32	5.51	2.56	3.90	3.99			2.36	7.43	1.94	
	2.73	2.06	1.80	4.27	5.17	2.46	2.37	3.91			2.33	7.21	1.85	
	2.71	2.05	1.77	4.25	5.06	2.45	2.26	3.70			2.28	6.89	1.82	
	2.70	2.05	1.70	4.07	5.05	2.28	2.25	3.70	2.01	2.39	2.28	6.82	1.73	
	2.66	2.05	1.68	4.02	5.03	2.27	2.25	3.43	1.86	2.12	2.27	6.75	1.69	
	2.56	2.04	1.67	3.72	4.93	2.18	2.14	3.39	1.80	2.00	2.22	6.56	1.66	
	2.54	2.00	1.63	3.70	4.89	2.16	2.07	3.38	1.68	1.98	2.19	6.33	1.65	2.05
	2.53	1.91	1.59	3.66	4.86	2.01	2.06	3.30	1.60	1.90	2.17	6.30	1.56	2.03
	2.52	1.91	1.46	3.65	4.81	1.96	2.06	3.29	1.56	1.90	2.16	5.90	1.53	1.99
	2.51	1.89	1.44	3.51	4.77	1.88	1.99	3.27	1.55	1.83	2.12	5.69	1.42	1.88
	2.45	1.85	1.40	3.50	4.65	1.81	1.89	2.89	1.43	1.82	2.10	5.61	1.42	1.66
<b>Median Value</b>	2.45	1.83	1.40	3.47	4.62		1.84	2.88	1.42	1.78	2.06	5.59		1.60
	2.37	1.77	1.38	3.47	4.61	1.79	1.76	2.87	1.41	1.70	1.97	5.57	1.37	1.51
	2.36	1.69	1.36	3.46	4.51	1.77	1.72	2.83	1.36	1.67	1.96	5.44	1.37	1.46
	2.32	1.68	1.35	3.36	4.41	1.76	1.72	2.83	1.35	1.63	1.95	5.43	1.36	1.40
	2.29	1.66	1.30	3.31	4.40	1.75	1.68	2.82	1.35	1.62	1.92	5.43	1.35	1.03
	2.27	1.62	1.27	3.25	4.38	1.75	1.60	2.81	1.25	1.59	1.91	5.41	1.26	0.99
	2.24	1.54	1.21	3.20	4.35	1.74	1.54	2.79	1.24	1.58	1.81	5.32	1.24	
	2.23	1.51	1.15	3.15	4.30	1.70	1.48	2.75	0.79	1.37	1.79	5.29	1.21	
	2.21	1.49	1.10	3.07	4.18	1.67	1.38	2.71	0.62	1.32	1.72	5.22	1.17	
	2.19	1.44	1.00	3.07	4.11	1.66	1.22	2.52	0.44	1.26	1.65	5.17	1.04	
	2.18	1.39	0.84	3.03	4.11	1.52	1.11	2.43	0.26		1.60	5.13	0.94	
	2.14	1.34	0.82	2.98	4.10	1.45	0.88	2.37			1.58	5.12	0.84	
	2.13	1.32	0.69	2.97	4.06	1.38	0.80	2.23			1.43		0.72	
	2.13	1.12		2.94	4.05	1.26		2.20						
	2.09	0.98		2.91	4.01	1.22		1.90						
	2.09			2.88	4.00	1.05								
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	1.78				3.59									
					3.52									
					3.16									
	Big 4			Big 4	Big 4							Big 4		
<b>CURRENT MONTH ANALYSIS</b>														
percentrank current read to historic range	29%	18%	13%	6%	22%	29%	100%	96%	17%	12%	25%	23%	9%	10%

### 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, except for Goat Hill which was unchanged. The changes may be biased by a shorter time between measurements due to potential disruption of a federal shutdown.

	Previous	Current		Previous	Current		
Congdon	4.11	4.05	sl. Lower	Manwaring	2.97	2.88	sl. Lower
Goat Hill	5.29	5.32	sl. Increase	Manhansett	2.27	2.19	sl. Lower

