



## WATER ADVISORY LEVELS

- **NORMAL PRECAUTIONS** Action: Voluntary reductions in water usage.
- **GUARDED** Action: Voluntary reductions in water usage.
- **WARNING** Action: Voluntary reductions in water usage with some mandatory requirements.
- **EMERGENCY** Action: voluntary reductions in water usage plus additional mandatory requirements.
- **SHELTER ISLAND DISASTER** Action: All of the above action plus additional actions as required by the County or State.

## DROUGHT INDICATION CRITERIA:

The Drought Indicator Criteria consists of three components, and/or requirements resulting from a New York State proclamation of Drought Emergency or Disaster.

- **CRITERIA #1. US SEASONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK**  
This is a forecast from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), providing a map of the forecast drought tendency for the next 3 months. The site is at <https://www.drought.gov/forecasts> The drought tendency used in determination of Shelter Island water restriction regulation is: Drought persists.
- **CRITERIA #2. DROUGHT SEVERITY MONITOR REPORT**  
This is a measurement of the current intensity of drought conditions. <http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional/drought/drought.html> The intensity scoring is calculated by the NIDIS from ground moisture levels, water storage reserves, and long and short-term precipitation records. The Intensity Levels used in determination of Shelter Island water restriction regulation are: D3 Severe Drought or D4 Exceptional Drought.
- **CRITERIA #3. SHELTER ISLAND WELL HEIGHT LEVELS**  
'Normal' drought measurements rate the current water quantity versus the total capacity of a system. For example, the total capacity of a reservoir versus the amount measured within it. For Shelter Island groundwater quantity, because of the uncertain and varying salt water diffusion zone, the "capacity" of potable water in the aquifer is difficult, perhaps impossible, to determine. For this reason, the monthly readings for monitored wells are compared to the seasonal historic well levels to provide a relative guidance on available water.

The Shelter Island criteria is based on the percent rank of the most current months well height readings compared to that month's historic median values for 4 of the wells that are evaluated by the USGS. These wells are the highest water level test wells on the island. They are generally



Manwaring Road Well #4  
 Congdon Road Well #5  
 Shelter Island Heights (Goat Hill) Well #12

**The Shelter Island Indicator Well Height Level Drought Criteria:** Percentile rank of 4 Indicator wells.

- Average > 20.% Normal Precautions
- Average 20% to 15% Guarded
- Average 15% to 10 % Warning
- Average 10% to 5% Emergency
- Average < 5 % Disaster

#### • 4. NEW YORK STATE DROUGHT PROCLAMATION

The State of New York has a separate grading system for drought awareness and regulation. The Governor/State DEC can announce levels of drought based on many of the criteria above. The proclamation of a Water Emergency stage or Disaster appears to result in state mandated water conservation actions.

- Watch - No impact on SI ranking
- Warning- No impact on SI ranking
- Emergency – 3 Stages: State 1,2 or 3- Mandatory defined by NYState
- Disaster Proclamation - Follow Mandatory defined by NYState



CONTACT US  
 38 North Ferry Road  
 Shelter Island, NY  
 11964-0970  
 Phone (631) 749-  
0291  
 Fax (631) 749-0728

Town Hall: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm  
 Town Clerk: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm  
 (Saturdays: First Saturday after June  
 15th-Aug.31 st - 9am-noon)  
 Building Department: Mon-Fri, 8:00am-  
 4:00pm  
 Assessors Office: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-  
 4:00pm  
 Justice Court: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-  
 4:00pm  
 Recycling Center: Mon-Sun, 7:30am-



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