

Water Supply Conditions Summary – March 1, 2016

Drought Watch Lifted for Northeast, Central and Coastal North Water Supply Regions

The return of a more normal precipitation pattern over the past ninety (90) days has produced a slow but steady recovery in all of the water supply indicators monitored by the New Jersey DEP. Precipitation in all of the State's six water supply (Drought) regions has exceeded the long-term average for the period, allowing a recovery in streamflow, unconfined (shallow) groundwater levels, and reservoir storage. Currently, there are no indicators which are designated as severely or extremely dry (orange or red).

This sustained improvement in conditions prompted a lifting of the Drought Watch that had been in place since last September in the Northeast, Central and Coastal North regions. NJDEP water professionals will continue to closely monitor drinking-water-supply indicators with spring just around the corner. With the transition to spring, evapotranspiration can be expected to increase as temperatures warm and trees begin to "leaf out". Water demands, in turn, will also increase due to outdoor water use associated with lawn care, gardening and other maintenance/recreational activities around the home.

As is always the case, wise water use should be practiced by all to avoid unnecessary water waste. If the coming spring and summer are dry, steps again may need to be taken to protect our limited drinking water supplies.