



Governor Rescinds Statewide “Drought Advisory” Based on Improving Hydrological Conditions

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Governor Gina M. Raimondo has rescinded the statewide “Drought Advisory” that was issued on September 17, 2020.

The Drought Steering Committee, which falls under the purview of the Water Resources Board within the Division of Statewide Planning, consults with federal, state and local experts to assess the status of four major drought indices: precipitation, Palmer Drought Severity Index, streamflow and groundwater. The State’s drought plan includes two specific criteria for improving from a Drought Advisory: three months of near normal precipitation and two consecutive months of normal groundwater. At a meeting on February 9, the Committee determined that conditions supported rescinding the Drought Advisory.

“Experts from the National Weather Service and United States Geological Survey presented the Committee with the necessary evidence that precipitation and groundwater levels had recovered to normal conditions statewide,” said Susan Licardi, Chairwoman of the Water Resources Board and Drought Steering Committee.

Despite the improvement, residents and businesses are always encouraged to make efforts to conserve water. Tips and information are available here: http://www.wrb.ri.gov/data_education.html.

The Drought Steering Committee is a committee of the Water Resources Board that brings water management agencies and experts together to assess drought conditions and impacts. More information about the Committee and the State’s drought plan is available at http://www.wrb.ri.gov/work_programs_drought.html. For a new United States Geological Survey publication on the 2020 Drought in New England, visit <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2020/1148/ofr20201148.pdf>.

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