



The Long Island Groundwater Newsletter

from **WATER FOR LONG ISLAND**

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Welcome to the first newsletter for all Long Islanders about our groundwater supply. In this and coming issues, we will provide you with interesting, factual and important information that will help expand our regional understanding and awareness of groundwater.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE USGS-DEC REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDY?

Since the announcement by Governor Cuomo in April 2016 of this major \$6+ million project, work has been going on behind the scenes to assemble funds to get this important effort off the ground. The USGS has been updating and enhancing its prior regional groundwater model for use in reassessing the adequacy of the regional groundwater supply. It is focusing on Phase I, the study of western Long Island, including Queens. Meanwhile, the installation of wells to collect data from the deepest sections of the Long Island aquifer system has been delayed. The Regional Steering Committee appointed by the NYS DEC met several times in 2017. The Study is organized into 3 phases and will take 6-9 years for full completion.

NASSAU COUNTY RESPONDES TO A PENDING DEC PERMIT RENEWAL FOR THE JAMAICA QUEENS WELLS

On February 1, 2018 newly elected Nassau County Executive Laura Curran held a major press conference announcing her request to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) for strict limits on the use of the 68 water supply wells now controlled by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP). She sent a letter to DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, asking that five permit conditions be inserted in any permit renewal for the wells, if the DEC is unwilling to delay the permit renewal

process until after the USGS Sustainability Study is completed for western Long Island.

In a second letter, Curran, requested that the NYS DEC be prepared to begin implementation of a regional groundwater management program beginning in 2022, once Phase One of the Sustainability Study is completed. Both letters were supported by over 77 co-signors who agree with Curran in asking for better protection and oversight of the Long Island groundwater supply. This is the first time that such a large cross-section of stakeholders has reached out to the DEC, requesting better regional groundwater management. Co-signors included State and County Legislators, Town Supervisors, Villages, Cities, Water Suppliers, Environmental organizations, Good Government groups, and Academic Institutions, all speaking with one voice that groundwater action along with better science is needed now.

For more information about current groundwater conditions, please visit www.waterforlongisland.org

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROTECT OUR AQUIFER DAY – MAY 3rd and 4th, 2018

In our next Issue, see the details of the recently released *Groundwater Management Strategy for Long Island's Groundwater* from Water for Long Island.