



**UPPER BIG BLUE
Natural Resources District**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2019

Groundwater Level Rise 1.22 Feet on the Average in the Upper Big Blue NRD

During April-May 2019, the NRD measured 531 observation wells throughout the District and then averaged the data of all these wells. Overall, the spring 2018 average measurement for the groundwater level change shows a rise of 1.22 feet from last spring. The findings show that the spring 2019 average groundwater level is 5.11 feet above the "Allocation Trigger." As a result, there will be no allocation restrictions for the 2020 irrigation season.

The District goal is to hold the average groundwater level at, or above the 1978 level. In 2005, the District Average groundwater level reached the "Reporting Trigger" initiating groundwater users to report annual groundwater use to the District and to certify their irrigated acres. If the District average level falls below the 1978 level ("Allocation Trigger"), groundwater allocation will begin.

Observation wells are measured in the spring of each year, allowing the water table to rebound from the previous irrigation season. The observation wells measured are uniformly distributed and represented geographically throughout the District to provide an accurate profile of the District average. Each well measured is assigned an area of the District based on distances to other measured wells. This method of averaging is called the Thiessen Polygon Method and give the average groundwater level change calculation a weighted average. For more information, please visit www.upperbigblue.org or call (402) 362-6601.

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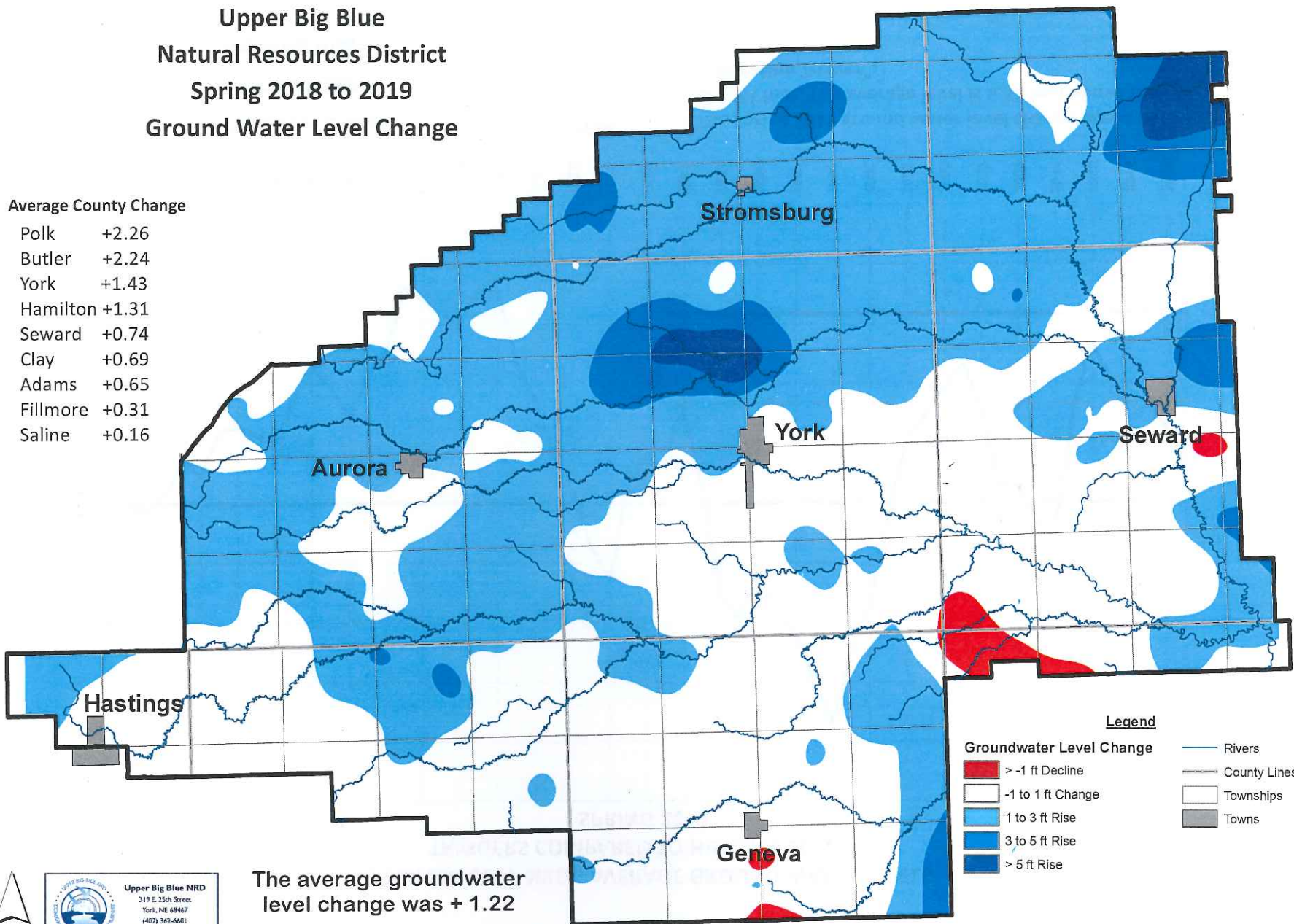
CONTACT:

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Upper Big Blue
Natural Resources District
Spring 2018 to 2019
Ground Water Level Change

Average County Change

Polk	+2.26
Butler	+2.24
York	+1.43
Hamilton	+1.31
Seward	+0.74
Clay	+0.69
Adams	+0.65
Fillmore	+0.31
Saline	+0.16



Legend

Groundwater Level Change

- > -1 ft Decline
- 1 to 1 ft Change
- 1 to 3 ft Rise
- 3 to 5 ft Rise
- > 5 ft Rise

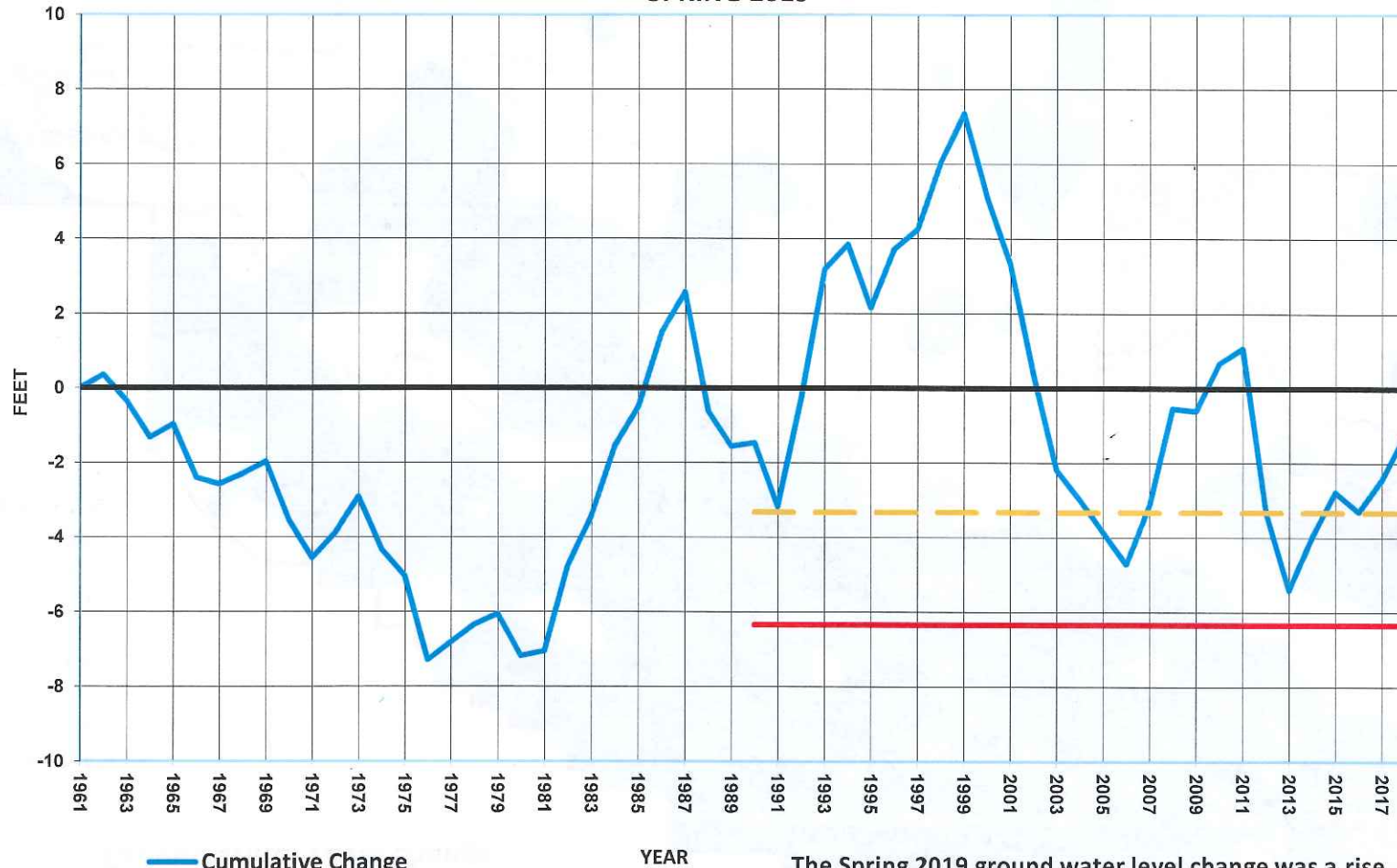
- Rivers
- County Lines
- Townships
- Towns

The average groundwater level change was + 1.22



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**UPPER BIG BLUE NRD - AVERAGE GROUND WATER LEVELS
TRIGGERS COMPARED TO HISTORIC LEVELS
SPRING 2019**



- Cumulative Change
- Allocation Trigger
- - - Reporting Trigger

The Spring 2019 ground water level change was a rise of 1.22 feet. The average level is 5.11 feet above the "Allocation Trigger".