

# **Boston Groundwater Trust**

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116

617.859.8439

[www.bostongroundwater.org](http://www.bostongroundwater.org)

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

## Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders  
Tim Ian Mitchell  
Co-Chairs

Janine Commerford  
Greg Galer  
Peter Shilland  
Amelia Croteau  
Kaira Fox  
Aaron Michlewitz  
Angie Liou  
Ed Flynn  
Christopher Cook  
Leah Camhi  
Robert Whitney

## Executive Director

Christian Simonelli

Nupoor Monani, AICP  
Senior Institutional Planner and Project Manager  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, MA 02201-1007

**Subject: 220 Huntington Avenue (Midtown Redevelopment) Project  
Notification Form (PNF) Comments**

Dear Ms. Monani:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 220 Huntington Avenue (Midtown Redevelopment) Project Notification Form (PNF) which is located in the Saint Botolph neighborhood. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of Boston where the integrity of building foundations is threatened by low groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. Therefore, my comments are limited to groundwater related issues.

The document states that the Project Site lies within the City of Boston's Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD), which will help inform the management of groundwater. The Project will be designed such that groundwater levels will not be altered outside the property limits. The design will incorporate storage and recharge of stormwater. Stormwater will be recharged around the perimeter of the Project Site using recharge wells in the post-construction condition. The document also states that the Project will be designed to infiltrate 1.25 inches of storm water runoff from the impervious areas of the Project into the ground to the greatest extent possible. For City of Boston sidewalks, the Project will evaluate the opportunity to add permeable pavers and street trees to reduce impervious area and reduce stormwater runoff.



The document states that dewatering will be required to maintain the stability of the bottom of the excavation and create a workably dry area for which to construction foundations and move equipment. It is anticipated that dewatering may be performed inside the shoring system by pumping from filtered sumps installed below the bottom of the excavation; however, the actual method for controlling groundwater will be determined by the Contractor.

Compliance with the GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system and a demonstration that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the Proponent will provide the BPDA and the Boston Groundwater Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how the Project will meet the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on Site or on adjoining lots.

As stated at the scoping session, the Project team will coordinate with the Trust to protect groundwater levels in the area. The proponent also confirmed that they will ensure Trust observation well #22I-2778, located in the sidewalk, at corner of Huntington Ave. and Cumberland Street, adjacent to the project site, will be preserved before, during, and following construction.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Agency to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA  
Maura Zlody, EEOS

