

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116

617.859.8439

www.bostongroundwater.org

April 20th, 2022

Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders
Robert Whitney
Co-Chairs

Tim Mitchell
Janine Commerford
Peter Shilland
Aaron Michlewitz
Angie Liou
Ed Flynn
Leah Camhi

Executive Director

Christian Simonelli

Sarah Black, Senior Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 415 Newbury Street Project Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Ms. Black:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 415 Newbury Street Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the Back Bay 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 project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As stated in the document and confirmed at the scoping session the project will be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.

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. Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the document and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.



Following the scoping session on February 4th, 2022, the proponent organized a follow-up virtual meeting with the Trust on February 11th, 2022, to address items related to foundation construction methodology, groundwater recharge system design, groundwater monitoring plan, and building foundation information. The proponent adequately addressed our concerns and will coordinate with the Trust moving forward in regard to groundwater monitoring and building foundation information.

I look forward to continuing to work 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

