

November 3, 2008

Mr. Jay Rourke, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 44 Burbank Street

Dear Mr. Rourke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Small Project Review Application for 44 Burbank Street. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the City 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.

I am pleased that the proponent has included a more thorough groundwater analysis than is often found in SPRA documents. I am pleased as well at the commitment to meet the requirements of the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. The Burbank Street corridor consistently has some of the lowest groundwater levels in the East Fenway neighborhood, so replacing the virtual 100% runoff to sewer in the existing parking lot with an engineered recharge system should be very helpful in addressing that problem. The proponent met with me earlier; I am pleased that his commitment to proactively dealing with groundwater issues remains in place.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can have only a positive on groundwater levels in the Fenway.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED