

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116

617.859.8439

www.bostongroundwater.org

December 2nd, 2020

Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders
Tim Ian Mitchell
Co-Chairs

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

Executive Director

Christian Simonelli

Michael Sinatra, MPA
Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 601 Newbury Street Small Project Review Application (SPRA) Comments

Dear Mr. Sinatra:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 601 Newbury Street Small Project Review Application (SPRA) which is in the Kenmore Square 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.

Although the project is in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code, the SPRA does not reference this in any section of the document.

The GCOD requires that projects to which it applies obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). 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.

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

