

Boston Groundwater Trust to Receive Funding

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Boston Groundwater Trust (the Trust) today announced that it has confirmed the award of three major grants this week from the City of Boston, the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC). The City of Boston will provide \$155,000, EOEA will provide \$50,000, and BWSC will provide \$25,000 for the operations of the Trust. The Trustees approved a \$296,000 operating budget for Fiscal Year 2006 at its meeting held last week in Boston. The grants, combined with \$66,000 in administrative fees already collected by the Trust, fully fund the Trust's operating budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

"The Trust is extremely pleased with the support that we have received from our government partners in our collective efforts to understand and address the groundwater depletion problem in Boston," said Gary Saunders, Co-Chair of the Trust. "In the last year alone, the Trust has significantly increased the monitoring well network in Boston and expanded our operating budget by 100% - this would not have happened without the support and commitment of our government partners."

In total, the Trust has constructed and maintains 529 monitoring wells in Boston. An additional 300 wells are now being installed, with completion scheduled by next Spring. This groundwater monitoring well network now extends through the Fenway, Back Bay, the South End, the Flat of Beacon Hill, and Chinatown. The Bulfinch Triangle, the North End and Downtown waterfronts, the Fort Point Channel section of South Boston, and sections of East Boston will be added to the network this year.

"I am pleased to help secure the resources necessary to fully fund the operations of the Boston Groundwater Trust," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "The work of the Trust is critically important to understanding and addressing the issue of groundwater depletion in Boston. My Administration will continue to work hand in hand with the Trust, individual property owners, and state agencies to identify problem areas and expedite appropriate solutions."

"The state is happy to partner with Mayor Menino and the Trustees in this important effort to monitor the City's groundwater levels and protect the historic properties of Boston," said James Stergios of the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

The Trust has expanded from a completely volunteer organization with an operating budget of \$25,000 in 2002, to an organization with full time staff and an operating budget of nearly \$300,000 for next year.

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