

November 5, 2008

Mr. Tai Y. Lim
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Maverick Street Apartments, East Boston

Dear Mr Lim:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Small Project Review Application for the Maverick Street Apartments. 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 recommend solutions to the problem. Therefore, my comments are limited to groundwater related issues.

While the project is not located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District, there are several areas in East Boston where low groundwater levels exist and many homes are supported on wood pilings. Two of these areas, the Paris Flats and the area near the corner of Maverick and Frankfort Streets, are located quite near the project location.

Although it is not completely clear from the limited information that is included in an SPRA, it appears that the project may have an underground garage. If there is construction below ground, it would be helpful if it is waterproofed so that groundwater will not intrude into the building to then be pumped away and lower nearby groundwater levels. In addition, the waterproofing should eliminate the energy use and noise caused by a pump.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project cannot cause any reduction of area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED