

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 25, 2013

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

Subject: 1350 Boylston Street

Dear Mr. FitzGerald:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Expanded Project Notification Form for 1350 Boylston St. The Boston Groundwater Trust 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.

As noted in the PNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established in Article 32 of the Boston Zoning Code. The project has committed in the document to meeting the recharge requirements established for buildings in the GCOD. Article 32 also requires that the project provide a certification, stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts, showing how it will not cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. Because the project will have a two level below grade parking garage and is adjacent to an area where buildings are supported on wood pilings, this certification is particularly important and must be received, along with the letter from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission showing recharge requirements are met, before the project goes before the Board of Appeals for zoning approvals.

In the PNF, the proponent states that there will be a program of monitoring existing observation wells in the area before and during construction to document groundwater levels. It would be helpful if the project were to install and monitor an additional well south of the building site on Peterborough Street to make sure that there are no groundwater level reductions in that area, where wood piling supported buildings predominate.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED