

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 10th, 2018

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

Subject: 150 Kneeland Street Project Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Mr. Sinatra:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 150 Kneeland Street Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the Leather District. 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As stated in the document and confirmed at the scoping session the project will be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.

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. As stated in the document, no basement is planned beyond the existing basement footprint such that excavation will be limited to that required for pile caps, grade beams, and mechanical pits. Excavation depths are anticipated to be on the order of 4-ft. below the ground surface and above site groundwater levels. Also stated in the document, the Project will result in no negative impact on groundwater levels in the surrounding area. Dewatering is not anticipated to be required for building construction. Any dewatering efforts are anticipated to be limited to control of surface water runoff from precipitation. The Project is expected to have negligible long-term impacts on groundwater levels.

Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the document and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.

As stated at the scoping session, the Project team will coordinate with the Trust to protect groundwater levels in the area and include monitoring and reporting of existing Trust wells' before, during, and following construction. The groundwater level data should be furnished to the Trust and the Agency on a weekly basis. In addition, the proponent confirmed that they will ensure Trust observation well #23K-2568 (located in the sidewalk in front of the project site) will be preserved before, during, and following construction.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian S. Simonelli".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS