

June 1, 2006

Mr. Mark McGowan, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 15 Miner Street

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for the Stonewall Audubon Circle. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of Boston where building foundations are threatened by lowered groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. As such, my comments are restricted to groundwater related issues.

The project is not in an area that is part of the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District, but it is near the historic made land neighborhoods, and the Trust has installed groundwater observation wells nearby. As I stated during the scoping session, I am very pleased that the proponents have chosen to install a groundwater recharge system as part of their project. I am pleased as well that the project plans to use a mat foundation and waterproofed basement to eliminate groundwater pumping.

The PNF states that groundwater levels will be monitored outside the project site during construction. If new observation wells are to be installed, we would ask that the proponent consult with us on their location and design, so that they can be incorporated into our network after construction.

The PNF states that preliminary data indicates that there is one building supported on wood pilings in the vicinity, located approximately 100 feet from the site. In order to help us better map areas of concern, I would appreciate it if the proponent could provide the Trust with the location of that building. If piling cutoff elevation data is available, I would appreciate receiving that as well.

The attention to groundwater issues in a project outside the GCOD is commendable. I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority as the project goes forward.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: John Walser, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED