

October 24, 2008

Ms. Kristin Kara, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 199 West Brookline St

Dear Ms. Kara:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Small Project Review Application for 199 West Brookline Street. 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 make recommendations for solving the problem. Therefore, my comments are limited to groundwater related issues.

I appreciate the proponent's commitment, stated in the supplemental memo that you sent out on October 10, to meet the requirements of Article 32 for recharge and for a demonstration of no harm to groundwater by a project located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. In addition, I appreciate the proponent's agreement at the October 22 Public Meeting to waterproof the below ground sections of the building as he converts that area to a parking garage. The proponent once again stated his commitment to meeting the recharge requirement at the meeting; I believe that we reached an understanding about a method that his engineer can pursue to overcome the limited land area available on the site.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent, his engineer, and the Authority to assure that this project can have only a positive impact on groundwater levels in the South End.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED