

Boston Groundwater Trust

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September 6, 2012

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

Subject: 275 Albany Street Notice of Project Change

Dear Mr. Lopez:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Project Change and Development Plan for 275 Albany Street. 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 established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code and will have to meet GCOD requirements. I am pleased with the commitments included in the Development Plan for Planned Development Area #89 to incorporate systems "that meet the groundwater conservation standards and requirements set forth in Article 32 of the Code." While the Development Plan speaks only of documentation from BWSC that the standards are met, this is an affirmation that applies only to recharge standards. I am pleased to have received a September 5 letter from Melvin R. Shuman, attorney for the project, committing that the proponent will also submit a letter stamped by an engineer describing why the project will cause no harm to groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. The letter commits that both the BWSC letter and that from the engineer will be submitted before the project goes to the Boston Zoning Commission for approval of the Planned Development Area.

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:
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