

# Boston Groundwater Trust

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Christian Simonelli

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Gary R. Uter, Project Manager  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 2 Charlesgate West/120 Ipswich Street Expanded Project  
Notification Form

Dear Mr. Uter:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2 Charlesgate West/120 Ipswich Street Project expanded project notification form (EPNF) located in the Fenway Neighborhood. 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 EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session the project is proposed to be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.

Also stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session 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. The EPNF states that the construction of the foundations and below-grade parking structure will require depths anticipated to be up to 31 feet below the Boylston Street ground surface (approximately El. 0 BCB). The EPNF states that the below-grade levels will be waterproofed.

As stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session, the excavation will be conducted within an engineered lateral earth support system, which will be designed to provide excavation support, limit ground movements outside the excavation to protect adjacent facilities, and maintain groundwater levels outside the excavation by creating a groundwater "cutoff" between the excavation

and the surrounding area. The lateral earth support system will be designed to be installed/sealed into the clay stratum to isolate the excavation and future below-grade garage from the groundwater table.

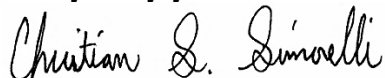
Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BRA and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the EPNF and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels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

The EPNF states that temporary dewatering will be required inside the excavation during excavation and foundation construction to remove “free” water from the soils to be excavated as well as precipitation. The proponent confirmed at the scoping session that the dewatering effluent is scheduled to be deposited onsite into a recharge pit.

The proponent confirmed at the scoping session monitoring data for existing groundwater observation wells will be collected pre, during, and post construction and the data will be furnished to the Trust and the Agency on a weekly basis. In the event that groundwater levels drop below the observed pre-construction baseline levels during construction, provisions must be in place to halt construction and dewatering until the cause is found and remedied. I look forward to working with the proponents Engineer on reviewing the monitoring wells in the area to be read and reported.

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,



Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA  
Maura Zlody, BED