

# Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116  
617.859.8439 voice  
www.bostongroundwater.org

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Subject: 2 Oxford Street Project Notification Form

Dear Mr. Duverge:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project notification form (PNF) for 2 Oxford Street (formerly known as 73-79 Essex 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.

## Executive Director

Christian Simonelli

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

As confirmed in the PNF and at the scoping session 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 PNF and confirmed at the scoping session the basement will include a fitness room as well as laundry and mechanical areas. Also confirmed in the PNF and at the scoping session no on-site or underground parking will be provided. Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the Authority and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the PNF and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.

The PNF states that some local dewatering may be required during the construction process and that the project will comply with applicable MWRA and BWSC discharge permits.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Authority 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