

November 12, 2009

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

Subject: 319 A Street Rear

Dear Ms. Kara:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for 319 A Street Rear. 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.

As noted in the PNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. In the Fort Point Channel neighborhood, projects subject to GCOD are required to show that they will have no negative impact on groundwater levels either on the project site or on adjoining lots. The proponent acknowledges this and says that measures will be taken to assure compliance; however, no such measures are described. There should be details about compliance in the DPIR.

I'm pleased that, during the scoping session, the proponent agreed to allow the Trust to access their two groundwater observation wells previously installed in Pastene Alley and to incorporate them into our network. This agreement should be formalized as well.

As the proponent stated, maintaining adequate groundwater levels is vital to the support of their existing nearby buildings. I look forward to working with them and with the Authority to assure that this project cannot have any negative impacts on those levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED