

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116
617.859.8439 voice – 617.266.8750 fax
www.bostongroundwater.org

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January 10, 2013

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

Subject: 327-337 Summer Street and 319 A Street

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for 327-337 Summer Street and 319 A 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.

As stated in the PNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established in Article 32 of the Zoning Code. In the PNF, the proponent says that the project will have no negative impact on groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots, as required in the GCOD. This is important because all of the historic buildings in the area, including those of the proponent, are supported on wood pilings. The proponent also says that the only locations that may extend below Elevation 7 measured against Boston City Base will be elevator pits, which will be fully waterproofed, and that foundation design will not include permanent foundation drainage or other long term pumping of water. As required under the GCOD, and as agreed to during the scoping session, the proponent should provide a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that shows why the project will not have any negative effect on groundwater levels. This letter should be provided before zoning is approved for the project.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can have only positive impacts on groundwater levels in the Fort Point Channel area.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED