

Boston Groundwater Trust

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October 29, 2010

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

Subject: 368 Congress Street

Dear Mr. Rourke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Project Change for 368 Congress 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.

While the project use has changed from that proposed in the 2007 Project Notification Form, most of the groundwater related discussion remains the same. I am pleased that the proponent has committed to meeting the requirements of the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established by Article 32. In the Fort Point Channel area, the GCOD does not require recharge; however, it does require that a project that includes a greater than 50 square foot addition and/or includes construction below Elevation 7 BCB must furnish a stamped certification by a registered professional engineer showing how the project cannot have an adverse effect on local groundwater levels. At their request, I recently met with the proponents; they understand the requirement to meet this standard.

In the 2007 PNF, the project committed that there would be no perimeter drainage or subslab drainage systems used and that the below grade construction (including elevator pits) would include full waterproofing of the walls and base slab. I trust that these commitments will remain in place in the changed project.

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

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
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