

Boston Groundwater Trust

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May 4th, 2016

Casey Hines, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 370-380 Harrison Avenue Project Notification Form

Dear Ms. Hines:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project notification form (PNF) for 370-380 Harrison Avenue. 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 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 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 final foundation design will be completed after the subsurface exploration program is completed and the structural loads are known. Also stated in the PNF and confirmed at the scoping session two or three levels of underground parking are anticipated. The PNF states that steel sheet piles or slurry wall will be used and extend into the marine clay layer below the lowest garage level by 5 to 15 feet. The PNF also states that waterproofing will be installed against the exterior face of the portions of the garage which extend below observed and predicted groundwater levels as a permanent groundwater cut-off measure. 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 to the extent possible will attempt to infiltrate that water into the ground outside the building footprint.

As stated in the PNF and confirmed at the scoping session groundwater levels will be monitored prior to, during, and following construction to ensure adequate groundwater levels are maintained within the Project vicinity. The data will be furnished to the Trust and the Authority 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 Authority to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian S. Simonelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED