

Boston Groundwater Trust

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October 26th, 2021

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Ebony DaRosa, Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 775 Huntington Avenue Project Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Ms. DaRosa:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 775 Huntington Avenue Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the Mission Hill neighborhood. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) 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.

As stated in the PNF the proposed project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. The PNF acknowledges the requirement of the Boston Smart Utilities (BSU) Program, in which projects consisting of more than 100,000 square feet of floor area are required to collect site runoff of 1.25-inch of rainfall over the Project's impervious area.

The PNF also states the proposed site development includes one level of below-grade parking and the planned excavation is anticipated to be 10 to 12 feet below the existing ground surface, resulting in excavation at and above the current groundwater levels.

As confirmed in the scoping session, compliance with the GCOD requires both an approval letter from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) for 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 in the form of a no harm letter, stamped by a professional Engineer registered in Massachusetts.



The proponent is required to provide both letters to the BPDA and the Trust prior to any filing for a BPDA board meeting and (if required) a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hearing.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Agency to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS

