

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 28th, 2021

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Edward Carmody, Institutional Planner & Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 819 Beacon Street Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) Comments

Dear Mr. Carmody:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 819 Beacon Street Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) which is in the Audubon Circle 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.

At the time the expanded project notification form (EPNF) was submitted this project was not located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. I applauded the proponent for committing to employ groundwater management practices during construction and for committing to achieve groundwater recharge through the implementation of subsurface infiltration systems in accordance with BWSC requirements and the BPDA Smart Utilities Policy.

I again applaud the proponent for acknowledging that since the EPNF filing, the GCOD zoning has been amended and this project is now located in the GCOD.



Compliance with the GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system and a certification that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.

Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the document and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.

As stated at the scoping session, the Project team will coordinate with the Trust to protect groundwater levels in the area and include monitoring and reporting of existing groundwater observation wells before, during, and following construction. The groundwater level data is to be furnished to the Trust and the Agency on a weekly basis.

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

