

Boston Groundwater Trust

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June 21, 2013

Sonal Gandhi, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Boston University Medical Center

Dear Ms. Gandhi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form/Project Notification Form for the Boston University Medical Center. 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 noted in the IMPNF/PNF, the proposed IMP projects are located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established in Article 32 of the Boston Zoning Code. I appreciate the proponent's commitment, as stated in the IMP/PNF, to comply with the recharge requirements that make up one of the standards for approval under the GCOD. As I noted during the scoping session, the GCOD also has a second requirement; to demonstrate that the project will not cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. I appreciate as well the proponent's commitment during the scoping session to provide the mandated certification by an engineer registered in Massachusetts. Because these projects will not be going to the Board of Appeals for GCOD, it is important that these certifications be in hand prior to completion of project approvals.

As noted during the discussions, the Medical Center includes multiple wood piling supported buildings in the area of these projects. Meeting the criteria of the GCOD will help in efforts to maintain groundwater levels at adequate levels to protect those buildings' foundations, as well as those of their neighbors.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that these projects can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED