

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116
617.859.8439 voice – 617.266.8750 fax
www.bostongroundwater.org

Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders
Tim Ian Mitchell
Co-Chairs

Felix G. Arroyo
Janine Commerford
Galen Gilbert
Nancy Griik
James W. Hunt III
Aaron Michlewitz
William Moy
Molly Sherden
Peter Sherin
Peter Shilland
Keith Williams

Executive Director

Elliott Laffer

July 16, 2012

Mr. Erico Lopez, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Boston University School of Law

Dear Mr. Lopez:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for the expansion project at the Boston University School of Law. 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 restricted to groundwater related issues.

I appreciate the proponent's recognition that the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code and commitment to meeting the requirements for construction in the GCOD. The proponent repeats this commitment several times in the PNF and notes that this will also reduce runoff and improve stormwater management.

It appears from the drawings in the PNF, and was confirmed to our Technical and Recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli, at the scoping session, that the new addition will not include a basement and therefore will not have any space extending below elevation 7 BCB. However, it appears that the existing School of Law structure does include a lower level that may well extend into the area of concern. Based on comments in the PNF on other concerns about the condition of this half century old structure, the basement should be inspected to assure that no groundwater is leaking in. If any such leaks are found, the structure should be repaired so that no groundwater is being pumped away.

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

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED