

May 11, 2009

Ms. Sonal Gandhi
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Children's Hospital Boston

Dear Ms. Gandhi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form/Notice of Project Change for Children's Hospital Boston. 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 the proponent acknowledges in the IMPNF/NPC, while the planned project is not in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District, it is located adjacent to its boundary. I am pleased with the proponent's stated commitment in the document to contact the Trust to discuss the project.

The proponent commits to measures to protect groundwater levels during construction. While this is laudable, the project should be designed to assure that it will also not have a negative impact on groundwater levels during operation. I am please that the proponent commits to waterproofing of the below grade space. According to the document, the building is likely to have an underdrain system; any such system should be designed so that it will not create a path that might lead to a drawdown of groundwater in the perched aquifer located in the fill.

I look forward to meeting with the proponent to discuss the project and to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project will have no negative impact on nearby groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED