

Boston Groundwater Trust

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December 10th, 2015

Katelyn Sullivan, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Emerson College New Julie Hall PNF

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project notification form (PNF) for the Emerson College New Julie Hall. The Boston Groundwater Trust 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 and confirmed at the scoping session the project is proposed to be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32. The PNF also states that the construction of a mat foundation and a below-grade parking level are anticipated. As stated at the scoping session, the current building has an existing basement and excavation for the mat foundation system and the below-grade parking level will not be performed below the current building's basement elevation. Also stated in the PNF and confirmed at the scoping session, the mat foundation system and the perimeter foundation wall system will be waterproofed to prevent groundwater intrusion into the proposed basement space. As stated in the PNF and confirmed at the scoping session, the proponent will demonstrate that the proposed project meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots by obtaining a stamped certification from a Massachusetts registered engineer that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the PNF. The letter must also confirm that no underdrains will be installed and that all elevator pits will be waterproofed. This letter should be provided to the Trust and the Board of Appeals before zoning is approved for the project.

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

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED