

Boston Groundwater Trust

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December 9th, 2014

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

Subject: Emerson College the Little Building Renovation IMPNF

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Project Notification Form (IMPNF) for Emerson College the Little Building Renovation. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the City where the integrity of building foundations, especially those supported by wood pilings, is threatened by lowered groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. As such, my comments are restricted to groundwater related issues.

As stated in the IMPNF and in the scoping session the proponent acknowledged that the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District and committed to meeting the standards required under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. Although the IMPNF speaks of capturing rainwater in a basement tank and then discharging it into the BWSC drainage system at a reduced rate, I was also pleased that the proponent agreed at the scoping session that Emerson would explore providing the required recharge to meet the zoning requirements. I look forward to the more detailed engineering certification of how the design meets the criteria in the stamped certification from the engineer.

Since this is an Institutional Master Plan project, it will not go to the Board of Appeals. Therefore, the engineer's certification and the BWSC approval of the recharge system need to be in place before BRA approval. I look forward to working with the proponent and the Redevelopment Authority to assure that the project can have only positive impacts on groundwater levels in the area.

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED