

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 26, 2011

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in July.
2. **MBTA** – The design contract for the Tunnel Repair Project that includes the work to design the long term solution to low groundwater problems in the South End near Back Bay Station is currently being reviewed in the MBTA Legal Department. It will then go to the General Manager and the MBTA Board for approval.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has repaired the problem in the manhole that feeds one of the recharge galleries under Back Street from the Storrow Drive Tunnel pump station; groundwater levels on Back Street have largely recovered from their drop. BWSC plans to have completed a television inspection of the junction between a drain line on Dartmouth Street and the West Side Interceptor sewer under Beacon Street that is now thought to be the most likely cause of the depressed groundwater levels along Dartmouth Street by the end of the month; if they can find the leak, a repair plan will follow.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT plans to begin the cleaning and inspection of the drain line serving the Prudential Tunnel of the Turnpike shortly. This will be the first cleanout of the drain line since the extension was built over 50 years ago. It may well reveal potential causes of low groundwater levels in several areas adjacent to the Turnpike and its ramps.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements. The BRA has also made sure that those projects that are part of Institutional Master Plans or Planned Development Areas and don't go before the Board of Appeals still meet all of the requirements of the GCOD. Project proponents now understand the importance of compliance and have been generally very cooperative. There are now 134 recharge systems in service that were installed under GCOD.
6. **Technical Advisory Committee** – We have expanded our Technical Advisory Committee to include a representative of Sanborn, Head Associates, an engineering firm that has just begun working on geotechnical projects in the GCOD area. Kevin Stetson will join Jim Lambrechts of Wentworth, Mike Pastor of GEI, John Kastrinos of Haley & Aldrich, Bruce Fairless of GZA, Chris Erickson of McPhail, and our trustee Peter Shilland of CDM on our powerhouse committee, all of whom serve as volunteers.
7. **Website** – Traffic to the website has been climbing in recent months. There is a lot of traffic to the Recharge tab, as well as steady traffic to the wells section. We continue to get unsolicited compliments on the material on the site and its presentation.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with Avalon Bay Communities and their engineer at their Exeter Street site in the Prudential Center to discuss the recharge system and plans to monitor groundwater levels before and during construction on their planned apartment tower that is expected to begin shortly. We met with the engineer for a

project planned for 126 Brookline Avenue to discuss issues around potential GCOD compliance problems..

- 9. Comment Letters** – I have filed comments on the Planned Development Area Master Plan for the modifications to the Christian Science Plaza. They will be posted shortly to our website.