

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 14th, 2021

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Aisling Kerr, Senior Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Fenway Development Project, Project Notification Form (PNF)
Comments

Dear Ms. Kerr:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fenway Development Project, Project Notification Form (PNF) which is located in the Fenway. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) 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.

The document states that the project site consists of 4 parcels to be developed and constructed on approximately 5.32 acres of privately-owned land within the Fenway neighborhood. In addition, the document also states that due to the scale of and number of Development Components associated with the Project, the Project will involve phasing the development of each Project Component.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As stated in the document the project will be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.



Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the BGwT a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the document and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. This is in addition to the required recharge system approval letter from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission.

Due to the multiple parcels and phasing of each project component it is essential that the required documentation and the geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring program for each of the 4 parcels be provided to the BGwT in a manner consistent with the phasing of each parcel.

In addition, I would like to applaud the proponent for highlighting the existing BGwT groundwater observation wells throughout the project area. It is essential that these wells be preserved throughout all phases of the work.

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

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS

