

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116
617.859.8439 voice
www.bostongroundwater.org

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September 27th, 2016

Sonal Gandhi, Senior Policy Advisor
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: GE Headquarters Project ENF/PNF

Dear Ms. Gandhi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GE Headquarters Project ENF/PNF located in the Fort Point Neighborhood. 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. The ENF/PNF states that the project will be designed to not lower groundwater levels. The proponent confirmed this at the scoping session on August 10th, 2016. In the Fort Point area, the GCOD does not require recharge but it does require the proponent to furnish a stamped certification letter by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts detailing how it will accomplish what is stated in the ENF/PNF and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. This letter must be provided to the Authority and the Trust before zoning is approved for the project. The site is in an area with wood piling supported buildings, and maintenance of adequate groundwater levels is necessary to preserve the integrity of their foundations.

Despite not being required to install one in this area of the GCOD, the ENF/PNF states that a groundwater recharge system will be installed. The ENF/PNF also states that groundwater monitoring will be undertaken during the design phase and will continue through construction at area groundwater observation wells. The proponent confirmed this at the scoping session on August 10th, 2016. At the scoping session the proponent also confirmed that the results of the monitoring will be sent to the Authority and the Trust and on a regular basis.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian S. Simonelli".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED