

March 24, 2009

Ms. Kristen Kara, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Government Center Garage Redevelopment Project

Dear Ms. Kara:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for the Government Center Garage Redevelopment. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the City 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 noted in the PNF, the project is not located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. However, portions of the site are adjacent to the Bulfinch Triangle neighborhood included in the GCOD and have the potential to affect groundwater levels in that area. Therefore, I was pleased with the commitment of the proponent at the scoping session that the underground garages proposed for both Parcel 1 and Parcels 2-3 would be designed in such a way that they would not reduce nearby groundwater levels.

As part of the DPIR, the proponent should be required to flesh out this commitment with details on how the garages will meet the standard that was verbally agreed to at the scoping session. The detail should be as great as would be required if the project were within the GCOD. The proponent should commit, as well, to install additional monitoring wells in the Bulfinch Triangle area nearest the project so that changes in that area could be quickly identified and rectified.

I appreciate the proponent's commitment, both in the PNF and verbally at the scoping session, to work with the Trust on groundwater issues. I look forward to cooperating with the Authority and the proponent to assure that the project cannot have a negative effect on groundwater levels in the area.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED