

Boston Groundwater Trust

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November 5th, 2014

Christopher Tracy, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Haymarket Hotel Parcel 9 Project Notification Form and Article 80 B Review

Dear Mr. Tracy:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for Haymarket Hotel Parcel 9. 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.

While the project is not located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District, it is adjacent to an area where buildings are supported on existing wood pilings and are vulnerable to lowered groundwater levels. As stated in the PNF and confirmed at the scoping session the proposed structure will not have any basement levels and will have no long-term groundwater pumping.

The PNF also states that the proposed structure may or may not include a limited area below-grade mechanical space. As stated in the PNF and also confirmed at the scoping session, if the small mechanical space is constructed, the foundation walls and floor slab will be waterproofed, as required. Long-term groundwater pumping can have adverse effects on the surrounding groundwater table.

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