

# Boston Groundwater Trust

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March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Gary R. Uter, Project Assistant  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
One City Hall Ave., Ninth Floor  
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Loftel Boston @ 151 Porter Street Project Notification Form

Dear Mr. Uter:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the PNF for the Loftel Boston @ 151 Porter Street. 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.

While the project is not located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District, it is in an area with very low groundwater levels and where existing buildings are supported on wood pilings. As stated by the proponent in the PNF the existing building foundation system installed for the original building construction (1911) was wood piles with the tops of the piles cut off about El. 6 (BCB). The PNF also states that the existing foundations are planned to be reused for the renovated structure and that there is no evidence of foundation distress and the wood pile foundations are expected to be serviceable for the renovated building. The PNF states that there is no basement with the exception of a mechanical room in the existing structure.

I was pleased that the PNF stated that the renovated building will not impact area groundwater levels. Also, that any new elevator pits extending below the lowest level floor slab will be fully waterproofed, that no new basement space is planned, and that dewatering will not be required for construction.

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,



Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA  
Maura Zlody, BED