

Boston Groundwater Trust

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March 21st, 2019

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

**Subject: Massachusetts General Hospital Clinical Building Project
Notification Form/ Institutional Master Plan Notification Form
Comments**

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Massachusetts General Hospital Clinical Building Project Notification Form (PNF)/ Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF) which is located in Beacon Hill. 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.


While the project is not located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code, it is only a short distance from the Lower Beacon Hill neighborhood, an area that is within the GCOD and where several existing buildings are supported on wood pilings. According to the PNF/IMPNF, the proposed Clinical Building structure will have six below grade stories including approximately 1,100 parking spaces, representing an increase of approximately 449 net new parking spaces. The document also states that the Clinical Building includes tunnels from the Clinical Building to the Campus Services Building and the existing Main Campus buildings. In addition the Campus Services Building will have two stories below grade.

Precautions must be taken in the design and construction of the below grade portions of both projects to make sure that neither will cause reductions in nearby groundwater levels. In addition to waterproofing the structure, tunnels, foundation walls, and elevator pits these precautions should assure that no path is created that will allow groundwater to drain from the upper trapped aquifer to a lower aquifer. Also under no circumstances should underdrains or sumps be part of the foundation design and construction.

The proponent should establish a groundwater level monitoring program prior to, during, and after construction. The purpose of the program is to establish, document, and maintain baseline groundwater water levels throughout the entire construction period.

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,

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

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS