

July 2, 2009

Ms. Sonal Gandhi, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Massachusetts Mental Health Center Redevelopment Project

Dear Ms. Gandhi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for the MMHC Redevelopment Project. 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. I appreciate the commitment, as stated in the document, that the project will be designed to ensure that area groundwater levels are maintained and to work with the Trust toward the achievement of this goal. In this case, that will require particular attention to the design of the multi-level underground garage planned for the Brigham and Women's building. I appreciate, as well, the response from the proponents at the scoping session that, to their knowledge, buildings in the vicinity are not supported on wood pilings.

I look forward to working with the Authority and the proponents to assure that their commitment to maintain groundwater levels is achieved.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED