

Boston Groundwater Trust

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February 13th, 2019

Aisling Kerr, Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Parcel 12 Project Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Ms. Kerr:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parcel 12 project notification form (PNF) which is located in the Back Bay. 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. The document states that the Project will endeavor to infiltrate not less than one (1) inch of rainfall across the portion of the Project Site to be occupied by the Project and will not have a negative effect on existing groundwater levels on the Project Site or adjacent lots.

GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system to capture one (1) inch of rainfall across the portion of the Project Site and a demonstration that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. The PNF states that the lowest parking level below the office building will be approximately at or slightly below area groundwater levels. Temporary construction dewatering will be required within the limits of watertight temporary excavation support system to conduct excavation and construction in the dry. Stormwater and groundwater within the excavation will be collected and discharged under appropriate permits.

The proponent is scheduled to meet with the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review their proposed plans for GCOD compliance. Following that meeting the proponent has committed to meeting with the BGwT to discuss full compliance with both provisions of the GCOD.

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