

Boston Groundwater Trust

229 Berkeley St, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02116
617.859.8439 voice – 617.266.8750 fax
www.bostongroundwater.org

Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders
Tim Ian Mitchell
Co-Chairs

Felix G. Arroyo
Janine Commerford
Greg Galer
Galen Gilbert
Stephanie Krueel
Aaron Michlewitz
William Moy
Molly Sherden
Peter Shilland
Brian Swett
Keith Williams

Executive Director

Elliott Laffer

March 28, 2013

Mr. John FitzGerald, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: The Point, Fenway

Dear Mr. FitzGerald:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Expanded Project Notification Form for The Point. 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.

As stated in the PNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. The document includes the proponent's assurance that it will meet the requirements of the GCOD. These include both the installation of a recharge system of a size described in the Code and a certification, in a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts, stating why the project will not cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjacent lots. Because, according to the PNF, the project will be an addition to an existing Planned Development Area and will not go before the Board of Appeals, both the certification and approval of the recharge system, if possible, should be completed before the project receives final zoning approval from the Zoning Commission.

In the PNF, the proponent states that it will install new groundwater observation wells prior to construction to facilitate monitoring of groundwater levels both before and during construction. I look forward to working with the proponent to select the best locations for these wells. They should be in the public sidewalk, should be constructed to Trust standards, and, in accordance with City policy, should be turned over to the Trust for incorporation into our observation well network when no longer needed by the project. Readings taken by the proponent should be transmitted to the Authority and the Trust shortly after they are taken.

According to the drawings in the PNF, and as confirmed during the scoping session, the project does not anticipate any construction for occupiable space extending below Elevation 7 BCB. The proponent also asserts that the project does not expect groundwater levels to be reduced, but that they may increase in the area because of the recharge system. I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can only have positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED