

Boston Groundwater Trust

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September 17, 2013

Katelyn Sullivan, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Emerson College IMPNF/PNF

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form and Project Notification Form for the Emerson College project at 1-3 Boylston Place. 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, especially those supported on wood pilings, 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 IMPNF/PNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As reiterated during the scoping session, the proponent will comply with the requirements of the GCOD. Subsequent to the submission of the IMPNF/PNF and the scoping session, I received a copy of a letter from Joel Mooney, P.E., of Haley and Aldrich to Margaret Ings of Emerson College that describes the planned recharge system as well as the steps that will be taken to assure that the project will not have a negative impact on local groundwater levels. A similar letter bearing the engineer's stamp should be submitted to the Authority and copied to the Trust prior to completion of the zoning process. In addition, the plans for the recharge will have to be approved by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

I am pleased that the proponent included in the PNF a description of the foundation systems supporting nearby structures. This detail is helpful to us as we continue to refine our understanding of substructures in groundwater sensitive areas.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED