

Boston Groundwater Trust

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November 19, 2013

Ms. Casey Hines, Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 345 Harrison Avenue

Dear Ms. Hines:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Expanded Project Notification Form for 345 Harrison Avenue site. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in areas of Boston where the integrity of building foundations, especially those supported by 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 EPNF, the project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established in Article 32 of the Boston Zoning Code. The project has committed in the document to meeting the recharge requirements established for buildings in the GCOD.

Article 32 also requires that the project provide a certification, stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts, showing how it will not cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. As stated in the EPNF, the project's lowest floor levels are planned to match current and existing grades of streets and sidewalks surrounding the site with no planned underground space. The proponent also stated that all elevator pits will be waterproofed and that no underdrains will be installed. The proponent stated in the EPNF and at the scoping session that they will demonstrate the project meets these requirements by providing the above mentioned stamped certification.

Because the project is located in a Planned Development Area and will have no further zoning review by the Board of Appeals, this certification should be provided before the completion of the Article 80 review process.

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