

# Boston Groundwater Trust

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June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

Subject: 500 Boylston Street Expanded Project Notification Form

Dear Ms. Hines:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the expanded project notification form (EPNF) for 500 Boylston Street. 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. Prior to the scoping session the proponent met with the Trust to review the project and potential locations for the required recharge system. As stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session the project will be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.

The EPNF states that existing utility services and infrastructure will be used to support the new structure. In addition, an engineering analysis will be performed to ensure that the Project is properly supported by the existing infrastructure. As part of this engineering analysis we request that any groundwater infiltration discovered be recorded and that the volume of this infiltration be identified.

The site is in area with wood piling supported buildings, and maintenance of adequate groundwater levels is necessary to preserve the integrity of their foundations. One of the City's oldest structures, Trinity Church, is adjacent to the project and is supported on more than 5,000 wood pilings.

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

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BRA  
Maura Zlody, BED