Sept. 23, 2009

Ms. Maria Faria, Assistant Director of Housing Boston Redevelopment Authority One City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 691 Massachusetts Avenue

Dear Ms. Faria:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Small Project Review Application for 691 Massachusetts Avenue. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the City 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 proposed project is located just beyond the edge of the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. Therefore, it is not required to meet the GCOD mandated recharge standards. However, because of the planned underground garage, the project should be designed so that it cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels in the area. The underground area should be completely waterproofed. Ideally, there should not be an underdrain system; however, if one is to be installed, provisions should be taken to prevent the creation of a path for groundwater trapped in an upper aquifer to drain to one below.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that this project can have no negative impact on nearby groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA Maura Zlody, BED