

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
February 12, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met in January. Reports from individual agencies are summarized below.
2. **MBTA** – The T has turned on the new recharge wells in the South End near Back Bay Station. Their consultants will be closely monitoring groundwater levels in the area over the next month or so and adjusting flows on the new and existing wells as needed. We have data loggers in multiple wells in the area and will be closely watching the levels; as always, results will be posted on our website.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC repaired two manholes in the North End, leading to a recovery in groundwater levels along Commercial St between Cross and Richmond Streets. They continue to investigate the cause of low levels along Commercial Street north of Richmond Street, including sending a diver into a large line there to inspect for leaks. They are continuing to investigate why the repairs made to the sewer line in Blagden Street behind the Boston Public Library have not led to increased groundwater levels. The required repairs at the Benjamin Franklin Institute to eliminate groundwater pumping there require warmer weather, but are hoped to occur soon.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the rest of the drain line from the MassPike Prudential tunnel and discovered a leak near Exit 20, very close to a long standing low groundwater zone at the corner of Exeter Street and Huntington Avenue. Because the grouting repair requires warmer weather, it will likely take place in the spring.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. The Board of Appeals is putting in place a streamlined system that will set up a special portion of Board hearings for those projects that require only a conditional use permit for GCOD; this will take them out of the regular queue, reduce wait time for a hearing on these cases, and also allow the Board to slot additional cases in its regular agenda.
6. **Porous Alley** – Design work on the project to install a porous surface in Public Alley 543 in the South End is largely complete, and the project should go out for bid shortly.
7. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with proponents of projects at 341 Newbury Street and 526 Massachusetts Avenue. We also attended a presentation by GZA on coastal flooding.
9. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation next week, February 17-21.