

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 17, 2011

- 1. City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on April 28.
- 2. Well Readings** – Because of the snow blocking access, we were unable to resume well readings in January. While there are still many wells that we cannot reach, we resumed readings this week. As always, readings are posted shortly after the wells are read.
- 3. MBTA** – The MBTA is negotiating terms and conditions with GZA for their tunnel repair design contract. They hope that the contract, for in which one of the earliest projects is design of the long term solution for low groundwater in the area near Back Bay Station, will be signed and the engineer given authorization to proceed by April. The plan remains to focus on repairing the leak rather than making up water.
- 4. BWSC** – The snow has limited the ability of BWSC to proceed with repairs and caused a further backlog of work they need to address. While they are still working on a long term solution for the low water levels along Dartmouth Street, they plan to do some additional grouting in the near future to try to reduce the leakage.
- 5. MassDOT** – As part of a paving project in the Prudential tunnel on the Turnpike, MassDOT this summer will clean a drain line servicing the tunnel. This will allow inspection of the drain line (which has not been cleaned out since the Turnpike extension was built in the 1960's) to see if there are leaks there that could be contributing to low groundwater levels in the Back Bay and Bay Village near the Turnpike. MassDOT continues to look at potential recharge applications for storm water from the Central Artery.
- 6. East Boston** – The wells in the Visconti Road/Porter Street area that we were able to access this week continue to show significant increases in groundwater levels.
- 7. GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements. The BRA has also made sure that those projects that are part of Institutional Master Plans or Planned Development Areas and don't go before the Board of Appeals still meet all of the requirements of the GCOD.
- 8. Research Project** – The report of the Tufts researchers on the impact of recharge on groundwater levels is posted on our website.
- 9. Website** – Traffic to the website has continued to increase, with early February visits at the highest pace in years. Christian has developed additional information on types of recharge systems that have been installed to meet GCOD requirements; this has been posted to the Recharge section of the website.
- 10. Meetings** – I've met with the proponents of projects at Parcel 24 in Chinatown, at the YMCA on Huntington Avenue, and at the Windsor School to discuss how they can comply with GCOD requirements.
- 11. Comment Letters** – I have filed comments on projects at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Garden Garage, and Parcel 24. As always, they are posted on our website.

- 12. Publicity** – The South End News did a piece on the benefits of recharge, keyed to the release of the Tufts report.
- 13. Vacation** – I will be on vacation the week of February 21.