

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 20, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in April.
2. **MBTA** – The T's consultants are closely monitoring the results of the increase in recharge from their new wells and have adjusted some of the flows. Our most recent readings, as well as the data loggers that we have in multiple observation wells in the area, show a substantial increase in groundwater levels at several locations, although some are still not high enough to completely protect pilings.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. They continue to press the Benjamin Franklin Institute to complete their planned repairs so that the Institute will no longer be pumping groundwater.
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 220 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. The Board of Appeals has put in place a streamlined system that sets 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** – I met with the community liaison for newly elected District 8 Councilor (and trustee) Josh Zakim to update her on the groundwater issue. I also met with a graduate student at the Boston Architectural College who is studying ways to build coalitions to advance issues of interest to both the commercial and residential communities and wanted to learn how the efforts around groundwater came together.