

July 23, 2008

Mr. Jay Rourke, Senior Project Manager
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Merano at the Bulfinch Triangle

Dear Mr. Rourke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification Form for the Merano. 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.

As the proponent notes, the project is located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. In the Bulfinch Triangle section of the GCOD, there is no requirement for recharge, but the proponent must demonstrate that the project will not have a negative impact on groundwater levels in the area. The PNF states that the project will be largely built above the Central Artery tunnels, with that portion not above the tunnels supported by piles driven to bedrock. According to the document, no construction will take place below the existing groundwater levels measured at between Elevations 7 and 11 BCB. There are also to be no perimeter or underslab drains that could potentially draw down groundwater levels.

I am pleased that the proponent will be monitoring groundwater levels before and during construction. This data should be provided to the Authority and to the Trust shortly after it is measured.

The project as described in the PNF appears likely to meet the standard of not causing harm to groundwater levels in the area.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED