## Boston Groundwater Trust

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December 16, 2010

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

Subject: Simmons College

Dear Mr. Autler:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Notification for Simmons College. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of Boston 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.

In its discussion of zoning, the IMPNF makes no mention of the applicability of Article 32 of the zoning code. While Article 32 had not yet been adopted when the current Institutional Master Plan for Simmons was put in place, the entire Simmons campus is included in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District established under the article and should apply to this and any subsequent revisions to the IMP. Because the Proposed Future Projects will almost certainly be covered under at least one of the triggers that define GCOD applicability, the proponent should commit to meeting this critical zoning requirement. Details of how that will be accomplished for a specific project will be worked out during the Article 80 process.

I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that future projects on the Simmons campus can have only positive impacts on local groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA Maura Zlody, BED

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