

Boston Groundwater Trust

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April 8th, 2019

Michael Sinatra, Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Taj Hotel (15 Arlington Street) Project Notification Form (PNF)
Comments

Dear Mr. Sinatra:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Taj Hotel (15 Arlington Street) Project Notification Form (PNF) which is located in the Back Bay. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. The document states that the Project will strive to comply with Article 32 and Article 80 by capturing within a suitably-designed system a volume of rainfall on the lot equivalent to no less than 1.25 inches across that portion of the surface area of the lot to be occupied by the Project. The Project will result in no negative impact on groundwater levels within the lot in question or adjacent lots, subject to the terms of any (i) dewatering permit or (ii) cooperation agreement entered into by the Proponent and the BPDA, to the extent that such agreement provides standards for groundwater protection during construction. The document also states that no below grade work is proposed other than in the current finished basement.

The proponent confirmed at the scoping session that the recharge system will be located on Hotel property, under the sidewalk, at the corner of Arlington and Newbury Street. In addition, the proponent confirmed that no work will be performed below El. 7' BCB and that no permanent or occupiable space will be created below El. 7' BCB.

Also at the scoping session the proponent confirmed that they will ensure Trust observation well #23J-1258, located in the sidewalk, adjacent to the Arlington Street Hotel entrance, will be preserved before, during, and following construction. In addition, the proponent committed to installing porous pavers along Arlington and Newbury Street sidewalks.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Agency to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian S. Simonelli".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS