

Boston Groundwater Trust

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October 13, 2010

Ms. Katelyn Sullivan, Project Assistant
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Wentworth Institute of Technology Master plan

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan for Wentworth. 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.

I am pleased that the proponent has acknowledged that the campus is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District and has committed to meeting the standards required in the GCOD. The commitment to have their plans reviewed by BWSC and shared with the BRA and the Trust in lieu of going to the Board of Appeals resolves the issue of assuring compliance in an IMP.

I am pleased as well that the proponent plans to recharge groundwater in other portions of the campus in amounts greater than required under GCOD and that, according to the IMP, they have already been doing so.

It would be helpful in our efforts if Wentworth could identify any of the buildings on their campus that are wood piling supported, as well as any nearby structures that are similarly supported.

As a disclosure, Wentworth has long been a supporter of the work of the Trust. One of their faculty members serves on our uncompensated Technical Advisory Committee, and we have long used Wentworth students on either a cooperative education or part-time basis as part of our groundwater observation well monitoring efforts. I look forward to working with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the planned new projects can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED