

# **Boston Groundwater Trust**

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[www.bostongroundwater.org](http://www.bostongroundwater.org)

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Christian Simonelli

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

**Subject: 149-155 Newbury Street (The Aubry) Small Project Review Application (SPRA) Comments**

Dear Mr. Sinatra:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 149-155 Newbury Street (The Aubry) Small Project Review Application (SPRA) located in the Back Bay neighborhood. 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 document states that the Project will be seeking a Conditional Use Permit due to the project being in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD).

At the virtual public meeting via Zoom on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 the proponent confirmed compliance the GCOD. The proponent stated that the anticipated location of the groundwater recharge system will be located adjacent to the project site, in Public Alley No. 434.



Compliance with the GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system and a demonstration that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the Proponent will provide the BPDA and the Boston Groundwater Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how the Project will meet the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on Site or on adjoining lots.

I look forward to the follow-up meeting with the proponent. In addition to working with them and the Agency to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA  
Maura Zlody, EEOS

