

Boston Groundwater Trust

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

Subject: 65 Wareham Street Project Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Mr. Polanco:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 65 Wareham Street Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the South End 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 project is in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As stated in the document and confirmed at the scoping session the project will be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32.

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. Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the BGwT a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish what is stated in the document and meets the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.



The PNF states that the geotechnical engineer and construction manager will work closely together throughout excavations and construction of foundations to avoid adverse impacts to adjacent structures and infrastructure for the proposed two below-grade levels.

Projects proposing deep below-grade space are required to establish a groundwater monitoring plan prior to the commencement of construction. As confirmed at the scoping session, the monitoring data from existing groundwater observation wells will be collected pre and post construction and the data will be furnished to the Trust and the Authority on a weekly basis. The proponent will also work with the BGwT to determine which well(s) will be monitored during prior to, during, and post construction.

The PNF also states that existing and adjacent buildings are supported on a combination of timber piles, concrete footings, and/or rubble fill bearing on granular fill or urban fill soils. The proponent committed to provide the BGwT documentation of subsurface and foundation investigations to be performed at the site at the scoping session.

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,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS

