

Boston Groundwater Trust

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July 19, 2011

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

Subject: Emmanuel College IMPNF

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form for Emmanuel College. 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 very disappointed that the IMPNF does not note, in its analysis of zoning/regulator context, that the campus is located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. As with all other institutions doing construction within the GCOD, Emmanuel College should be required to meet the standards established under Article 32, including both providing the specified amount of recharge and demonstrating that the projects cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels.

Because there is no reference to groundwater in the IMPNF, I cannot comment on the specifics of any plans. As with any Institutional Master Plan or Planned Development Area projects, Emmanuel should commit to meeting the GCOD requirements before receiving any approvals from the BRA or the Zoning Commission and should have their recharge plans approved by BWSC and their letter, stamped by a Massachusetts registered professional engineer, demonstrating no reduction groundwater levels in place before any construction can proceed.

I look forward to working with the college and its consultants to help them meet the GCOD requirements so that the projects under the master plan can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED