September 21, 2006

Mr. Mark McGowan
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Jacob Wirth's/31-45 Stuart Street

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project Notification
Form for the Jacob Wirth's project. The Boston Groundwater Trust was
established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in
sections where building foundations are threatened by lowered
groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the
problem. As such, my comments are restricted to groundwater related
issues.

As the PNF states, the project is located within the Groundwater
Conservation Overlay District established under Article 32 of the Boston
Zoning Code and is covered by its provisions. Among the requirements of
the code are that the proponent demonstrate that the project will have no
negative effect on groundwater levels within the lot or on any adjoining
lots and that the project be designed to capture for recharge within a
properly designed system a defined amount a defined amount of the
rainfall that falls on the project. While the PNF commits to fulfilling both
of these requirements, it does not indicate how it will do so. Since the
project includes a multistory underground garage and plans an underslab
drainage system, it is important that the engineers show in the DPIR in
detail how the design will not cause a reduction in groundwater levels. It
is also important that the size and location of the recharge system be
shown.

I was very pleased that the proponent committed in the scoping session to meet these requirements in the PNF and look forward to reviewing them when that document is issued. I am confident that, with the best efforts of the proponent and the Authority, these requirements will be met and the project will have only a positive impact on groundwater levels. Please contact me if there is any way that the Trust can be helpful in these efforts.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Maura Zlody, BED