

Boston Groundwater Trust

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June 5th, 2018

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

Subject: Kenmore Square Redevelopment Notification Form (PNF) Comments

Dear Mr. Czerwienski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Kenmore Square Redevelopment Notification Form (PNF) located in the Fenway. The Boston Groundwater Trust 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 located 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. As stated in the document, two floors of underground parking will be located beneath the proposed Commonwealth Building. Also stated in the document below grade retail space will be included in the Beacon Building. Figure 1-5 of the document indicates the Commonwealth Building will have a basement elevation that terminates at EL. +0'-2", Boston City Base, and the Beacon Building will have a basement elevation that terminates at EL. +6'-11", Boston City Base; both terminating below the Article 32 zoning threshold of EL. +7'. According to online records on the Inspectional Services Department Website, 650 and 656 Beacon Street are supported on pilings with cutoff elevations of EL. 4' & 7' Boston City Base. In addition, there are many wood pile supported buildings in this neighborhood.

Before the GCOD zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent must provide the BPDA and the Trust 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.

As stated at the scoping session, the Project team will coordinate with the Trust to protect groundwater levels in the area, and the Proponent will include monitoring and reporting of existing Trust wells' before, during, and following construction. The groundwater level data should be furnished to the Trust and the Agency on a weekly basis.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian S. Simonelli".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, EEOS