

BOSTON
GROUNDWATER TRUST

222 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116
617.425.0900 voice
617.425.0901 fax
bostongroundwater.org

October 28, 2003

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Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
MEPA Office
251 Causeway St., Suite 900
Boston, MA 02214

Re: Boston Groundwater Trust
Environmental Bond Bill 2003

Dear Secretary Herzfelder:

With our gratitude, this letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Fiscal Year 2003 installment for construction of groundwater level monitoring wells in Boston, as provided in the Commonwealth's Environmental Bond Bill of 2003. And it is our hope that the upcoming payment can be considered for allocation early in the Fiscal 2004 funding cycle.

As you may be aware, we have been working to expand the observation well network and to help address concerns about foundation damage in Boston's historic landfill neighborhoods that is resulting from groundwater depletions. This has involved an extraordinary coordination of governmental efforts for which we thank Karl Honkonen of your office, Regina McCarthy of the Office of Commonwealth Development, Toni Pollak, Director of Boston's Department of Environment and William Holland from Mayor Menino's office. To that end, we are eager to report to you our progress to date utilizing the Commonwealth's first \$500,000. payment, which was received in August.

In September thirty new observation wells were constructed, the first planned installation program since the 1940's WPA project. Since then water level readings from these locations have been added to our 4 ½ year monitoring effort and now are posted for public access on www.bostongroundwater.org, the information web-site that we operate. Beginning in October, following successful confirmation of our planning and construction techniques, we began a second phase of observation well network construction; one hundred additional locations by Thanksgiving. In mid-Spring after winter construction hiatus, the network will have been doubled to about 400 wells from its size of just nine months previous. This is a significant milestone that will have been the direct result of initial Environmental Bond Bill funding.

There is an extensive labor of planning, documentation, permitting and contractor selection that precedes actual construction. Ideally, and with funding confirmation in place, we hope to use next summer's season more efficiently by performing preparation work this coming January and February. This is the reason we ask your help in securing funding allocation as early as possible, as we cannot bid or award additional well installations until we have the Fiscal 2004 funding in hand.

To be an effective resource for problem solving, water level data from the completed well network, as envisioned in the full \$1.6 million legislation, is now critical. To assure your continuing support we hope to meet, at your convenience, to outline more fully the importance of this initiative.

We will plan to contact your office next week to coordinate a possible meeting.

Very truly yours,

Gary L. Saunders

Tim Ian Mitchell

Trustees & Co-Chairs, Boston Groundwater Trust

Copies:

Representative Paul Demakis
Representative Byron Rushing
Senator Dianne Wilkerson
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Karl Honkonen
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William Holland