



MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
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August 8, 2008

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: Deirdre Buckley
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

**RE: DEIR for the Assembly Square Mixed-Use Redevelopment
EOEA Number 13989**

Dear Mr. Bowles:

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Mystic River, its tributaries, and the related natural resources throughout the watershed's 22 communities. We respectfully submit comments on the DEIR for the Assembly Square Mixed-Use Redevelopment in Somerville, Massachusetts, EOEA Number 13989. We are grateful for the opportunity to comment.

MyRWA supports the creation of new parkland along the riverfront and increased access and visibility of Draw 7 Park for pedestrians and bikers. We do not, however, see pedestrian/bike pathways giving access to the riverfront park and Draw 7 for the community outside of the proposed development.

- **We ask that multi-use pedestrian/bike paths, providing access to the parkland from the surrounding communities, be added to the design. This would include connections from the parkland to East Somerville under Route 93, to the future Amelia Earhart Dam Crossing, and along the waterfront to Sullivan Square and Ryan Park. This would also include the "IKEA" path along the Orange Line tracks that has been discussed but is not reflected in the DEIR.**
- **We ask that the Orange Line underpass that connects the Assembly Square development with Draw 7 Park be widened and otherwise improved to accommodate the desired increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic.**

MyRWA supports the creation of a new T stop to provide public transit access to the site. We do not, however, see a head-house close enough to the IKEA store to provide a manageable alternative

to vehicle trips to the store, particularly for purchasers of furniture; and we do not see a direct connection from the T stop to Draw 7 Park and the future Amelia Earhart Dam crossing.

- **We ask that a second head-house be added to the design of the T stop. This relatively simple measure could drastically reduce vehicle trips to the site.**
- **We also ask that another exit be provided from the station over the commuter rail tracks to the Mystic River, Draw 7 Park and the future Amelia Earhart Dam crossing. Again, this will improve access and increase community presence in the riverfront parkland and encourage use of public and bicycle transportation.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,



Caroline R. Broderick
Vice-President