

# Memo

**To:** Fort Point Neighborhood Association and  
St. Vincent's Lower End Neighborhood Association

**From:** Ileen Gladstone, P.E., LSP

**c:** Tommy Butler, Massport

**Date:** September 20, 2023

**Re:** Community Update #3 (Week of September 11, 2023)  
Cypher/E Street Improvement Project  
South Boston, Massachusetts  
GEI Project No. 2302746

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As the community's Licensed Site Professional (LSP) representing its interests on the Cypher/E Street Improvement Project, I am providing regular updates on project activities. The site Contractor is DW White and the LSP and Environmental Consultant representing Massport is Tetra Tech.

## 1. Recent Activity (Week of September 11, 2023)

During the week of September 11, 2023, DW White continued to mobilize to the site. The decontamination station for personnel was set up. LSP letters requesting approval were submitted to the soil disposal facilities. Excavation is pending facility approval to limit the need for stockpiling.

I conducted a site walk on Friday September 15, 2023. The site has been prepared for construction including fencing, erosion control, dust monitoring and construction signage. Photos of current work site are attached.

The contractor has arranged for a rodent control subcontractor. Bait stations will be placed week of September 18, 2023.

## 2. Soil Excavation

No soil excavation has occurred to date. TSCA soil excavation is scheduled to start the week of September 25, 2023. Soil outside the TSCA area (D to E Street Connector) is scheduled to begin excavation on Wednesday September 20, 2023.

Some limited test pits may be excavated week of September 18, 2023, to collect soil samples to characterize soil for off-site disposal. If test pits are excavated for soil sampling, they will be backfilled on the same day.

## 3. Dust Monitoring

### 3.1 Work Site

Dust monitoring will be conducted at the perimeter of the project work zone. Real time monitors are in place at the work site (photo attached). The dust monitoring will assess the contractor's ongoing dust control measures, and if additional controls are needed. The contractor will be controlling dust in the TSCA area by only exposing soil in an area that can be excavated in one day, covering the

exposed soil at the end of the day, and using water misting. If the dust readings exceed the project standards, the contractor will increase their dust control measures such as additional water sprays or other measures. If necessary, work will be temporary stopped until the project standards are met.

Dust monitoring began on September 11, 2023. The dust monitoring will be conducted using a telemetry equipment capable cloud-based data storage and reporting. This system is providing real-time data to Massport, Tetra Tech, the contractor and me so immediate action can be taken. If work is stopped because dust cannot be controlled, I will be notified.

As part of my Community Updates, I will provide information on the dust monitoring results, additional dust controls, temporary work stoppages, if any, and the corrective actions taken.

The contractor will also be conducting dust monitoring for the protection of their workers.

### **3.2 Community Parks**

As requested by the community, Massport is conducting dust monitoring at the A Street Park, Flaherty Park and the West 2nd Street Park and Community Garden (Mahoney Community Garden).

The dust monitoring equipment sheds are installed at each park (see attached photos). Dust monitoring began on September 11, 2023. Like the work zone monitoring, the park dust monitors will provide real-time data to Massport, TetraTech, the contractor and me.

During the week of September 11, 2023, the dust action level of  $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was exceeded once at the Mahoney Community Garden on Wednesday September 13, 2023. No excavation was being conducted at the job site. Tetra Tech investigated the exceedance and attributed it to mowing in the park.

During the week of September 11, 2023, the dust action level of  $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was exceeded once each day at Flaherty Park, on Wednesday September 13 and Thursday September 14, 2023. No excavation was being conducted at the job site. Tetra Tech investigated the exceedance and attributed it to mowing in the park.

During the week of September 11, 2023, the dust action level  $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was not exceeded at the A Street Park.

## **4. Community Gardens Soil Testing**

As requested by the community, Massport collected soil samples from the A Street Park and Mahoney community gardens for testing. The soil testing will provide a baseline on the soil quality before construction begins. Massport will again sample the soil once construction is completed. Soil samples were collected on Thursday August 31, 2023 by Tetra Tech.

The soil samples were submitted for laboratory testing of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury). PCBs were not detected above laboratory reporting limits. Low levels of metals are expected to be present in all soils. The concentration of metals detected in the garden soils are below the concentrations that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) defines as natural background except for lead. Two of the eighteen samples for lead ( $108 \text{ mg}/\text{kg}$  and  $133 \text{ mg}/\text{kg}$ ) are slightly above natural background ( $100 \text{ mg}/\text{kg}$ ) but are below the concentrations that the MassDEP considers allowable for unrestricted use

(200 mg/kg) including at residences and gardens (Method 1 Standard S1/GW3). The laboratory testing results are on the attached table.

## 5. Schedule

As typical on construction projects, the contractor provides a look ahead schedule. These schedules often get modified based on field conditions, but they provide a good estimation of upcoming activities. According to DW White's look ahead schedule, the following activities are planned:

Week of 9/18/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place rodent control bait stations</li><li>• Begin excavation in D to E Street Connector</li></ul>
Week of 9/25/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excavate north shoulder in Cypher Street (TSCA Area)</li><li>• Start installation of drainage in D to E Street Connector</li></ul>
Week of 10/2/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start installation of lighting conduit in Cypher Street (TSCA Area)</li><li>• Continue drainage in D to E Street Connector</li></ul>



## 6. Project Website

Massport and GEI have been collaborating on a project website, [cyphereproject.com](http://cyphereproject.com). The website includes contact numbers for Massport, the PowerPoint presentations from the community meetings, and traffic management and environmental controls information. The Community LSP page includes my background and contact information. I will be posting regular Community Updates on the website to keep you informed on the project progress, soil excavation, trucking, dust monitoring results, schedule, and other project activities.

## 7. Upcoming Meetings

Massport will be hosting a community meeting on September 20, 2023 at 6:00. The meeting will be held at CRISPR Therapeutics 105 W First Street South Boston, MA 02127.

The community meeting information has been posted on the website.

I will be attending the Fort Point Neighborhood Association's monthly meeting on Tuesday  
September 26, 2023.

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Table 1 - Soil Analytical Data

Mahoney Park and A Street Park Community Gardens

Boston, MA

					Location:	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	Mahoney	A Street Park	A Street Park
					Sample Name:	CGM-01	CGM-02	CGM-03	CGM-03/DUP	CGM-04	CGM-05	CGM-06	CGM-07	CGM-08	CGM-09	CGM-10	CGA-01	CGA-02
					Sample Matrix:	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil
					Sample Date:	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23
Analyte	Units	MCP RC-S1	MassDEP MCP Method 1 S1/GW3	MassDEP Background Level in Natural Soil														
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	mg/kg	1	1	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Arsenic, Total	mg/kg	20	20	20	6.19	12.5	5.3	6.1	6.53	4.62	5.14	5.28	5.29	6.15	6	4.4	3.85	
Cadmium, Total	mg/kg	70	70	2	<0.56	<0.33	<0.5	<0.54	<0.48	<0.29	<0.47	<0.5	<0.48	<0.47	<0.52	<0.27	<0.5	
Chromium, Total	mg/kg	100	100	30	13.7	17.7	21.4	14.7	14.3	11.2	12.4	11.2	13	16	14.4	9.93	9.13	
Lead, Total	mg/kg	200	200	100	24.4	44	31	34.5	31.1	21.5	108	133	32.8	18.1	36.2	35.8	25.9	
Mercury, Total	mg/kg	20	20	0.30	0.064	0.031	0.136	0.077	0.09	0.104	0.182	0.224	0.195	0.113	0.127	<0.042	0.044	

Notes:

- "<" the analyte was not detected at a concentration above the laboratory reporting limit
- MCP: 310 CMR 40.0000 Massachusetts Contingency Plan with revisions effective December 27, 2019
- Reportable Concentrations (RCS-1), where identified, are cited from the MCP
- Method 1 Cleanup Standards (S1/GW3), where identified, are cited from the MCP
- NS: No standard or criteria has been established for this analyte
- ND: Not detected
- mg/kg: milligrams per kilogram
- CGM - Community Garden - Mahoney
- CGA - Community Garden - A Street

**Table 1 - Soil Analytical Data**

**Mahoney Park and A Street Park Community Gardens**

**Boston, MA**

					Location:	A Street Park	A Street Park	A Street Park	A Street Park	A Street Park
					Sample Name:	CGA-02/DUP	CGA-03	CGA-04	CGA-05	CGA-06
					Sample Matrix:	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil	Soil
					Sample Date:	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23	31-Aug-23
Analyte	Units	MCP RC-S1	MassDEP MCP Method 1 S1/GW3	MassDEP Background Level in Natural Soil						
Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	mg/kg	1	1	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Arsenic, Total	mg/kg	20	20	20	6.16	4.45	9.49	3.76	6.36	
Cadmium, Total	mg/kg	70	70	2	<0.57	<0.54	<0.6	<0.48	<0.46	
Chromium, Total	mg/kg	100	100	30	12.7	8.52	19.4	7.58	13	
Lead, Total	mg/kg	200	200	100	36.9	27	60.5	22.9	38.6	
Mercury, Total	mg/kg	20	20	0.30	0.042	<0.041	0.047	0.039	<0.043	

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8. CGM - Community Garden - Mahoney
9. CGA - Community Garden - A Street



TSCA Area on Cypher Street



Personnel decontamination  
station in TSCA Area



D to E Street Connector



Dust monitoring station in  
work zone





Mahoney Park dust monitoring shed



A Street Park dust monitoring shed



Flaherty Park dust monitoring  
shed



QR code for community  
website on dust monitoring  
shed