

Alewife Neighbors, Inc.

Cambridge MA 02140

**Alewife
Neighbors,
Inc.**

Cambridge, MA 02140

info@
AlewifeNeighbors.org

a 501(c)3 non-profit
neighborhood
organization

c/o Michael Nakagawa
51 Madison Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

September 20, 2020

Alewife Study Group
Cambridge, MA 02140

Re: City Manager Response to CMA 2020 #200

Dear Alewife Study Group:

Alewife Neighbors, Inc. has reviewed the Cambridge City Council Policy Order POR 2020 #175, as amended and approved on July 27, 2020, and the response from the City Manager in CMA 202 #200 dated September 9, 2020.

The POR 2020 #175 has two orders, one of which was to report back by September 14, 2020, which was met, and the other which was to engage the property owner of Jerry's Pond, IQHQ, to engage with certain governmental departments and resident representatives regarding Jerry's Pond.

Specifically, it was ordered that "the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact IQHQ and engage the Community Development Department, the Department of Public Works, Public Health Department and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, representatives from Fresh Pond apartments, 402 Rindge Avenue, Jefferson Park and Jackson Place, Friends of Jerry's Pond, Alewife Study Group, Alewife Neighbors Inc., Friends of Alewife/Green Cambridge and other relevant stakeholders regarding next steps for" the site.

The report from the Community Development Department (CDD) and Department of Public Works (DPW) states, "CDD has reached out to representatives of IQHQ to schedule a meeting between the new owners of the site and key City departments." Later in the report, it is stated that "discussion of future improvements would be expected to include property owners, residents, and other community stakeholders that live, work, or otherwise engage with the area."

The City Manager response has excluded the stakeholders mentioned in the Policy Order, and has made no indication that they will be included during the initial discussions, if at all.

Additionally, the narrative of history site usage in CMA 202 #200 fails to note the contamination at Jerry's Pond. As noted in the Public Involvement Plan for the site, filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), "During the time DAXAD was manufactured in Buildings 26 and 27, several lagoons were used as settling ponds and sources of cooling water." As shown in the attached maps from MassDEP, a portion of the DAXAD Process Waste Area is now part of Jerry's Pond, and another waste area and the cooling channel are near the pond. Unfortunately, there has not been extensive testing of Jerry's Pond to

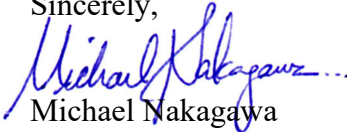
Alewife Neighbors, Inc.

determine contamination levels in the sediment of the pond. Additionally, asbestos, which continues to significantly contaminate much of the site, has been found near Jerry's Pond, despite more limited testing locations in those areas.

However, there has been extensive testing of much of the rest of the land on the site, which led to almost 20 years of active investigation and remediation under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan processes, which has continued at a maintenance level for an additional almost 15 years. In the end, there were still significant levels of soil contamination, and the mitigation process ended with an Activity and Use Limitations for the site parcels, which have been filed with the Registry of Deeds.

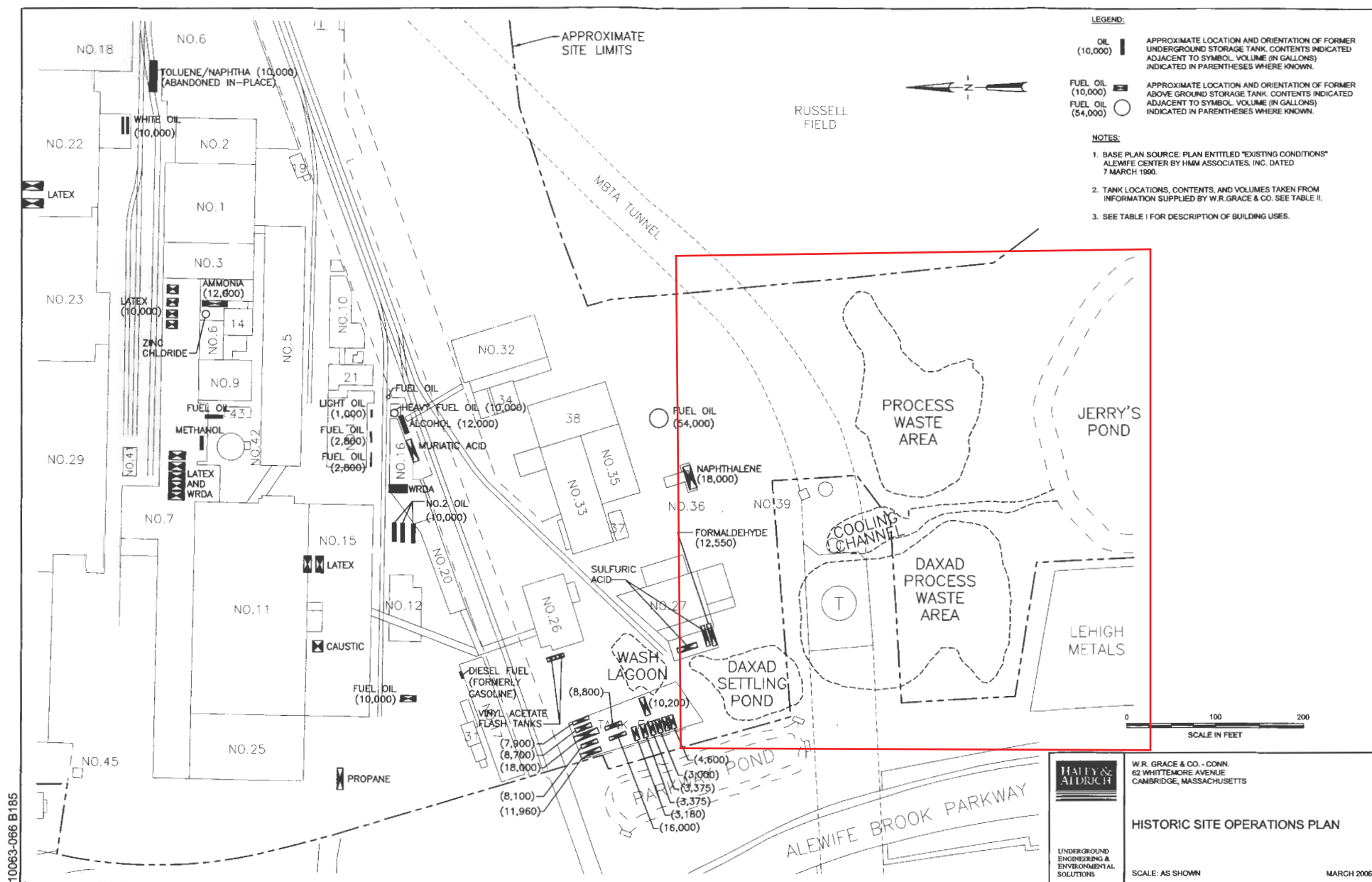
Finally, it appears that the City has highlighted that the Alewife District Plan provides a "zoning framework that could provide incentives to realize these improvements through development," indicating a willingness to allow and discuss additional development incentives to build within the floodplain at the meeting with the new property owner before any plans have been discussed with residents.

Sincerely,



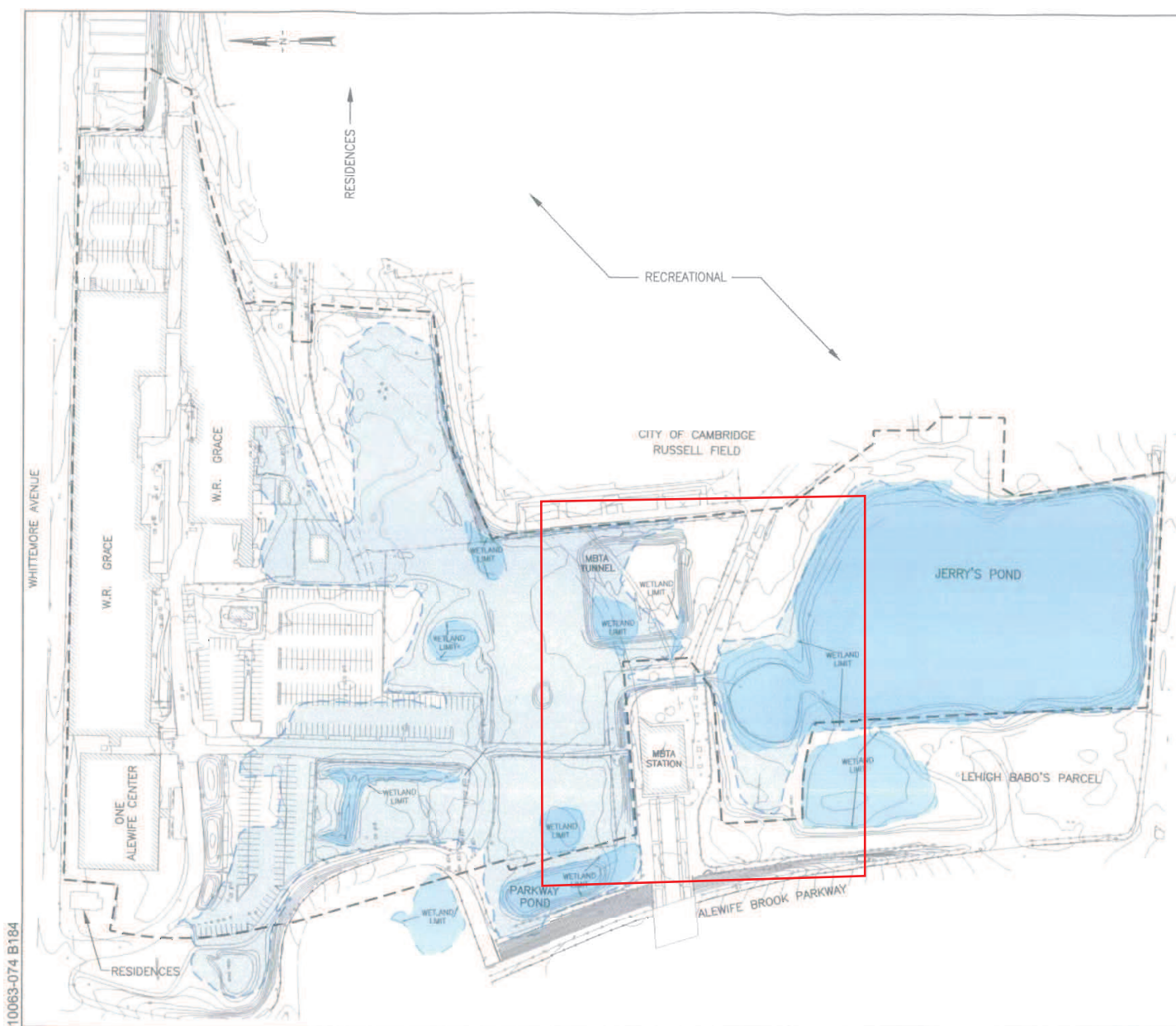
Michael Nakagawa

Vice President
on behalf of the board of Alewife Neighbors, Inc.



10063-066 B185

FIGURE 3



- LEGEND:**
- WETLAND LIMITS
 - - - FLOOD LIMITS
 - · · · · APPROXIMATE SITE LIMITS

- NOTES:**
1. BASE PLAN SOURCE: PLAN ENTITLED "EXISTING CONDITIONS" BY URS GREINER WOODLAND CYLDE, DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1999.
 2. ALL LOCATIONS, DIMENSIONS AND SITE FEATURES ARE APPROXIMATE.
 3. FLOOD LIMIT APPROXIMATE ELEV. = 8.48 NGVD.



	W.R.GRACE & CO. - CONN. 62 WHITTEMORE AVENUE CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
	SITE AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES, FLOOD PLAN AND WETLAND LIMIT PLAN
UNDERGROUND ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	SCALE: AS SHOWN
MARCH 2006	

10063-074 B184

FIGURE 2