



CEI NEWS

Sustainable Water Management

Sustainable Water Management for the Auburn Water District

CEI recently began work with the Auburn Water District on a program to improve stormwater drainage mapping near water supply wells and optimize stormwater infiltration. Part of MassDEP's Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) Grant Program, this project will help to identify the location of stormwater outfalls proximate to the water supply wells, evaluate the risks associated with select outfalls closest to the wells and identify alternative sites for stormwater infiltration.

Auburn Water District's wells are located near major highways including I-290, I-395 and I-90 and local roads. Notably four of these wells have major highways and local roads within the Zone I. SWMI encourages mitigation projects that provide recharge/infiltration within the subbasin(s) in which wells are located. Further, SWMI encourages recharge/infiltration upstream of the withdrawal locations. However, it is essential that these stormwater infiltration sites be selected to account for groundwater quality considerations, specifically as it pertains to these nearby public water supply wells. While it may not be possible to redirect stormwater infiltration to sites located outside of the Zone II, efforts should be taken to redirect the infiltration to outside of the Zone I and locate any stormwater infiltration sites so as to minimize any potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and groundwater quality. The primary objective of this study is to develop a prioritization tool that can be used by the District to assist in locating stormwater infiltration sites for SWMI offset/mitigation, balancing the benefits of groundwater recharge with the critical need to protect public water supply wells from contamination.

For more information about this project or other CEI water supply services, please contact Mike Ohl, P.E., CFM, at 508.281.5160 or mohl@ceiengineers.com or Kristen Berger, P.E. at kberger@ceiengineers.com.

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