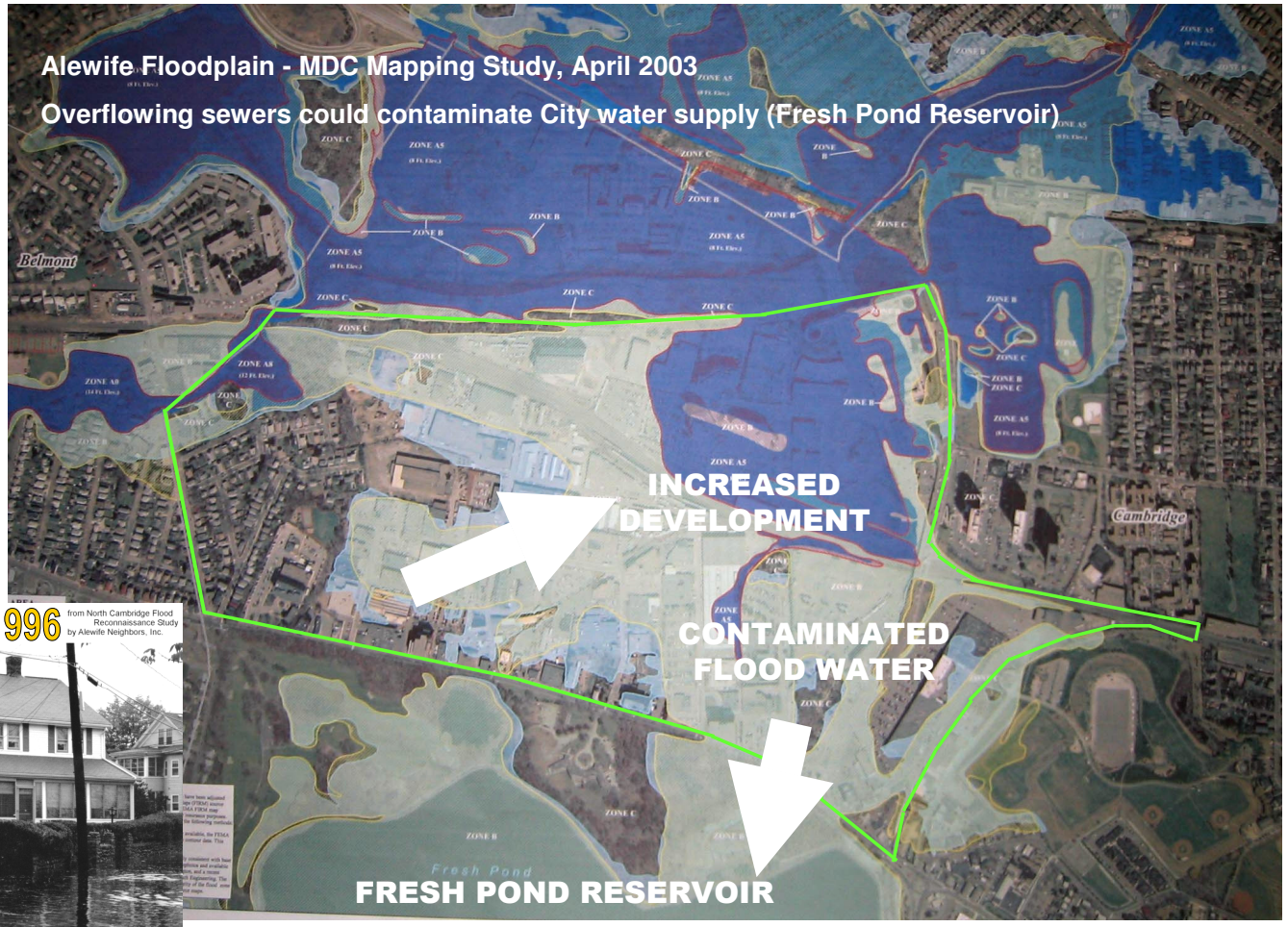
The Alewife Region is a FEMA-designated floodplain that connects Fresh Pond Reservoir with Alewife Brook and that does flood



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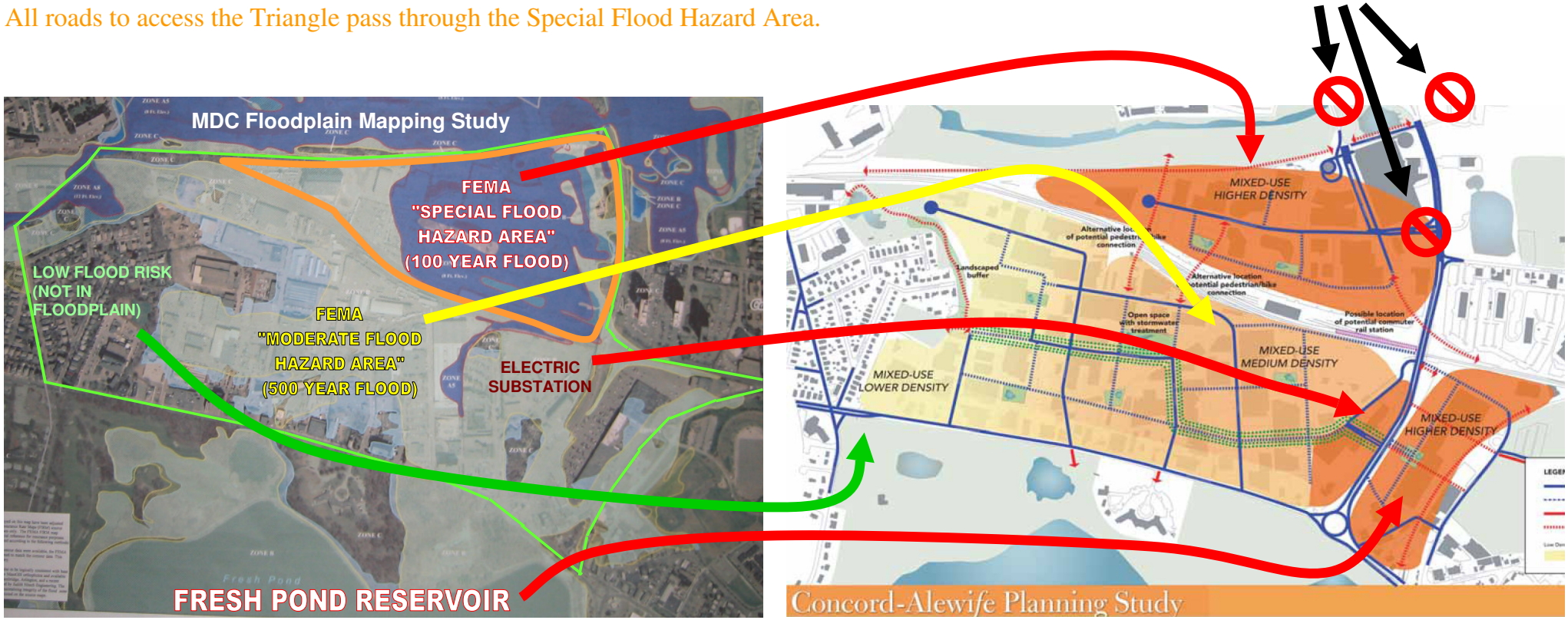
Development goals are opposite from FEMA Flood Hazard Mitigation Recommendations

Highest density is planned for deepest flooding or near the reservoir and electric substation.
Medium density is planned for Moderate Flood Hazard Areas.
Lower density or no changes are planned for areas with Low Flooding Risk.

All roads to access the Triangle pass through the Special Flood Hazard Area.

In a 500-year storm,
all three emergency vehicle access roads
to the Triangle will be
blocked by 4 FEET of water
(2 feet in a 100-year storm)
at indicated locations



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Nearly 80% of the area being rezoned [orange area] is in the floodplain [green area]
(FEMA designations of "Special Flood Hazard Area" and "Moderate Flood Hazard Area") [floodplain limits shown only for Study Area]

This floodplain has several "critical actions":
- Water Supply (Fresh Pond)
- Water Treatment Facitily
- Electric Substation
- Electric Department
- Uncapped/unlined dump (with PCB contamination)
- Roadways to the critical infrastructure
- Handlers of toxic chemicals

Additionally, there are numerous DEP-monitored contaminated sites in the floodplain, including several gas stations within 100 yards of our reservoir.

City flood planning only considers up to a 25-year storm, which only causes nuisance flooding, not emergency levels.

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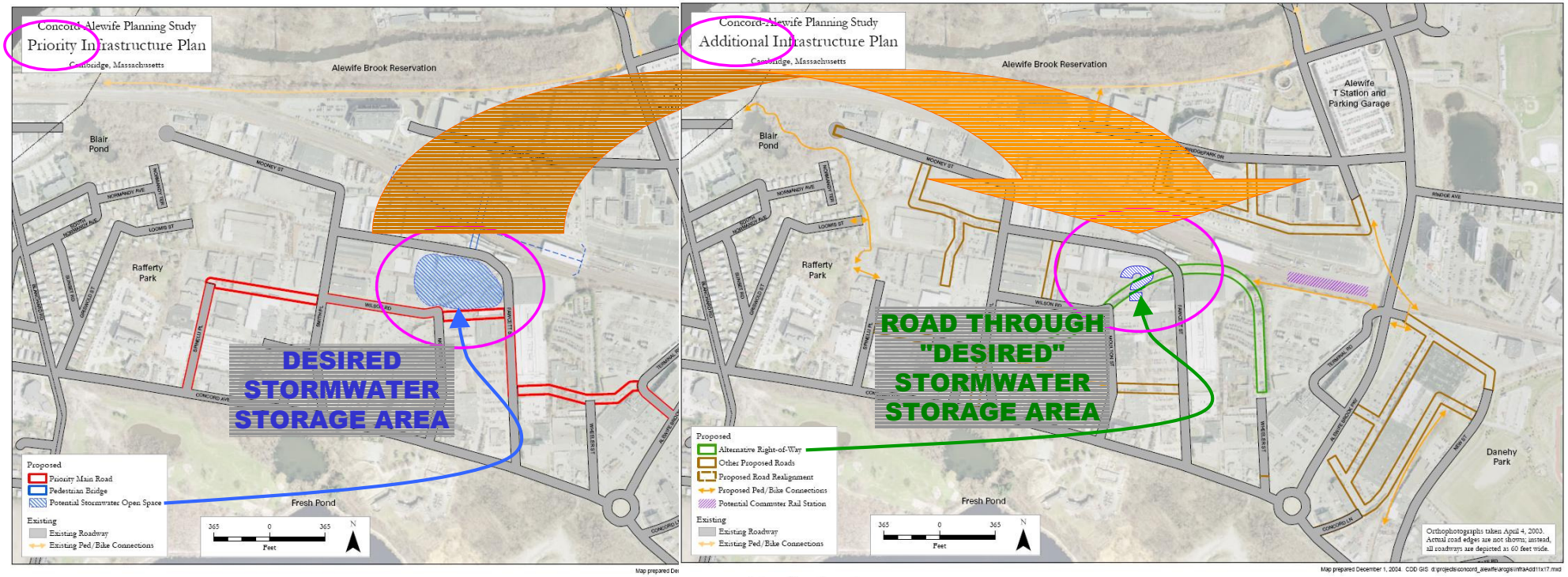
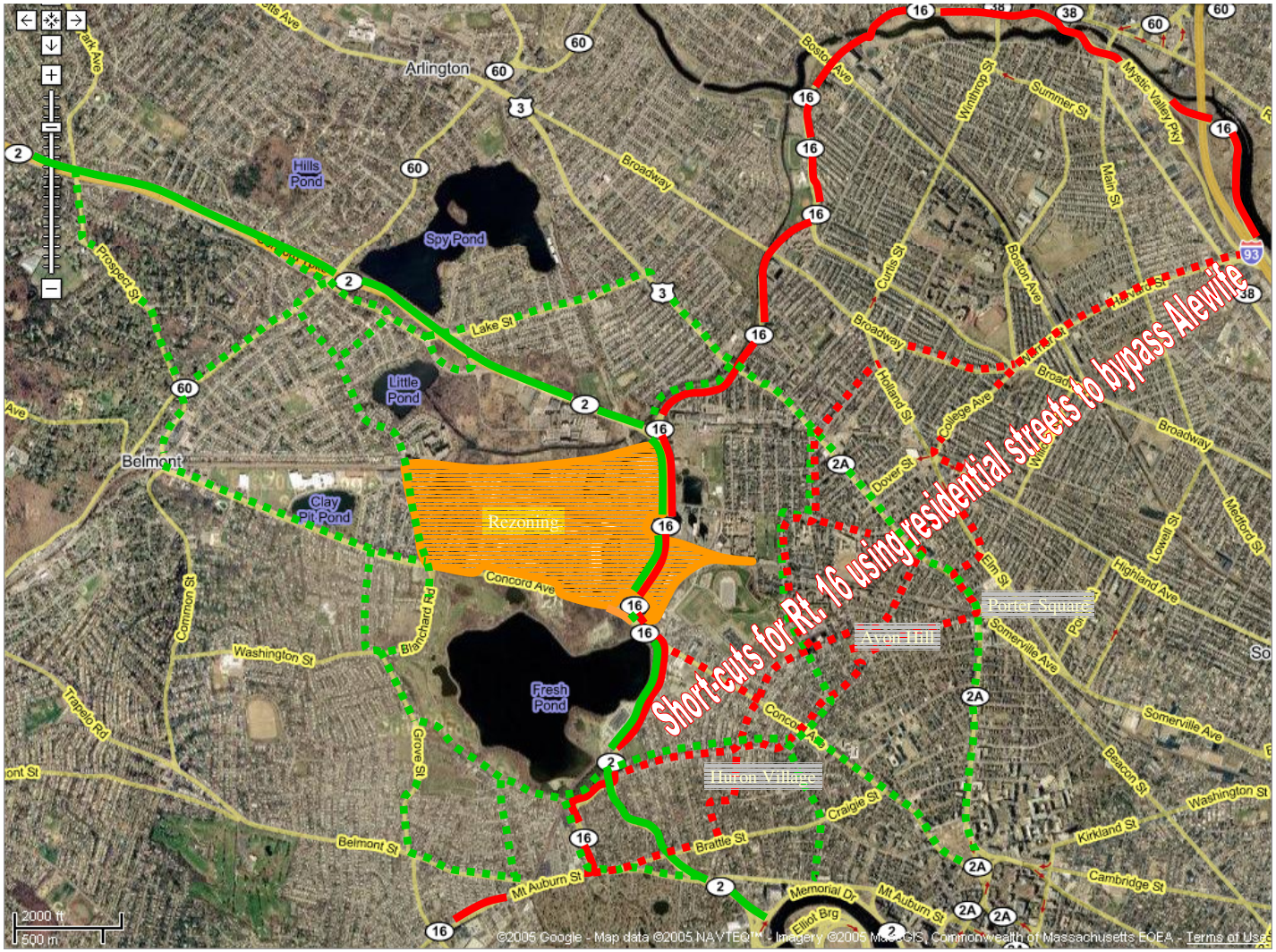
Plans showing an "Additional" road through the "Priority" Stormwater Open Space



Planners have focused on flooding from run-off in the study area, but more storage areas are needed to hold floodwater that enters the area over land (or through sewers)

Retaining water up to a 25-year storm reduces frequency sewer overflows, but in the largest storms that flood these areas, the benefits are lost if the flooding reaches those retention areas, and may make flooding worse by retaining water in the area instead of letting it flow downstream in the early stages of the storm.

Massachusetts has state regulations for Special Flood Hazard Areas, but leaves municipalities discretion for protecting Moderate Flood Hazard Areas, allowing local knowledge of Critical Actions to guide the level of protection through zoning and other ordinances.



Where will cut-through traffic go when it can't get through Alewife?

Huron Ave, Brattle St, Mt Auburn St., Mass Ave, and Walden St seem likely first targets in Cambridge. Smaller residential streets will be next after these secondary streets back up.

With more traffic destinations in Alewife, drivers who only want to pass through will try to avoid the already congested area. The only alternative is to take residential roads that were not meant to handle high volume traffic, creating safety issues and adding to neighborhood air pollution.

The traffic consultants predict minor traffic increases in the Alewife roads because they physically cannot handle more cars during peak rush hour. Instead, hundreds or thousands of drivers will go around the area, and peak traffic hours will lengthen.

The largest impact will likely be from the Rt.16 traffic between Watertown and Revere (already about 20,000 car trips each day on Aberdeen) that could save significant time cutting through Cambridge neighborhoods.

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boston.com

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

Boston's Earthquake Problem

The Boston Globe

It's not the likelihood of a major earthquake that makes experts tremble -- though it's worse than you think. It's the damage one would do -- because it's MUCH worse than you think.

By Jeremy Miller | May 28, 2006

As if flooding and traffic concerns were not sufficient, an article published in The Boston Globe explained that the Boston area is subject to infrequent earthquakes, and the results could be serious because of area soil conditions. The Alewife area was formerly The Great Swamp, but was filled to contain a disease threat from mosquitoes. This fill makes an unstable base during an earthquake, where soil seems to flow like water. Furthermore, soft soil over hard soil can cause "amplification" of the effects.

Interestingly, the area researchers rate as High risk for soil liquefaction (red blotches) almost match the areas proposed for rezoning by the Concord-Alewife Study.

One goal of the rezoning is to increase the residences, primarily in the form of high-rise buildings, by over 1,000 units.

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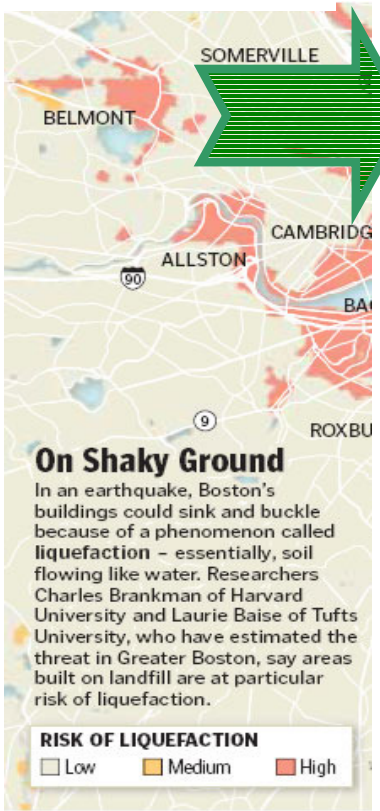
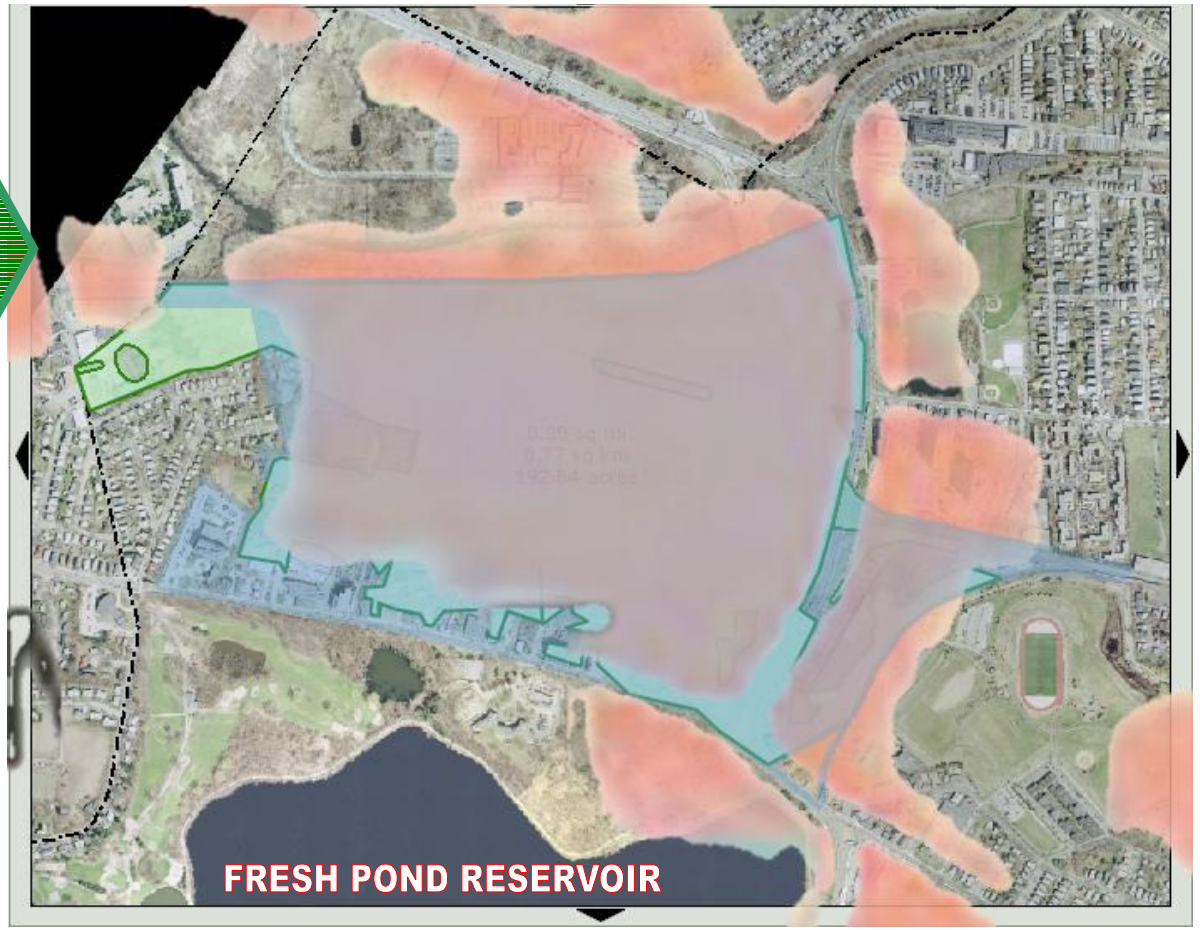


SOURCES: William Lettis & Associates Inc. and Tufts University



Blue shaded region is area being rezoned

Pink regions areas with High Risk of soil liquefaction