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MCCA BOARD APPROVES SETTLEMENT WITH BCEC DESIGN TEAM
Out-of-Court Settlement Gives Taxpayers Speedy Conclusion to Design Flaw Issues

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) Board of Directors today approved an out-of-court settlement valued at \$24 million with HNTB Corporation and its affiliates, Rafael Vinoly Architects, PC, R.G. Vanderweil Associates, Inc. and Shen Milsom & Wilkie, Inc.

“This is about holding people accountable on behalf of the taxpayers,” said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. “The citizens of the Commonwealth are being refunded for costly repairs made during construction and we are receiving funds for permanent repairs that will ensure they get the building they paid for.”

“We are pleased that the taxpayers are not being forced to pick up the tab for flawed designs and we are particularly pleased with our management and legal team for bringing this matter to such a speedy and just conclusion,” said Gloria C. Larson, Chair of the MCCA Board.

The settlement covers repairs to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) that were made as a result of design errors and omissions. These design problems caused costly change orders to the construction project between 2001 and 2004. The majority of the design issues were addressed during the construction period, but some – notably those relating to the roof drainage system – received temporary fixes. The settlement will cover both work already done and permanent solutions underway.

The design errors at stake focused primarily on the roof drainage system, gutter and parapet; mechanical air handling units; and roadway expansion joints and drains.

The BCEC opened in June 2004 after four years of construction and, despite the issues raised in the MCCA’s claim against the design team, was completed on schedule and within the legislated budget. The 2.1 million square foot facility has 516,000 square feet of exhibit space, 184,000 square feet of meeting rooms and a 40,000 square foot ballroom. There are more than 131 future events booked at the BCEC, with 1.3 million attendees, 1.8 million hotel roomnights and \$1.38 billion expected in economic impact.

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