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MEDIA RELEASE

PVSC Partners with NJCDC on Great Falls Clean-up

PATERSON, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission’s (PVSC) Executive Director, Michael DeFrancisci, announced today that the PVSC River Restoration Department joined volunteers from the New Jersey Community Development Corporation’s Great Falls Youth Corp, in a clean-up in the area near the Great Falls in Paterson.

The volunteers, along with personnel from the PVSC River Restoration Program, will continue their work throughout most of the morning to remove fallen trees, litter and other debris that accumulated along the shoreline as a result of last week’s heavy rains. PVSC personnel utilized specialized equipment to remove larger debris from the waterway while students walked the shoreline to remove litter and other debris.

"It is fitting that PVSC partners with the Great Falls Youth Corp to fulfill our mission of keeping the areas in and around the Passaic River, such as keeping the Great Falls, clean," stated DeFrancisci. "I commend the NJCDC for continuing to give back to our environment. We look forward to continuing our partnership far into the future and to provide assistance toward keeping our waterways clean."

According to DeFrancisci, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the NJCDC in removing debris to both help improve water conveyance and provide a healthier ecosystem. PVSC has partnered with the NJCDC many times over the last few years in cleanups of the Great Falls area.

"The Great Falls are not only an important symbol representing the Paterson community, but also a significant piece of our Nation’s history," said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin. "The continued partnership between the PVSC and the NJCDC ensures that this unique historic site will be enjoyed by future generations."

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission operates one of the country's oldest and largest treatment plants for the wastewaters of northern New Jersey. With many expansions and recent upgrading to secondary treatment, the facility has been striving, since its creation in 1902 and its initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality standards. Since the creation of the PVSC’s River Restoration Program in 1998, which is charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways, the PVSC has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries, and sponsored over 700 individual clean-ups along shorelines and in communities, along with educating over 180,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River and our environment.

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