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**August 17, 2010  
News Release**

## **PVSC Leads Effort to Clean River During Great Falls Diversion**

PATERSON, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) Chairman Tony Luna announced today that the PVSC River Restoration Department joined student volunteers from the NJ Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) and the Great Falls Youth Corps in a cleanup on top of the Great Falls in Paterson as the flow of water typically cascading over the seventy-seven foot waterfall was diverted.

The clean-up effort was made possible by diverting the flow of the Passaic River through an adjacent hydroelectric plant owned by Paterson and operated by Algonquin Power, LTD. The students, along with crews of personnel from the PVSC River Restoration Program, will continue their work throughout most of the day to remove fallen trees, litter and other debris that accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the falls. PVSC partnered with students from Paterson's International High School in May for a similar diversion and cleanup of the falls, removing nearly 15-tons of debris.

"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 Chairman Tony Luna. "The continued partnership between the PVSC and the Paterson community ensures that this unique historic site will be enjoyed by future generations."

Today's cleanup efforts are in preparation for the Great Falls Festival occurring over the Labor Day weekend. With the help of Congressman William Pascrell (NJ-8), the federal government placed the 35-acre Great Falls area into the National Park System in 2008 and created the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Advisory Commission to help maintain the falls as a national treasure.

"PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local groups like NJCDC and the Great Falls Youth Corps so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner Passaic River," said PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "The dedicated students you see here today represent our future leaders and stewards of our waterways and I applaud them on their efforts."

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners operate one of the country's largest treatment plants for the wastewaters, servicing municipalities in five counties in northern New Jersey. With many expansions, and recent upgrading to secondary treatment, the facility has been striving, since its initial operation in 1924, to improve local water quality in accordance with federal and state water quality legislation. Since its inception in 1998, PVSC's River Restoration Program has removed over 8,000 tons of debris from the Passaic River and Newark Bay and sponsored over 650 individual clean ups, along with educating over 150,000 students on how they can help protect the Passaic River.

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