

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
JANUARY 13, 2011**

**CONTACT: Wayne J. Forrest - Executive Director  
973-817-5700**

## **PVSC Delivers 2011 Budget** **- Budget Has 0% Increase to Residential Users -**

**NEWARK** – As part of its program to reduce the cost to its ratepayers, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) released its 2011 proposed operating budget, which amounts to a 0% increase in fees charged to the municipalities in its service area.

“The Commissioners and our staff were able to bring this budget forward at a 0% increase through an line by line analysis of where cost reductions could be made while maintaining the agency’s extremely important mission involving public health and environmental safety to accomplish”, said Executive Director, Wayne J. Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC’s total operating budget for 2011 will be \$161,059,540, a reduction of \$3,108,010, as compared to the 2010 spending plan of \$164,167,550. Despite a decrease in projected revenues of \$3,648,010, the Commissioners working ardently with staff, passed this reduced budget. The 2011 Budget plan is a significant spending reduction that takes into consideration the economic burdens encountered daily by the taxpayers/ratepayers within the PVSC’s 5 County service area. Charges to municipalities are based on the agency’s plant operating costs and influent flow from each community to the PVSC’s treatment facility in Newark.

“PVSC is constantly working to minimize the impact of our operating budget on our member municipalities,” said PVSC Chairman Tony Luna. “Any cost increases, include contributions for employee pensions, debt service related to improvements to aging infrastructure, healthcare costs, and the cost of chemicals and energy needed in the plant’s treatment process.”

“When possible, PVSC will continue to review the ongoing operations at PVSC to institute further cost-saving measures. Considering that most of PVSC costs are fixed, only through the hard work of management, the implementation of cost efficiencies and continuing upgrades to our processes and equipment can we realize additional savings. For 2011, we think this budget reflects that commitment to finding and implementing those cost-saving measures. This budget will continue to allow PVSC to offer the lowest average residential sewage rates in the state”, Forrest said.

***As the fifth-largest publically owned treatment facility in the United States and as a national leader in wastewater management, PVSC has been recognized annually for its major accomplishments in operational excellence. Since its inception, the Connection Fee Rebate Program has returned over \$2.2 million to member municipalities who assist PVSC in ensuring that all sewer connection fees for new development or changes in use are collected. Since PVSC started its Passaic River & Newark Bay Restoration Program in 1998, it has organized over 650 shoreline clean-ups that have resulted in the removal of over 8,000 tons of debris from area shorelines and waterways. For its clean-up efforts, PVSC has been awarded an Environmental Excellence Award from the New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities. PVSC's Education Outreach Program has educated over 150,000 local students since the program inception in 2002, on how they can help protect the environment, the Passaic River and its tributaries. This program is designed to make children more aware of the affects their everyday life has on the region's water quality, and has been awarded the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in 2009. For the 2010-2011 school year, PVSC broadened the scope of the Education Outreach Program by introducing live webcam interaction between the students in the classroom and the boat crews working on the Passaic River.***