

KENNETH J. LUCIANIN
Commissioner

THOMAS F. FLANAGAN
Acting Clerk



WAYNE J. FORREST
Executive Director

JAMES M. PIRO
General Counsel

~Established 1902~

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105

www.pvsc.com

MEDIA RELEASE
May 19, 2011

Contact: Tom Pietrykoski, Director of Public Affairs
Cell: (973) 985-3216, Office: (973) 817-5735
E-mail: tpietrykoski@pvsc.com

PVSC AND BAYONNE KICKOFF TWO-WEEK LONG “CLEANER AND GREENER” CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

BAYONNE, NJ – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission’s (PVSC) Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest announced that the PVSC has partnered with the students and staff of the Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School on a cleanup of the Bayonne shoreline as part of the two-week long Cleaner and Greener cleanup program in Bayonne.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Bayonne Cleaner and Greener program, which was started by a Bayonne High School science teacher. The goal of the program is not only to provide an opportunity for the students to clean up their community’s shoreline, but also to assist in teaching the students about the importance of a clean environment.

"It is critical that the PVSC continues to partner with school-based organizations such as Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School to fulfill our mission of keeping the Passaic River and our environment clean," stated Forrest. "I commend Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School students and staff for giving back to our environment. We look forward to continuing to provide assistance toward efforts to keep our waterways clean," said Forrest.

According to Forrest, PVSC's award winning River Restoration Program provided assistance to the Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School students and staff in removing debris and trash from the area in and around the Passaic River in the City of Bayonne. Last month, PVSC partnered with Bayonne Boy Scout Troop 25 on a clean-up of Mayor Dennis P. Collins Park.

"PVSC understands the importance of having long-term partnerships with local groups like the Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School students and staff so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner Passaic River and a healthier environment," stated Forrest. "PVSC relies on the dedicated volunteers, like the Bayonne High School and Lincoln Community School students and staff here today, to assist us with keeping our waterways clean, and I applaud them on their efforts," said Forrest.

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.

#####