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~Established 1902~

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PVSC DEPLOYING EMERGENCY CREWS THIS EVENING TO THE BOROUGH OF LODI TO ASSIST IN FLOOD MITIGATION AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE IRENE

PVSC Executive Director releases statement regarding historic storm

Newark -- Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Executive Director, Wayne J. Forrest, issued the following statement regarding the effects of Hurricane Irene on the agency:

"PVSC's mission is to preserve and protect our environment by treating the wastewater for over 1.4 million residents in northern New Jersey. This job was never more important than during Hurricane Irene this past weekend, dumping record amounts of precipitation on our State. On August 28, 2011 PVSC recorded a record high flow of 727 million gallons per day (MGD) with a record daily average of 628 MGD, making it the highest recorded flow in PVSC's 109-year history. This record is almost three times the plant's ten-year average flow and is equivalent to pumping over 1,100 Olympic size swimming pools daily. With these record high flows PVSC was able to treat all wastewater entering our facility and still meet all effluent permit limits, ensuring public health was maintained during this historical natural disaster," said Forrest.

"While PVSC plant operators worked around the clock to maintain sewerage operations, PVSC's River Restoration personnel were deployed to flood ravaged communities to work with local officials and determine how our services can best help mitigate the continued flooding. This evening, PVSC's River Restoration Department is deploying emergency crews and heavy equipment to the Borough of Lodi to remove a blockage under the bridge at the intersection of Marsellus Place and River Road as the cresting Saddle River continues to pose a major flooding threat to the community. Tomorrow, August 31, additional crews and heavy equipment will be deployed to the Borough of Wallington to remove a heavy blockage under the 8th Street Bridge which is contributing to flooding and threatening public safety. PVSC will continue to serve as a resource to the communities within our service area to ensure we are doing everything possible to assist residents during these difficult times," stated 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, serving over 1.4 million people in five counties. 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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