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PVSC getting \$1M to restore documents lost in Sandy



By Eugene Paik/The Star-Ledger

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Raw sewage bubbles up last fall from beneath Wilson Avenue in Newark outside the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission treatment plant on Newark Bay, which was damaged during Sandy. Steve Strunsky/The Star-Ledger

NEWARK — The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission is receiving a \$1 million federal grant to help it restore critical documents that were damaged at its wastewater treatment facility during Hurricane Sandy, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-9th Dist.) announced today.

The facility, on Newark Bay, was overwhelmed by a tidal surge during the hurricane, which flooded its equipment and stopped it from processing sewage. The facility is the nation's fifth largest wastewater treatment facility and serves 48 municipalities.

The storm damage caused billions of gallons of sewage to spill into local waterways.

About 1,478 cubic feet of the facility's documents have been kept in a frozen environment since Sandy, Pascrell said in a news release. The restoration process includes vacuum freeze-drying, sterilizing, fumigating, cleaning, scanning, and copying to a material close to the original.

The project is estimated to cost \$1.4 million. The grant, which pays for 75 percent of the cost, comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, which was supplemented by the \$60 billion Sandy aid package approved by federal lawmakers earlier this year.

"Wastewater treatment facilities like PVSC provide a critical service in protecting our environment and the public's health, so their recovery must remain a priority," Pascrell said.