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News Release**

PVSC Partners with NJDEP, NJDOC on Extensive Shoreline Cleanup Over 750,000 pounds of debris removed from area shorelines in 2010

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) Chairman Tony Luna announced today that the PVSC River Restoration Program partnered with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the NJ Department of Corrections (NJDOC) for an extensive cleanup of the Newark shoreline.

The partnership is part of NJDEP Clean Shores, which is a statewide program that removes debris from tidal shorelines with the use of NJDOC inmate labor. PVSC initially partnered with the Program in 2003, providing a crew from their River Restoration Program to assist a NJDOC crew of 20 inmates. Debris typically includes large timbers and dilapidated docks, which require crews to use heavy machinery including a front end loader and chain saws.

"A project of this magnitude is made possible by forming strong partnerships and the PVSC is pleased to continue to work with the NJDEP and the NJDOC, so together we can work towards maintaining a cleaner environment", explained PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "This cleanup will create new wildlife habitat in this sensitive ecosystem, along with providing a safer navigation channel for the ships in Newark Bay," Director Forrest said.

Since its inception in 1989, NJDEP Clean Shores has removed over 119 million pounds of debris covering over 2,100 miles of New Jersey's shorelines. Over the past summer the PVSC River Restoration Program has removed over 750,000 pounds of debris from the shorelines of Bayonne, Jersey City and Elizabeth in partnership with Clean Shores.

"Partnering with the Clean Shores Program is another way that the PVSC continues to carry out our mission of preserving and protecting our local waterways," said PVSC Chairman Tony Luna. "This partnership complements our existing cleanup efforts, including the deployment of our skimmer vessels, the sponsorship of volunteer cleanups and our educational outreach efforts in local schools," Chairman Luna said.

On average crews fill between two to three 30-yard containers each day, which are provided by the PVSC. Through coordination with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, crews were able to work this week in Newark for the first time in several years.

"The Passaic River and Newark Bay provided the lifeline for the founding of this great city and it is our responsibility to ensure the protection of these vital natural resources", said Newark Mayor Cory Booker. "I applaud the hard work of the PVSC, NJDEP and NJDOC and look forward to working with them into the future in providing a cleaner and healthier environment for the entire Newark community," Mayor Booker said.

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 of 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, which is charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways, 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 and our environment.

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