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## July 16, 2010 NEWS RELEASE

### **PVSC Partners with Garfield Youth to Promote a Cleaner Passaic River**

**GARFIELD, NJ** – Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners, Chairman Tony Luna announced today that Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest, Commissioner and Garfield Mayor Frank Calandriello along with students from the Garfield Recreation Department's summer camp gathered at the Passaic River shoreline to unveil a new trash screen installed at the bottom of guardrails along roadways adjacent to the Passaic River. The screens are designed to reduce the amount of trash and debris that enters the waterway and are the first of its kind to be installed along the Passaic.

Staff from PVSC's Educational Outreach Program started the day off with an environmental education presentation for the 120 children enrolled in the Garfield Recreation Department's summer camp. The presentation introduced children to the ways they can help prevent litter from entering their local waterways, as well as the importance of water conservation. Immediately following the presentation the children headed down to the banks of the Passaic to participate in a streambank cleanup and observe the installation of the new trash screens.

"PVSC understands the importance of partnering with local communities and schools so together we can preserve, protect and restore the Passaic River," said PVSC Executive Director Wayne J. Forrest. "The dedicated children you see here today represent the future leaders and stewards of our waterways and I applaud them on their efforts", said Forrest.

PVSC maintains a full time River Restoration program that includes riverbank clean-up crews and two skimmer vessels that patrol the waters of the Passaic River and Newark Bay daily removing floating trash and debris. PVSC's River Restoration program will monitor and maintain the trash screens, which are being loaned temporarily to the City of Garfield by the manufacturer as part of a pilot project to help determine the product's effectiveness along the Passaic.

"The City of Garfield remains committed to providing a healthy and vibrant waterfront for the people in our community," said Garfield Mayor Calandriello. "The installation of the trash screens helps reinforce Garfield's dedication to helping keep our waterways clean."

In order to protect and preserve local streams and rivers from water pollution, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) 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 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.

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