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NEWS

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MAJOR ‘SANDY’ DEBRIS REMOVED FROM HARRISON RIVERBANK: *PVSC Removes Hazardous Truck Bodies, Cargo Containers from Passaic River*



(HARRISON)– The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) announced its River Restoration unit recently completed the removal of large debris – including steel shipping/cargo containers, and several delivery truck bodies – that had washed ashore in Harrison during Superstorm Sandy.

PVSC was first notified about a steel shipping container that had washed on shore in Harrison on Cape May Street. Upon investigation of the site, PVSC found two other steel containers and four delivery truck bodies that had suffered the same fate; in addition, three truck bodies and one steel container were on PSE&G property outside their security fence.

Although these are familiar items around the industrial areas in the PVSC service area, they prove problematic to recreational boaters, Harbor masters and River keepers when found in the waterways. PVSC removed the containers and truck bodies with its crane, and then placed them onto transport trailers for return and/or disposal. Recently, PVSC removed 70 cubic yards of debris at an adjacent property, NY/NJ PATH, which was strewn with wood, tires, and plastics from the Superstorm; PVSC also assisted with the removal of two additional truck bodies - one mired in the mud of the Passaic River navigational channel and one on the PATH property.

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According to the PVSC's Executive Director Michael DeFrancisci, "PVSC is once again mindful of the pollution and flooding issues associated with the storm debris, as well as the navigational and safety hazards they pose. The removal of these containers and truck bodies is a significant undertaking. We're glad that PVSC was able to lend assistance to our neighboring towns and businesses."

The PVSC has embarked on an intensive, strategic post-storm cleanup campaign to free the Passaic River of blockages, help with flood control and maintain the quality of the River and its tributaries. Cleanups will continue throughout the spring.

"PVSC is glad to once again assist in providing a cleaner and safer Passaic River for the citizens of not only Harrison, but our entire region. PVSC understands the importance of ensuring the long-term viability of our waterways," said PVSC Commissioner Kenneth J. Lucianin.

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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.