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Executive Director

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PVSC Honored With Two Prestigious AEANJ Wave Award

Over the years, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) has received many industry awards for distinction in operations and engineering. This year is no different, as PVSC has once again been recognized by the Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey (“AEANJ”) for consistently demonstrating excellence in the public wastewater sector.



In March, the agency received AEANJ’s ***“Forward Thinking”*** award for the design of our Wet Weather Secondary Bypass Facility and AEANJ’s ***“Best Management Practices”*** award for the ongoing implementation of our Geographic Information System (“GIS”) Mapping Platform. The awards were presented to PVSC’s Chief Operating Officer Tom Laustsen and PVSC’s Chief Engineer John Rotolo during AEANJ’s virtual conference earlier this month.

“The Wave Award committees chose to honor PVSC with two awards this year,” said AEA Executive Director Peggy Gallos. “The Wave Program recognized excellence in the public water/wastewater/solid waste/recycling sector in New Jersey. PVSC is part of a distinguished group of recipients being honored this year.”

Wet Weather Secondary Bypass Facility

The \$45 million Wet Weather Secondary Bypass Facility is currently in its design phase. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2026. The facility will reduce Combined Sewer Overflow (“CSO”) to historically polluted waterways by approximately 1.4 billion gallons per year.

PVSC’s secondary treatment train is currently limited to an instantaneous flow of 400 million gallons per day (“MGD”). As part of its CSO Long Term Control Plan (“LTCP”), PVSC evaluated eight alternatives to expand its wet weather treatment capacity to 720 MGD. The study found that there was no feasible alternative, to both increase PVSC’s wet weather capacity and maintain permit compliance, without bypassing wet weather flow around secondary treatment. PVSC then worked with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to modify its NJPDES Permit to include a new secondary bypass facility.

GIS Mapping Platform

PVSC began the incremental implementation of its \$520,000 GIS Mapping Platform in 2020. The interactive mapping system organizes spatially-enabled layers of data into vivid, 2D and 3D visualization products that are available on PVSC’s Enterprise GIS Portal. The maps offer users access to an aerial, digital representation of PVSC’s robust framework of assets. These assets consist of PVSC’s linear assets (including its main interceptor, branch lines, local sewer connections, manholes, chambers, river crossings, and underground infrastructure), vertical assets (including buildings, pipes, valves, pumps, and meters), and

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terminal assets (including PVSC’s outfall tunnel and peripherally related assets). The maps give the user a perspective on how pipes, equipment and processes in various, seemingly unrelated areas, are linked to each other. With vibrant, contrasting colors, these assets, as well as PVSC’s external boundaries, are clearly defined at 1 cm spatial accuracy.

“These two projects are essential to assisting PVSC in continuing to provide critical wastewater treatment to the communities we serve,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “The bypass facility is going to enable us to greatly reduce CSO into local waterways. Our goal is to support urban renewal and the pursuit of safe, fishable, swimmable water for the surrounding communities.”

“The GIS Mapping platform is enabling our line operators to visualize our assets, many of which are underground, out of view and sometimes in difficult to reach places,” continued Chairman Tucci. “That makes it possible for them to pinpoint when, where and how they will perform any connection repair, demolition, reactivation or new construction that needs to be performed. I’m very pleased that our efforts on these two projects are being recognized by a prestigious organization such as the AEA.”

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