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GREGORY A. TRAMONTOZZI
Executive Director and General Counsel

MATTHEW MURRAY
Clerk

“Protecting Public Health and the Environment”

600 Wilson Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07105

(973) 817-5700

(973) 817-5738- fax

www.pvsc.nj.gov

NEWS

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Contact Information: Doug Scancarella

dscancarella@pvsc.com, 973-817-5735

PVSC Conducts Cleanup at The Great Falls



Newark, NJ –The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) conducted a cleanup of the Great Falls in Paterson on Tuesday, June 19. This required “turning off” the Great Falls by diverting the flow of the Passaic River through an adjacent hydroelectric plant so that the cleanup could be safely performed. Once the flow was diverted, PVSC River Restoration Program team members removed fallen trees, litter and other debris that had accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the falls. The cleanup was conducted in conjunction with the National Park Service.

The Great Falls, which plunge 77 feet over a shelf of basalt, are the second largest falls in the northeast after Niagara Falls. For more than 200 years, the Great Falls have powered manufacturing plants in Paterson and played a major role in the industrial development of New Jersey. They were designated a National Historical Landmark in 1976 and were added to the National Historic Park System in 2009.

Since its creation in 1998, PVSC’s award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. PVSC has removed over 13,000 tons of debris from the

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Newark Bay, the Passaic River and its tributaries. PVSC has also sponsored nearly 1,300 individual cleanups along area shorelines. In the last two years, PVSC has removed 1,000 tons of debris from these waterways. This was the 20th Great Falls cleanup conducted by PVSC since the inception of the River Restoration Program.

“The Great Falls are not only an important symbol representing the Paterson community, but also a significant national treasure,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “In addition to playing a vital role in the American Industrial Revolution, they boast natural beauty and are also surrounded by a quiet, forested area. As one of the largest wastewater facilities in the country, it is PVSC’s mission to act as good environmental stewards. Routinely cleaning up the Great Falls is a critical part of that process.”

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