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PVSC Participates In Cleanup, Science Expo And Water Quality Seminar At Great Falls

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) recently participated in a cleanup of the Great Falls in Paterson (top left) in conjunction with the National Park Service. Members of PVSC’s River Restoration Program (bottom right) spent the day removing fallen trees, litter and other debris that have accumulated along the shores and in the rocks above the Great Falls. Volunteers (middle), including more than 200 students from the Paterson school system, also took part in the large-scale cleanup effort. By keeping the waters above the Great Falls clear of potential blockages, PVSC is helping to ensure that the water continues to beautifully cascade over the Great Falls and mitigate threats of flooding.



The event also included a **Science Expo** featuring government agencies, organizations, local businesses, and clubs. Each group held an exhibit designed to educate the public about protecting waterways and preserving the environment. Scientists from PVSC’s Process Control Department showcased how the **Clean Waterways, Healthy**



Neighborhoods initiative (a collaboration between PVSC and the North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority) is reducing water quality impacts of combined sewer overflows on receiving waters. PVSC’s Educational Outreach Program Coordinator assisted students in constructing and hanging birdhouses near the Great Falls. Attracting birds can improve the ambiance of any outdoor environment. Birds also provide an all-natural means for weed and pest control. The United



States Geological Survey (“USGS”), the Great Swamp Watershed Association, Thomas Edison and Morristown National Historical Parks, NASA’s Solar System Ambassadors, the Bergen County Zoo, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, and New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors also participated in the Science Expo.

Tom Laustsen, PVSC’s Chief Operating Officer, spoke at the USGS’s **Celebrating Water Quality Efforts For Impact And Engagement Seminar** about how PVSC, in conjunction with the USGS, is implementing and supporting opportunities that help identify, reduce and prevent sources of pollution in the Lower Passaic River Watershed. Scientists from PVSC’s Process Control Department also attended the session, along with Mr. Laustsen (bottom left).

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“We are very pleased to participate in this event at the Great Falls every year,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “Our objective was to showcase the extensive efforts we take every year in protecting local waterways and to demonstrate the steps people can take to improve the health of the environment. Routinely cleaning up the Great Falls, a significant national treasure, is a critical part of that process.”

PVSC’s award-winning River Restoration Program has been charged with preserving and protecting over 100 miles of area waterways. Since it’s creation in 1998, the program has removed more than 4,000 tons of debris. Their signature efforts include at least two cleanups per year at the Great Falls.

PVSC is the largest wastewater treatment plant and the largest effluent discharger in the New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group (“NJHDG”). Formed in 1992, the NJHDG agreed to jointly fund, develop and perform a series of water quality studies within the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The water quality program monitors 33 sampling sites, including the Passaic River, the Hackensack River, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill, the Raritan River, Raritan Bay, the Hudson River, and main tributaries of those waterways.

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