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For Immediate Release

April 6, 2026

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PVSC Earns ACEC Distinguished Award for Comprehensive Resiliency Program

Newark, NJ – The American Council of Engineering Companies (“ACEC”) recently celebrated the 2025 recipients of its annual *Engineering Excellence Awards* during a banquet held at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe, New Jersey. The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (“PVSC”) received the ACEC’s esteemed *National Recognition Award*, honoring PVSC for the development and implementation of its groundbreaking Resiliency Program. John Rotolo, PVSC’s recently retired Chief Engineer (far left), and Mike DeSena, a PVSC Senior Civil Engineer (second from the right), attended the ceremony, with DeSena accepting the award on behalf of the agency. The AECOM–HDR Project Management team provided a comprehensive range of project management services in connection with the Resiliency Program, including project controls, scheduling, and contract administration. Kevin Condon, Construction Manager with HDR, and Paul Storella, Vice President and Business Unit leader for AECOM, also attended the ceremony.

The initiative, with funding of approximately \$800 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, aimed to strengthen the plant's defenses against future extreme weather events. The need for such a plan became obvious in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which caused unprecedented devastation across New Jersey. PVSC’s 140-acre treatment facility was completely inundated, resulting in widespread damage to critical systems and equipment.



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development of three high-capacity storm pump stations. The program also encompassed major upgrades to electrical infrastructure, including substations, motor control centers, and critical cabling systems.

“The agency’s ability to rebound from such a significant disaster is a testament to the commitment and expertise of its workforce and leadership,”

PVSC Chairman Brendan Murphy said. “It required a deliberate, system-wide evaluation of vulnerabilities and the development of a cohesive, long-term strategy. By integrating advanced engineering solutions with proactive planning, PVSC and the AECOM–HDR PM team have not only strengthened the plant’s infrastructure but also established a new standard for resiliency in the wastewater sector. We are thrilled that these efforts are being recognized by the ACEC, a highly respected and prominent engineering association.”



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