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PVSC Launches New Skimmer Vessel To Help Patrol Passaic River

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission recently launched a new, state-of-the-art Aquarius Systems TH-12 Trash Hunter Skimmer Vessel to help patrol the Passaic River for various forms of pollution. The new vessel is helping the agency continue its efforts to keep local waterways free of various forms of floating debris. It has spent its first month in operation patrolling the lower Passaic River, collecting buoyant material and then offloading it at a North Arlington dock owned by PVSC.

The vessel has an operating length of approximately 48 feet and is powered by a 120-horsepower Cummins diesel engine with twin hydraulic propellers. It features stainless-steel construction, a stainless-steel pickup conveyor and wings, heavy-duty conveyor belting, and dual operating cabs. The vessel weighs approximately 22,500 pounds and can carry up to 5,000 pounds, or 365 cubic feet, of collected material. While smaller than PVSC's larger skimmer vessels, the new skimmer vessel provides an important advantage: increased maneuverability. Its more compact design will allow crews to navigate tighter areas and reach locations that can be difficult for larger vessels to access, including waterways where bridge clearance can limit operations.

PVSC's River Restoration Program was established in 1998. Since then, the program has been an enormous success. The agency has removed more than 15,000 tons of debris from more than 100 miles of area waterways.

Although the quality of water in the Passaic River has improved in recent years, debris continues to enter the river as a result of

changing tides, stormwater runoff, and the influence of various tributaries, making continued cleanup efforts necessary. PVSC procured grant funding for the purchase of the skimmer vessel, allowing the acquisition to be made without the use of taxpayer dollars.



"Our new skimmer vessel has joined our ongoing efforts to enhance the health of the environment and make the Passaic River and its tributaries more inviting and appealing for everyone. This addition equips our River Restoration team with another valuable tool to help us remove a significant amount of debris from area waterways every year as we work to reclaim those valuable natural resources," PVSC Chairman Brendan Murphy said.

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