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## ***PVSC Receives Wave Awards from Association of Environmental Authorities***

The Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) presented its 2009 *Wave Awards* to eight member facilities during its recent Annual Spring Conference, including two awards to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC).

PVSC received the AEA *Wave Award* for Community Outreach for the 10<sup>th</sup> time since 2003, recognizing the agency's River Restoration Program and other public outreach efforts that "capture the public's attention with an important environmental message." This year's award recognized PVSC's continued sponsorship of the annual Mayor's Cup canoe race in Paterson.

"Due to our collaboration, the Mayor's Cup canoe race has been added to the list of activities at the city's annual Labor Day weekend Great Falls Festival," said Paterson Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres. "Thanks to the River Restoration Program and PVSC, our residents and visitors to our city can enjoy the natural wonder of the Great Falls in all its beauty."

PVSC was also honored with an AEA *Wave Award* in the Energy Savers category for the design and re-construction of the plant's high-efficiency oxygenation tanks.

"The Commissioners and staff continue to challenge themselves each day on ways to improve our public outreach efforts and plant operations," said PVSC Executive Director Bryan Christiansen. "Our daily operations and our efforts directed at the public go hand-in-hand and are equal parts of our overall mission to improve water quality and the environment in the Passaic Valley.

"A decade ago the Commissioners made the commitment to expand our mandate beyond just safely and effectively treating the region's wastewater," Christiansen added. "That mission was broadened to include broader environmental protection and public awareness is a major component of that effort."

PVSC's River Restoration Program includes conducting staff-driven and volunteer riverside clean-ups, continuous operation of two skimmer vessels to remove floating debris from area waterways, and the Education Outreach program which brings an environmental awareness message to students from K-12 grades.

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The AEA is a nonprofit association representing over 100 publicly owned water and wastewater facilities that provide environmental services to the people of the State of New Jersey.

AEA started the Wave Award program in 1983, when it began recognizing the skilled and dedicated professionals operating authorities in New Jersey with the Wave Achievement Award.