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PVSC Awarded Federal Stimulus Funds To Increase Plant Capacity

***- Funding will be used to increase wet weather flow, enhancing
water quality by reducing Combined Sewer Overflows -***

Newark, NJ – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) have been awarded \$10 million in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funds to be used for upgrades to the agency's Newark treatment plant. The improvements will increase the plant's wet weather flow capacity, further reducing Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and improving water quality in the Passaic River.

The funding, administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), was announced by PVSC Chairman Anthony Luna.

"This is a great moment for the residents of the Passaic Valley," Luna said. "These funds will immediately be put to use in upgrades and improvements to the PVSC plant that will allow us to further reduce CSOs during heavy rains."

The money comes in the form of loans from the NJDEP out of federal stimulus funds awarded to the State. The first is a \$5 million loan that will be forgiven once work is started. The remaining awards are for \$2.5 million each, one a no-interest loan and the second a market-rate loan.

"Members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation, especially Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-8) were extraordinarily helpful in securing this funding for the state," said Luna. "The delegation has always remained supportive of our efforts to improve our plant capacity and efficiency and we thank them for their continued commitment."

The funding will be used for a second phase of improvements to the PVSC oxygenation tanks, an energy saving upgrade and improvement of the plant's 250 million gallon per day effluent pumps, and the rehabilitation to an existing pipeline at the plant.

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“I want to commend the staff here at PVSC that worked so diligently on the three funding applications,” said PVSC Executive Director Bryan Christiansen. “Competition for the stimulus money was intense. Their hard work and dedication paid off in these awards, and they should take great pride in knowing that their work will have a long-lasting positive affect on water quality in New Jersey.”

Construction for the funded projects is expected to begin in the late fall, with completion of the work in about two years.