

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PVSC Leads Effort to Clean River During Great Falls Diversion

***-- Mayor Torres, Rep. Pascrell and 50 Paterson High
Schoolers Join in Clean-up --***

PATERSON, NJ – STUDENTS FROM PATERSON’S INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOINED MAYOR JOSE TORRES, CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL AND STAFF FROM THE PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS (PVSC) TODAY IN A RIVERBED CLEAN-UP ATOP THE GREAT FALLS, AS THE FLOW OF THE PASSAIC RIVER OVER THE FALLS WAS DIVERTED.

THE CLEAN-UP EFFORT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY DIVERTING THE FLOW OF THE PASSAIC RIVER THROUGH THE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT OWNED BY PATERSON AND OPERATED BY ALGONQUIN, LTD. THE STUDENTS AND CREWS FROM THE PVSC’S *RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM* REMOVED NEARLY FIVE TONS OF TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM THE SHORELINE AS WELL AS FROM THE ROCKS IN THE RIVERBED JUST ABOVE THE FALLS.

“IT’S GREAT TO SEE SUCH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PATERSON COMMUNITY AND PVSC IN HELPING TO PROTECT THIS BEAUTIFUL NATURAL RESOURCE,” SAID MAYOR TORRES. “TODAY, WE SAW SCHOOL CHILDREN, PVSC STAFF, EMPLOYEES FROM ALGONQUIN AND THE CITY OF PATERSON ALL COME TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THIS COMMUNITY. THESE EFFORTS BY PVSC AND THE COMMUNITIES ALONG THE PASSAIC RIVER ARE IMPROVING THE RIVER AND THEREFORE THE LIVES OF EVERYONE WHO LIVES ALONG IT SHORES.”

“ONE OF THE PRIMARY MISSIONS OF THE PVSC IS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE PASSAIC RIVER,” SAID PVSC CHAIRMAN ANTHONY LUNA. “OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, WE’VE CONDUCTED HUNDREDS OF CLEAN-UPS IN COMMUNITIES UP AND DOWN THE PASSAIC RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. THE GREAT FALLS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES IN THIS AREA. VISITORS NOW WILL SEE THE FALLS AS THEY WERE INTENDED, PRISTINE AND DEBRIS-FREE.”

IN 2008, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLACED THE 35-ACRE GREAT FALLS AREA INTO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, THANKS TO THE WORK OF REP. BILL PASCRELL (NJ-8), AND CREATED THE GREAT FALLS HISTORIC PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION TO HELP MAINTAIN THE FALLS AS A NATIONAL TREASURE.

PVSC MAINTAINS A FULL TIME RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES RIVERBANK CLEAN-UP CREWS AND TWO SKIMMER VESSELS THAT PATROL THE WATERS OF THE PASSAIC RIVER AND NEWARK BAY DAILY REMOVING FLOATING TRASH AND DEBRIS. TO DATE, PVSC’S RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM HAS CONDUCTED MORE THAN 670 SHORELINE CLEAN-UPS RESULTING IN THE REMOVAL OF OVER 8,000 TONS OF DEBRIS SINCE 1998.

Members of the media who may want photographs of the clean-up event can contact Rich Ambrosino at (609) 828-3192.