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MEDIA RELEASE**

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PVSC Fee Connection Program Rebates Over \$62,000 To Member Municipalities

NEWARK – Four years ago the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) formed a strategic partnership with its member municipalities to crack down on unapproved hook-ups to the PVSC sewage treatment system. The partnership included an agreement to rebate back to each town a portion of all sewer connection fees collected from that municipality.

In 2008, PVSC's Municipal Rebate Incentive Program (MRIP) sent more than \$62,000 back to 20 municipalities in its service area, including more than \$13,000 to Clifton, more than \$8,000 to Harrison and more than \$6,000 to Bloomfield.

"This program has been even more successful than we imagined," said PVSC Chairman Thomas Powell. "The partnerships we've formed with our member municipalities have been tremendous. Thanks to their efforts, we've virtually eliminated unpaid connections to PVSC's system and generated much-needed revenue for us to hold sewer rates down, as well as help our towns offset property taxes.

"This program is the kind of forward-thinking strategic partnership that government agencies at all levels should be exploring as the property tax crisis in New Jersey continues."

Since the Fee Connection Program was created five years ago, PVSC has returned more than \$1.6 million in rebates to towns in its service area and collected nearly \$15 million in connection fees that have been used to offset residential sewer rates.

Under the Fee Connection Rebate Program, construction officials in each town ensure that PVSC's fee connection is paid prior to issuing any construction permit. In turn, PVSC distributes on an annual basis, the rebates earned for all connection fees collected within each municipality on a calendar-year or fiscal-year basis.

A study conducted by the Commissioners in 2002 indicated most municipalities were not aware that PVSC had a process for reviewing construction projects and collecting fees for new hook-ups to the sewer system, as established by New Jersey law. As a result, many new connection projects and fees were being missed. To improve

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collection of connection fees, PVSC undertook an in-depth awareness campaign, educating local administrators, construction officials, and builders on when PVSC sewer connection permits are required.

“Large sewer hook-ups which require a Treatment Works Approval were being processed effectively,” said PVSC Executive Director Bryan Christiansen. “However, our 2002 study indicated that many local construction officials were simply not aware that multi-family structures or certain changes in commercial usage required the payment of a connection fee to PVSC.

“We decided to implement a program to ensure that every connection fee was paid and, as part of that effort, we rebate up to 15% of all connection fees we collect back to the municipality from which the fee originated. Since the local construction officials are an integral part of this program, we wanted to be sure the towns benefited from this revenue.”

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Click here: [A list of all rebates to municipalities in calendar year 2008 is attached.](#)