

MEDIA ADVISORY
July 22, 2009

CONTACT: Bryan Christiansen
(973) 817-5700
Brian Davenport
(973) 277-8890

PVSC Great Falls Diversion has been rescheduled to
Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 10:00am

Slowed to a Trickle Once Again!

-- PVSC Staff to Clean Debris from top of Great Falls as Water Fall is Diverted --

PATERSON, NJ – Staff from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners' (PVSC) *River Restoration Program* and Algonquin, LTD will divert the water flow over the Great Falls in Paterson on Thursday, July 23, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m. to enable them to remove accumulated heavy debris from the top of the falls. For several hours, the flow of water over the falls will cease as the crews work.

The clean-up effort will be made possible by diverting the flow of the Passaic River through the hydroelectric plant adjacent to the falls owned by the City of Paterson and operated by Algonquin. Crews from the *River Restoration Program* expect to remove as much as a ton of trash and debris from the shoreline as well as from the rocks in the riverbed at the top of the falls.

"For the fourth time over the years, the staff of PVSC and Algonquin will put on this amazing show, diverting the Great Falls to remove trash and debris that has accumulated there," said Paterson Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres. "The Falls are such a centerpiece of our city and we thank PVSC for their support in helping us maintain its pristine beauty and applaud the River Restoration staff for undertaking this difficult work."

"One of the primary missions of the PVSC is to protect, preserve and promote the Passaic River. Over the years, we've conducted over 330 shoreline clean-ups in communities up and down the Passaic River and its tributaries," said PVSC Chairman Anthony Luna. "The Great Falls is one of the most important natural resources in the region, just recently added to the federal park system. Visitors now will see the falls as they were intended -- clean and debris-free. We thank Mayor Torres and the City of Paterson for their help in this clean-up."

PVSC maintains its *River Restoration Program* year-round, which includes riverbank clean-up crews and two skimmer vessels that patrol the waters of the Passaic River and Newark Bay every day, removing floating trash and debris. To date, PVSC's *River Restoration Program* has conducted 334 shoreline clean-ups resulting in the removal of over 7,600 tons of debris since its inception in 1998.