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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Lodi Residents Get Cleaner Streets Compliments of PVSC

- "Clean Sweep" Program Will Also Help Improve Water Quality -

NEWARK -- The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) today began its "Clean Sweep for the Passaic River" program as the agency's newly acquired street sweeper began patrolling the streets of Lodi, removing litter, dirt and debris that often ends up in the Passaic River.

A new function of PVSC's highly acclaimed *Passaic River/Newark Bay Restoration Program*, the "Clean Sweep" initiative is just another way PVSC is improving water quality in the Passaic Valley beyond simply treating the region's wastewater.

The new street sweeper will be warehoused in Lodi, patrolling the town's streets two weeks each month. The other two weeks, the sweeper will conduct operations in nearby North Arlington, Garfield and Wallington.

"PVSC is excited to add this newest weapon to its arsenal in fighting water pollution on the Passaic River and its tributaries," said Commission Anthony Luna, who also serves as Lodi Town Manager.

"We are doing exciting things in our holistic approach to improving water quality in the region," Luna said. "My fellow Commissioners and I see PVSC's mission as more than just treating the region's wastewater. We have broadened our scope to serve as a true protector of the environment."

"Much of the shoreline litter and floating debris removed by our Restoration Program team comes from city streets and highways that is washed into the Passaic and its tributaries during storm events," explained PVSC Chairman Thomas Powell. "The 'Clean Sweep' program is a way for us to get ahead of that refuse, before it ever enters the Passaic River."

Nearly a decade ago, PVSC began expanding its mission to improve water quality in the

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region. Today, the Restoration Program conducts shoreline clean-ups, heavy shoreline debris removals, operates two surface water skimmer vessels, and provides environmental education to area students through its Education Outreach Program, in addition to the new "Clean Sweep" initiative.

Since PVSC started its Passaic River/Newark Bay Restoration Program in 1998, it has organized almost 400 shoreline clean-ups that have resulted in the removal of nearly 6,000 tons of debris. The program's skimmer vessels, which patrol the Passaic River and its tributaries, have removed another 1,300 tons of floating debris from area waterways.

For its Restoration Program efforts, PVSC has been honored with several awards, most recently an ***Environmental Excellence Award*** from the New Jersey Association of Environmental Authorities.