

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **GOVERNOR SIGNS BILLS APPROPRIATING \$14 MILLION FOR CLEAN WATER PROJECTS; CHRISTENS RIVERWAY CLEANING VESSEL**

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation, which appropriates \$14 million for clean water projects in 12 localities. The Governor also christened a new vessel that will be used by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) to remove debris and help maintain water quality in Passaic River waterways.

"Our continued aggressive efforts to protect our water have resulted in a number of positive trends for New Jersey's water supply," she said. "The continued improvement in coastal water quality during my term has allowed us to make 21,000 more acres of waters available for shellfish harvesting. The acreage is more than one and one-third times the size of Newark. The number of water systems reporting contaminants has declined over the past decade and the number of beach closing has dropped from more than 800 in 1988 to just three in 1998."

The legislation, A-3240, appropriates \$12,968,909 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from the Stormwater Management and combined Sewer Overflow Abatement grants to certain local governments and local government units in Union, Middlesex, Camden, Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties for combined sewer overflow abatement project planning and design grants.

The bill appropriates \$387,534 to Rahway; \$217,751 to Perth Amboy; \$4 million to Camden and \$255,000 to the Camden County MUA.

The bill also appropriates \$357,170 to Ridgefield Park Village; \$3,026,883 to North Hudson S. A.; \$479,175 to Kearney and \$101,762 to Cliffside Park. The bill appropriates \$163,612 to East Newark; \$3,057,181 to Paterson and \$922,841 to Bayonne.

The bill was sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Senator Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen).

A second bill, A-2616, appropriates \$1,152,519 to the DEP from the Stormwater Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Fund to five local governments in Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties for financing the cost of planning and design of combined sewer overflow abatement projects. Under the bill, \$225,653 is appropriated to Bayonne; \$347,440 to Paterson; \$174,516 to Ridgefield Park; \$233,194 to Kearny; \$58,222 to East Newark and \$113,494 to Edgewater.

The legislation was sponsored by Assembly Members Doria and DiGaetano and Senators Nicholas J. Sacco (R-Bergen/Hudson) and John A. Girgenti (D-Passaic).

The vessel that was christened today, S. V. Newark Bay, was purchased by Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with a grant of \$500,000 from the state Office of Maritime Resources. It will be used to collect floating debris from the Passaic River waterways as part of the PVSC's efforts to clean up the river. The skimmer uses a unique combination of hydraulically controlled conveyor systems and is capable of retrieving a wide variety of floating material up to 4 1/2 feet in diameter.

