

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EPA Secures \$165 Million Agreement with Occidental Chemical to Conduct the Work Needed to Start the Cleanup of the Lower Eight Miles of the Passaic River**

Statement of Debbie Mans, Baykeeper and Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper

"This is a good first step, but now the rest of the polluters need to step up and take responsibility for cleaning up the Passaic River. The remaining polluters that make up the "Cooperating Parties Group" or "CPG" have financially benefited by not properly disposing of their toxics - instead, they use the Passaic River as its dumping ground. It is time for the remaining polluters to stop paying their lobbyists and lawyers and start paying for the cleanup of the River. It is time for the polluters to stop paying for fish swaps and out-of-river projects as a way to distract from their obligation to return the Passaic River to the community. What is significant about this announcement is that it paves the way to move forward with the cleanup, as the \$165 million is to perform engineering and design work needed to begin the cleanup. This work could take a couple of years and the sooner it is started, the better."

To view EPA's press release, [click here.](#)

**About NY/NJ Baykeeper**

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we've worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth – benefiting its natural and human communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs we seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed.

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Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.  
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