

From: akpsweaver@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pamela Weaver](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment on the Eklutna River Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 1:33:06 PM

Dear Owners of The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

I strongly support restoring the Eklutna River as the Native Village is asking. It is time to emphasize renewable energy over hydroelectric, which cripples rivers and ecosystems, destroying the biodiversity which is essential for our future. Every species is under stress due to a warming climate. Now is the perfect time to do everything possible to mitigate as much of the stress as possible. Please listen to the Natives of Eklutna. It is time to right the wrong that was done to their way of being.

This comment is in regard to the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project's Draft Fish and Wildlife Program for the Eklutna River. I do not believe the plan's proposal to utilize the existing Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) water supply infrastructure meets the needs of salmon, the vision of the Eklutna Peoples, or your legal obligation to mitigate the project's impact on fish and wildlife. I support the Native Village of Eklutna's vision for river restoration and ask you to consider dam removal to fully reconnect the river and return the water flows needed to support the river's fisheries.

The current proposal leaves a mile of the river dry, releases only 3% of historical flows, and does not provide fish passage into the lake and upstream habitat. Salmon populations will only recover with a reliable and consistent water supply and access to crucial upstream spawning and rearing areas. This proposal is unacceptable and needs to go further to restore the river's salmon runs.

The Native Village of Eklutna has communicated its vision for thriving wild salmon in the Eklutna River; dam removal is the most effective way to achieve this important goal. I understand the reliance on this hydroelectric energy source in the near term. But removing the Eklutna Lake dam within the next decade, when replacement renewable energy is expected to be available, is reasonable.

Now is your one chance to make this right. Please consider removing the Eklutna Dam so that all five species of salmon can once again return to the river

Sincerely,
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