

**From:** [yeldarb@gci.net](mailto:yeldarb@gci.net)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Eklutna Hydroelectric Project Draft Fish and Wildlife Program Report October 2023  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:56:00 PM

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A public comment on this report.

Hello,

I thoroughly reviewed this 209 page report. The analysis was thorough, thoughtful, and well written. Kudos to all those involved in this effort. The \$44 million recommended option in Figure 2-1 wins. I agree with that conclusion and support the analysis that resulted in that study recommendation. Keep the Eklutna dam but allow a 10% reduction in water use for hydropower to keep the river flowing now that the lower dam is gone.

\$47 million was recently spent to increase the Bradley Lake Hydro project via the Battle Creek Diversion Project. Now the \$400+ million Dixon Diversion Project is being studied and likely will move forward. Why? Because hydropower is so dependable for our local needs. It would be extremely irresponsible to remove the Eklutna Dam while we are spending these large sums to add to our reliable hydropower. Very expensive LNG imports are in the future for Cook Inlet. That will be for home heating and electric power generation. Hydropower is cheaper and more reliable than electric power derived from LNG fuel, especially if the Eklutna Dam already exists!

There is a great deal of emotion being expressed by many who have commented on this Report. The days of the Cook Inlet region that existed 125 years ago are long gone. We now have a major civilization here in Cook Inlet. That requires a great deal of affordable/reliable energy to maintain. Civilization impacts the local environment. That is an inescapable fact. We can never "restore" this area to what it was. Now that civilization is here to stay in Cook Inlet we must provide it with affordable and reliable power. If not then we can plan of years of civilization decline in the local area.

Thank you,  
Brad Neugebauer  
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MS Engineering Management  
(retired)