

**From:** [Bret Chambers](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Eklutna Dam removal  
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As an Alaska resident, living in Anchorage, my family does not support removing the Eklutna Dam for the following reasons.

1) Eklutna Lake is a critical source of fresh drinking water for Anchorage and surrounding areas (totaling 130 sq miles). The City of Anchorage owned Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility supplies over 56,000 customers (~ one quarter of a million people). We have some of the best water sources in the world, because most of it is supplied by pristine watersheds high in the Chugach Mountains, surrounded by the protected lands of the Chugach State Park. With Anchorage as the largest city in Alaska, and a key hub for visitors and commerce, we should not be doing anything to risk our water supply.

2) The economics of this proposal to destroy the remaining Eklutna Dam to possibly restore 5 species of salmon is without merit.

First off, Eklutna is an Alaska Native village of approximately 70 residents within the Municipality of Anchorage (population > 280,000). Historically, since the initial Eklutna Dam was built in 1929 atop a natural landslide dam in the Eklutna valley, through today's dam, the ability for salmon to spawn upstream was changed. However, at the same time the need for a subsistence lifestyle was also fundamentally changed. With access to the Alaska Railroad, public roads and highways, air transportation, and the economic growth of Alaska, it is now possible to obtain food (and five species of salmon) from a number of nearby sources. A person who might have fished the Eklutna river for salmon before 1929 would be over 95 years old now. Times have changed.

For an economic analysis we need to look at the tangible and intangible benefits of the current dam. I won't attempt to quantify the cost per salmon brought back, but I'm sure it's not pretty. However, on the status quo side we have:

Eklutna Hydroelectric Power is the lowest cost renewable energy in Southcentral Alaska

40 megawatts hydroelectric power capacity, produced 177,438 kilowatt hrs in 2018 (supply for more than 24,600 residential homes).

What is the cost alternative if the greater Anchorage area fresh water supply is ruined. Will we become California, forced to use our toilets as a source of treated water for drinking. We're Alaskans and know enough to not eat yellow snow.

Bret Chambers  
Anchorage Resident