

From: lauriedanielnc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Laurie Daniel](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment on the Eklutna River Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:31:20 PM

Dear Owners of The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

I am writing to ask that Eklutna Hydroelectric Project and associates (Chugach Electric, Matanuska Electric and the Municipality of Anchorage) remove the dam and fully restore the Eklutna River, period.

The currently proposed mitigation plan recently put out for comment is wholly inadequate to restore the native salmon run in the river. It disregards the advice of the USFWS, NOAA and the Native Village of Eklutna. The proposed plan maintains a dead-end river and prevents the salmon from reaching their spawning grounds in Eklutna Lake and its upper tributaries. It does not mitigate the Project's impact on fish and wildlife, which you are legally obligated to do.

A better plan is to remove the dam in total. The removal will be paid for by the Conservation Fund and Trout Unlimited. Planning for a 10 year removal timeframe easily allows for new renewable energy projects to come online. Removing the dam will save ratepayers money and will restore the river as a fully functioning natural ecosystem. It's the right thing to do – for the fish, the landscape, and the people. The public has made clear their desire for restoring the Eklutna salmon run and return a fishable, naturally abundant salmon run within the City of Anchorage. The renewable energy projects will provide the needed energy to power our built infrastructure.

To be clear, I support the Native Village of Eklutna's vision for river restoration and ask that you remove the dam and return the water flows needed to support the river's fisheries.

Make this right, do the right thing, remove the Eklutna Dam.

Sincerely,
Laurie Daniel
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