

**From:** [Mark Parmelee](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Request to support the 2023 Eklutna Draft Fish and Wildlife Program  
**Date:** Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:25:26 AM

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February 3, 2024

Governor Dunleavy  
c/o Samantha Owen  
McMillen Jacobs  
[info@eklutnahydro.com](mailto:info@eklutnahydro.com)

Dear Honorable Governor Dunleavy,

Please support the October 27, 2023 Eklutna Draft Fish and Wildlife Program (Draft). It will benefit all parties and is a good compromise that supports the 1991 agreement, red salmon, the Anchorage water supply and hydroelectric power.

The 1991 Agreement requires a Final Fish and Wildlife Program be issued by the Governor by October 2, 2024. The work to date has thoroughly studied the issues and produced a Draft you can sign as Governor. The Draft is well supported with documents, studies and agency reviews. I have reviewed the materials on the [eklutnahydro.com](http://eklutnahydro.com) website. I attended the Eklutna Hydro Public Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> and listened to and asked many questions of the technical experts. I support the Draft, a release of water from a new Eklutna River Release Facility, and to not remove the Eklutna Dam.

Removing the dam will not guarantee red salmon will travel past the old dam site and rear in the then river accessible Eklutna Lake. I have seen several places in Prince William Sound where post 1964 earthquake fish improvements have failed to reestablish red salmon runs. The Draft supports releasing 40 cfs of water in the summer to assist silver and king salmon. This additional water released from Eklutna Lake combined with Thunderbird Creek water will improve habitat for silver and king salmon as shown scientifically. Supporting salmon habitat is good. Removing the dam with the hope of red salmon rearing is not worth the loss of the dam's attributes.

Anchorage's water supply is crucially dependent on Eklutna Lake supplying the bulk of Anchorage's drinking water. Removal of the Eklutna Dam will allow uncontrolled flood events which may be detrimental to the water supply pipe. A lower Eklutna Lake water level puts the Anchorage water supply at risk.

Hydroelectric power is a valuable, reliable and affordable form of renewable energy. It is not dependent on the wind blowing or the sun shining. We can protect our energy security by continuing to use the Eklutna hydroelectric plant. Removing the dam will eliminate a nonpolluting source of power and is the wrong thing to do as Alaska is suffering from high energy prices.

The 1991 Agreement calls for periodic analysis (every 25 years) of the Eklutna hydroelectric developments on fish and wildlife. In the year 2049 let the analysis be done again for fish and wildlife. The Draft you have for your approval is a good compromise. The Draft will improve fish habitat, maintain Anchorage's water supply and provide reliable energy for Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Mark Parmelee*

Anchorage Resident Since 1985