

From: ryen.richards13@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ryen Richards](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment on the Eklutna River Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 6:56:20 PM

Dear Owners of The Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

I stand in solidarity with The Native Village of Eklutna. As an indigenous person who depends on a subsistence way of life here in Alaska, I understand the harmony nature needs in order to thrive. It is my understanding that there was a promise made that needs to be upheld. A promise to return water flow to the Eklutna River where it belongs. At minimum 15-20% of past flows should be demanded. 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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