

From: [Doug O'Harra](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Eklutna Dam removal comment
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 5:19:55 AM

Hello,

The dam must be completely removed so that the river flows freely and naturally through its ancestral channel from the lake to the sea. Recreating the Eklutna River salmon cycle—with its ecological benefit to the watershed and Cook Inlet—should be our priority. Yes, this will reduce or even eliminate the flow to the Eklutna Power Plant. It may increase the cost of electricity. And there will be challenges for the municipal water supply system. But we (the community, CEA and other utilities, and the Muni) will muddle through and figure out alternatives that will work.

The carbon benefit of hydro should not blind us to that dam's historic destruction of Eklutna's wild salmon runs and the subsequent incremental degradation of the entire watershed. Removing that dam is a once-in-a-century opportunity for the community that will deliver priceless ecological, recreational and social justice benefits. We can find and develop alternative sources of power. There is no comparable alternative to a fully restored Eklutna River.

As a homeowner and rate payer, I'm willing to bear my share of increased power costs to help make this happen. I walk the talk too—we have 18 solar panels on the roof of our home.

Sincerely,

Doug O'Harra
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Anchorage