

Municipal Clerk's Office

Approved

Date: 10/24/2017

Submitted by: Assembly Member
Dunbar and Assembly
Member Dyson

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: October 24, 2017

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2017-324(S)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT
OF EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE EKLUTNA RIVER.**

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Eklutna is the largest Denai'na settlement in the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Eklutna River historically was a major subsistence resource for the Eklutna People; and

WHEREAS, the Eklutna River has been in a badly degraded condition since 1929 due to hydropower dams and water diversions; and

WHEREAS, the Eklutna River still supports five species of salmon, including Cook Inlet king salmon and sockeye salmon, though in **[greatly]** diminished numbers from historical levels; and

WHEREAS, Eklutna Incorporated, the village corporation for Eklutna, is the largest landowner in the Municipality of Anchorage and owns most of the land along the Eklutna River and around Eklutna Lake; and

WHEREAS, Eklutna Inc., and the Eklutna people have made substantial contributions to the development of the Municipality of Anchorage through school sites, highways, **parks**, railroads, **housing**, powerlines and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, The Conservation Fund and Eklutna Inc., are collaborating on a \$7.5 million project to dismantle the Lower Eklutna River dam; and

WHEREAS, Little to no water flows out of Eklutna Lake into the Eklutna River because of water diversions for the Eklutna Power Project **and the supply of approximately 86 percent of the drinking water for Anchorage and Eagle River;** and

WHEREAS, Municipal Light and Power (ML&P), **Chugach Electric Association, and Matanuska Electric Association (collectively the "Eklutna Power Purchasers") jointly own and operate the Eklutna Power Project [owns a 52% share of the Eklutna Power Project];** and

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WHEREAS, The Eklutna Power Project often provides the least expensive renewable power on the Railbelt; and

WHEREAS, The Eklutna Power Purchasers are contractually obligated to study and develop a proposed Fish and Wildlife program to address ~~ML&P is legally obligated to mitigate for~~ the impacts of the Eklutna Power Project to fish and wildlife, pursuant to the 1991 Fish & Wildlife agreement; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and members of the Anchorage Assembly have frequently expressed their support for wild salmon and Anchorage's desire to be a "Salmon City;" now, therefore

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Assembly recognizes the contribution of the Eklutna people and Eklutna Inc. to the development of the Municipality of Anchorage and supports the efforts to restore the hydrology and fisheries of the Eklutna River subject to all provisions of the Fish & Wildlife agreement of August 7, 1991.

Section 2. The Assembly urges the Eklutna Power Purchasers to initiate a consultation process, as defined in the 1991 agreement, [Municipal Light and Power] to begin necessary studies early to examine [define] the impacts to fish and wildlife of Eklutna Lake and Eklutna River hydropower operations [and to begin collaborative efforts to restore water flows to the Eklutna River].

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 24th day of October, 2017.

Dick Zwi -
Chair

ATTEST:
Barbara A Jones
Municipal Clerk

Forest Osborn
Vice-Chair