



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
MAYOR DAVE BRONSON

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

February 6, 2023

Sara Boario, Alaska Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E Tudor Rd, Ste 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Native Village of Eklutna's USFWS BIL FY 2023 National Fish Passage Program Grant Request; Notice of Conflict with 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement for the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project (1991 Agreement)

Dear Sara,

On January 25, 2023, the Municipality of Anchorage learned, through information passed along by Marc Lamoreaux of the Native Village of Eklutna, that a grant proposal names the Municipality both in its role as an Eklutna Hydropower project owner and generally as a partner for a grant funding application.

The Municipality was not consulted regarding this grant application or the proposed project. While the proposal is unclear on the purpose of the funding sought, it appears to have implications regarding infrastructure owned and operated by the Anchorage Water/Wastewater Utility (AWWU) within and around the Eklutna River. This vital infrastructure is essential to the utility providing a vast majority of the drinking water for the Municipality of Anchorage and is essential to the health and welfare of municipal residents.

Further, the proposal seems to be duplicative of studies being undertaken by the Eklutna Hydropower project owners as required by the process outlined in the 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement to develop a Fish and Wildlife Program to mitigate for potential impacts of the project on fish and wildlife resources.

The Municipality of Anchorage is forced to oppose the grant proposal as drafted due to the lack of consultation regarding this proposal and the uncertainty of the impact the proposed projects may have on vital municipal infrastructure. As such, the Municipality requests to be removed from the grant proposal in all forms and capacities including as a project partner and as an in-kind contributor. The Municipality may be willing to join the grant proposal if adequate consultation occurs and it is determined the proposal does not threaten vital infrastructure or circumvent the process obligated under the 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement.

Sincerely,

Kent Kohlhasse
Acting Municipal Manager