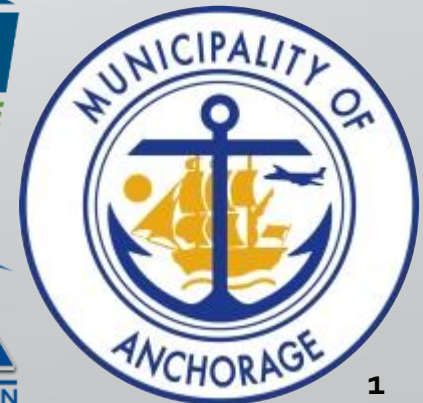




Eklutna Hydroelectric Project Fish & Wildlife Agreement

Anchorage Assembly
Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee
March 16, 2023



Agenda

- Provide update on activities since November 2022
 - Drafted Year 2 Study Reports
 - Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement
 - Presented at AWRA Conference
 - Conducted Winter Field Work
- Next steps
 - Review and Comment Period for Year 2 Study Reports
 - Conduct Alternatives Analysis
 - Develop Fish and Wildlife Program
- Q&A

Drafted Year 2 Study Reports

Studies Continued from Year 1	New Studies Initiated in Year 2
Geomorphology and Sediment Transport Study	Engineering Feasibility and Cost Assessment
Instream Flow Study	Hydro Valuation Study
Eklutna River Fish Species Composition and Distribution Study	Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat Study
Lake Aquatic Habitat and Fish Utilization Study	Terrestrial Wildlife Studies
Water Quality Study	Recreation Study
Stream Gaging	Cultural Resources Study

*Also collected new LiDAR data in May 2022

Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **February 13** – Meeting with the Aquatics Technical Work Group to review the 2D instream flow modeling results
- **March 1** – Meeting with USFWS, NVE, and ADFG to discuss potential funding opportunities (f/u meeting to be scheduled)
- **March 17** – Meeting with USFWS and NVE to iron out details for additional infrastructure options
- **Spring 2023** – Chugach and MEA Boards meeting with NVE

American Water Resources Association



Conducted Winter Field Work



Next Steps – Year 2 Study Reporting

- **March 24, 2023** – Distribute to TWGs for review and comment
 - Draft Year 2 Study Reports
 - Phase 1 Engineering Deliverables
- **Week of March 27** – TWG meetings
- **April 21, 2023** – Comments due
- **May 26, 2023** – Upload final versions to Project website

Alternatives Analysis

- Series of 5 in-person meetings
- April – August 2023
- Inviting all TWG members and Parties
- Purpose:
 - Solicit input on comprehensive alternatives that should be compared
 - Compare costs and benefits of various comprehensive alternatives
 - Evaluate impacts of each alternative on other resources
 - Identify appropriate monitoring program and adaptive management
 - Outline components of Fish and Wildlife Program

Technical Work Groups and Parties

Entity	Aquatics	Terrestrial	Recreation	Cultural	Parties
Native Village of Eklutna	x	x	x	x	*
Alaska Department of Fish and Game	x	x	x		x
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation					x
ADNR Water Resources					x
ADNR Chugach State Park			x		x
ADNR Office of History and Archaeology				x	x
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	x	x		x	x
National Marine Fisheries Service	x				x
Trout Unlimited	x		x		
Alaska Pacific University	x	x			
Hydropower Project Owners	x	x	x	x	x

*Although NVE is not a party to the 1991 Agreement, the Project Owners have committed to a review and participation framework specifically for NVE.

Develop Fish and Wildlife Program

- **October 2023** – Distribute Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
 - 30 days for TWGs to review and comment
 - Attempt to resolve differences
- **January 2024** – Public Meetings (Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley)
- **April 2024** – Submit Proposed Final Fish and Wildlife Program
 - 60 days for parties to review and comment
 - 30 days for project owners to respond
- **October 2024** – Governor issues Final Fish and Wildlife Program

Questions?

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