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## Native Village of Eklutna

Tribal Government

### Resolution 2022-04

#### **Addendum to Resolution 2019-11**

**Łiq'a nagh qinqtudeł - We are hopeful the salmon will return to us.**

**On behalf of Native Village of Eklutna people, the Traditional Tribal Council supports restoration of Eklutna River and Lake salmon habitat. This includes; 1) continuous flow in the river below the lake sufficient to support thriving salmon populations, with intermittent higher, habitat maintenance and re-creation flows, 2) salmon passage between Eklutna River and Lake, and 3) moderation of Eklutna Lake level variability, at levels sufficient to facilitate sockeye spawning.**

**WHEREAS**, Native Village of Eklutna is a distinct, independent political community and as such is qualified to exercise powers of self-governance by reason of its original tribal sovereignty as passed down from ancestors since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, *Idlughet Qayeht'ana* utilized their collective indigenous sovereign powers to re-organize into a Tribal Council form of government in 1961, named "*Native Village of Eklutna*" that is neither a profit nor non-profit corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Village of Eklutna is a traditional tribal government recognized by citizens, tribes, ANCSA Corporations, and others; it is federally recognized as "*Eklutna Native Village*" by the United States in 26 U.S.C. section 7871, Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act of 1982, confirmed by Congress in the 1994 Tribal List Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Constitution of Native Village of Eklutna*, approved by the Eklutna Tribal Membership on January 27, 1996, and amended on January 29, 2000, designates the Tribal Council as the governing body, with the sovereign powers of Eklutna vested in "*the Council*" including specific and general powers; and

**WHEREAS**, NVE Resolution 2000-33 declares that Eklutna River has provided nutritional and cultural benefit to Eklutna Dena'ina throughout time immemorial, but its productivity has been degraded in recent years. And Eklutnas wish to restore the Eklutna River for fish and wildlife habitat, traditional subsistence uses, and sustainable natural resources development; and

**WHEREAS**, to thrive above Thunderbird Creek, salmon need water released continuously downriver from Eklutna Lake. Also needed are periodic larger flows to reset the current anemic single strand channel with embedded boulders, and restore off-channel habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, the largest Eklutna system fishery should be red salmon that spawn in Eklutna Lake. There is also good spawning habitat for Chinook and coho, in the river tributaries above the lake. They all need fish passage, like a fish ladder to get to and from the lake; and

**WHEREAS**, moderation and coverage of the current broad divergence area between high and low lake levels would allow sockeye to use the potentially excellent spawning habit found there; and

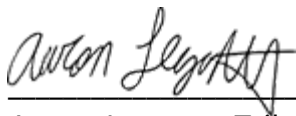
**WHEREAS**, new engineering of the lake outlet, dam, water release gate and a fish ladder are needed to mitigate for the above circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, federal funding could be made available for such mitigation;


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on behalf of Native Village of Eklutna people, the Traditional Tribal Council supports restoration of Eklutna River and Lake salmon habitat. This includes; 1) continuous flow in the river below the lake sufficient to support thriving salmon populations, with intermittent higher, habitat maintenance and re-creation flows, 2) salmon passage between Eklutna River and Lake, and 3) moderation of Eklutna Lake level variability, at levels sufficient to facilitate sockeye spawning.

łiq'a nagh qinqtudeł - We are hopeful the salmon will return to us.

By a vote of 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent, this resolution was duly approved with a quorum established on this 14th day of May, 2022



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Aaron Leggett, Tribal Council President



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Dorothy Cook, Tribal Council Secretary