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August 4, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Orca Task Force recommendations

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Tara Galuska, Orca Recovery Coordinator

**Summary:** At the August Council meeting we will receive an update on recommendations from Washington's Orca Task Force, including implementation and emerging issues.

**Relevance:** The recommendations of the task force are now being implemented throughout the state of Washington including in the Columbia River basin.

**Background:** The Orca Task Force, established in 2018, includes state, federal, tribal, and local governments, as well as Public Utilities Districts, utilities, and environmentally focused citizen groups. The Task Force and its subcommittees developed recommendations for Governors Inslee and Ferguson to consider and pass on to the Washington state legislature. One major goal is to increase the number of chinook salmon in the Columbia River basin through hatchery releases and habitat improvement. Tara Guluska, the Orca Recovery Coordinator for the state of Washington, will provide an update on the final task force recommendations, report and emerging issues.

**More info:** [Washington Governors Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force](#)