



**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director *GMS*  
James G. Parvey, P.E., LEED AP, Environmental Services Division Manager  
**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee  
**PRESENTER:** Laura Blackmore, Deputy Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
James G. Parvey, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability  
**SUBJECT:** Status of Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orcas) and Salmon Recovery  
**DATE:** January 23, 2019

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Laura Blackmore, Deputy Director for the Puget Sound Partnership, will give a presentation to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee on the recommendations of the Governor's Orca Task Force to include the state of Southern Resident killer whales and Chinook salmon in Puget Sound. She will also discuss how local government and the community can assist in the recovery of these Northwest icons. City staff will provide a brief overview of City programs.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) listed the Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW) as an endangered species. The SRKW were listed because of their low populations and the number of threats to their continued existence. Currently, the population of the SRKW is at its lowest level since 1976. The dire state of the SRKW has been increasing in the news. This population is under enormous pressure from lack of salmon, poor water quality, and human interference. In March of 2018, Governor Inslee commissioned a task force to evaluate the issue, and their recommendations were submitted this past November.

**ISSUE:**

Southern Resident killer whales and Chinook salmon are vital to the Northwest's ecology and culture. Their recovery and long-term viability must be ensured for this and future generations.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Identify ways to engage and collaborate with the State, our community, and other entities to safeguard these icons of the Salish Sea.