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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orcas ("the Orcas") are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 73 individuals left; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orcas' survival is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several tribal governments have recognized that nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution, and contamination.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, David J Faber, Mayor of the City of Port Townsend, do hereby proclaim on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022: The City of Port Townsend supports and urges action by local, state, federal, and tribal governments that secure and effectuate the

**Rights of the Southern Resident Orcas**

and of the ecosystems upon which they depend



David J. Faber, Mayor

# PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR

## Recognizing the Rights and Value of the Southern Resident Orca

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orcas are culturally and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 74 individuals remaining; and

**WHEREAS**, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several tribal governments have recognized that nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to life, autonomy, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution, and contamination; and

**WHEREAS**, major factors in the decline of the Southern Resident Orca population include captures for marine parks in the 1960s and 70s, declining salmon runs, toxic pollution, loss of habitat, and increasing vessel traffic and noise levels in Puget Sound and the ocean; and

**WHEREAS**, bringing attention to the Southern Resident Orcas will also bring attention to the need to clean up Puget Sound and restore and conserve important Puget Sound habitats and Chinook salmon spawning grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, we are fortunate to have this community of Southern Resident Orcas in our midst, know them as individuals and pods, and watch them from our ferries, boats, and many miles of shoreline; and

**WHEREAS**, we have only begun to learn about the intelligence and social capabilities of Southern Resident Orcas; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State supports efforts to recover this endangered population of Southern Resident Orcas.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Tracie Markley, Mayor of the City of Gig Harbor, Washington, do hereby proclaim that the City of Gig Harbor supports and urges action by local, State, federal, and tribal governments that secure and effectuate the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas and of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gig Harbor to be affixed this 12th day of December, 2022.

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Tracie Markley, Mayor





## PROCLAMATION

**A PROCLAMATION** by the City Council of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, supporting the rights of Southern Resident Orcas.

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orcas (the “Orcas”) are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world. However, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 73 individuals left in the wild; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orcas’ survival is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems including the Salish Sea, the Fraser River Watershed, the Columbia River Basin, and the lower Snake River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the rights of marine mammals to exist and flourish have been recognized internationally and locally, including through the Helsinki Declaration (2010), the Marine Life Proclamation of the City of Malibu, California (2014), and the City of San Francisco’s resolution guaranteeing the Free and Safe Passage of Whales and Dolphins in San Francisco’s Coastal Waters (2014); and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2018, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, passed a resolution (Resolution #18-32) recognizing the Orcas (also known as Blackfish) as revered relations for which there is a sacred obligation to ensure they are treated “in a dignified manner that reflects tribal cultural values that have been passed down for countless generations;” and

**WHEREAS**, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several tribal governments have recognized that Nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward Nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, Nature and all living beings, including the Orcas and the ecosystems upon which they depend, are recognized as possessing inherent rights, including to exist, flourish, evolve, regenerate, recover, and be restored; and

**WHEREAS**, the rights of the Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to: life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution and contamination.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim on this 14th day of February, 2023 that the City of Bainbridge Island supports and urges action by local, state, federal, and tribal governments that secure

and effectuate the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas and of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

**DATED** this 14th day of February, 2023



*Brenda Fantroy-Johnson*  
Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Mayor

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## PROCLAMATION

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**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orcas (“the Orcas) are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world. However, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 73 individuals left in the wild.

**WHEREAS**, the Orcas’ survival is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems including the Salish Sea, the Fraser River Watershed, the Columbia River Basin, and the lower Snake River Watershed.

**WHEREAS**, the rights of marine mammals to exist and flourish have been recognized internationally and locally, including through the Helsinki Declaration (2010), the Marine Life Proclamation of the City of Malibu, California (2014), and the City of San Francisco’s resolution guaranteeing the Free and Safe Passage of Whales and Dolphins in San Francisco’s Coastal Waters (2014).

**WHEREAS**, in May 2018, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, passed a resolution (Resolution #18-32) recognizing Blackfish (referred to by non-indigenous peoples as “Orcas”) as revered relations for which there is a sacred obligation to ensure they are treated “in a dignified manner that reflects tribal cultural values that have been passed down for countless generations.”

**WHEREAS**, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several tribal governments have recognized that Nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward Nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationship.

**WHEREAS**, Nature and all living beings, including the Southern Resident Orcas and the ecosystems upon which they depend, are recognized as possessing inherent rights, including to exist, flourish, evolve, regenerate, recover, and be restored.

**WHEREAS**, the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to: life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution and contamination.

**WHEREAS** the City of Langley recognizes the ecological importance of whales, as shown by the presence of the Langley Whale Center, Whale Bell Park, and our annual Welcome the Whales Parade and Festival, and further acknowledges our responsibility to preserve the health of the Whidbey shoreline and surrounding waters that are essential habitat for the Southern Resident Orcas.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Scott Chaplin, Mayor of the City of Langley, do hereby proclaim on this 19th day of December, 2022: The City of Langley supports and urges action by local, state, federal, and tribal governments that secure and effectuate the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas and of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

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Scott Chaplin, Mayor



# PROCLAMATION

## Declaration of Rights for the Southern Resident Orcas

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orcas have been a sacred, spiritual species to the indigenous people and Tribes of the North Olympic Peninsula since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orca are culturally and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world. However, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 73 of these magnificent creatures left in the wild; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orcas' survival is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems including the Salish Sea, the Fraser River Watershed, the Columbia River Basin, and the lower Snake River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several Tribal governments have recognized that nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward Nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, Nature and all living beings, including the Southern Resident Orcas and the ecosystems upon which they depend, are recognized as possessing inherent rights, including the right to exist, flourish, evolve, regenerate, recover, and be restored; and

**WHEREAS**, the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to: life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution and contamination;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim a Declaration of Rights for the Southern Resident Orcas and urges action by local, state, federal, and tribal governments to secure the ecosystems upon which these orcas depend.

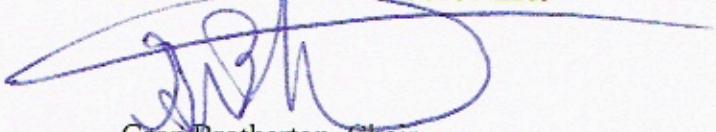
**PROCLAIMED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

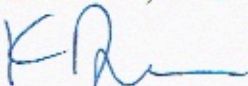
SEAL:

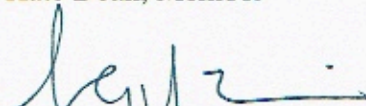


ATTEST:

JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Greg Brotherton, Chair

  
Kate Dean, Member

  
Heidi Eisenhour, Member

  
Carolyn Gallaway, CMC Clerk of the Board





**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
County Council

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Southern Resident Killer Whales are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the people of San Juan County, the Salish Sea, the State of Washington and the world; and

WHEREAS, the survival of the Southern Resident Killer Whales is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, we value the ability of the Southern Resident Killer Whales to have the right to life, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution, and contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the San Juan County Council do hereby proclaim on this 7th day of February 2023: San Juan County urges our State and Federal governments to deepen their commitment to restoring the bounty of the Salish Sea and gratefully supports actions taken by State, Federal and Tribal governments that secure and effectuate the rights of the Southern Resident Killer Whales and of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

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Cindy Wolf, Chair  
District 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Fuller, Vice-Chair  
District 3

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Christine Minney, Member  
District 1

