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*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

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Notice of Findings of Candidacy

Southern Resident Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2074.2 of the California Fish and Game Code, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), at its June 17-18, 2026 meeting, accepted for consideration the petition submitted to list southern resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act.

Pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of Section 2074.2 of the Fish and Game Code, the Commission determined that the amount of information contained in the petition, when considered in light of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife written evaluation report, the comments received, and the remainder of the administrative record, would lead a reasonable person to conclude there is a substantial possibility the requested listing could occur.

Based on its determination and acceptance of the petition, the Commission is also providing notice that southern resident killer whale is a candidate species as defined by Section 2068 of the Fish and Game Code.

Within one year of the date of publication of this notice of findings, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall submit a written report, pursuant to Section 2074.6 of the Fish and Game Code, indicating whether the petitioned actions are warranted. Copies of the petition and minutes of the June 17-18, 2026 Commission meeting are on file and available for public review on the Commission's website at fgc.ca.gov. If you would prefer to view the documents at the Commission's office, please make an appointment by sending an email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or by calling (916) 653-4899.

Written comments or data related to the petitioned actions should be directed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Region, Attn: Senior Environmental Scientist Dylan Stompe, via email at OceanSalmon@wildlife.ca.gov with "Southern Resident Killer Whale" in the subject line. Alternatively, comments or data may be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. Submitting information via email is preferred.

June 24, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director