



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

We:sij T-we:m

ALL OF US TOGETHER

NED NORRIS JR.

CHAIRMAN

ISIDRO LOPEZ

VICE CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Dec. 3, 2010

Contact: Peter Delgado, (520) 383-2028

Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION CALLS ON CITY OF GLENDALE TO PARTICIPATE IN WEST VALLEY RESORT DISCUSSIONS

Current Economic Climate Would Benefit from Cooperation with Glendale Officials

SELLS, Ariz. – After stonewalling the Tohono O'odham Nation's West Valley Resort for nearly two years, the City of Glendale has single-handedly delayed the creation of thousands of jobs for West Valley residents. The Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation) is calling on Glendale officials now to set aside their personal prejudices on this project and meet with Nation leadership to work for the common good of the region. Glendale is the only entity to have flatly refused to participate in any constructive dialogue on this issue.

Even as the West Valley grapples with the worst economic crisis in recent history, Glendale officials work overtime to oppose this economic development project. In recent weeks, lenders have repossessed two major office projects in the area and USA Basketball has canceled its planned headquarters due to a lack of financing for the Main Street development. In October, FindLaw's Phoenix Bankruptcy Law News blog warned that Glendale is the Valley city most likely to declare bankruptcy. Furthermore, economists at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona have recently warned that there will be no rapid recovery in the Phoenix metro area. Still, Glendale refuses to acknowledge the positive economic impacts the West Valley Resort would have for its residents, which are needed now more than ever.

In fact, residents of the West Valley have voiced their overwhelming support for this project since day one. Nearly 70 percent of residents support the construction of the West Valley Resort—a figure that has remained constant from March 2009 to March 2010 when the third-party public opinion polls were conducted. Furthermore, approximately 2,500 individuals have signed up with WestValleyOpportunity.com, nearly all pledging their public support of the project. The views of Glendale officials clearly do not mirror those of the public. The Nation is asking Glendale to serve their constituents and finally meet with Nation leadership.

In a recent guest editorial in the Arizona Republic, Ned Norris Jr., Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, said, "Opponents are hoping their flurry of accusations will create confusion and make everyone forget that this project will be a shining star for the West Valley. In fact, they would rather just ignore all of the positive effects and support surrounding this project."

-more-



P.O. BOX 837 · SELLS, ARIZONA 85634

PHONE: 520-383-2028 · FAX: 520-383-3379

Chairman Norris went on to say, “Despite opponents’ self-serving misinformation campaign, the Tohono O’odham Nation will continue to work with local governmental and community entities to make sure this project succeeds. We are committed to being good neighbors and to bringing 10,000 jobs to the region.”

The Tohono O’odham Nation is a federally-recognized, sovereign tribe located in southern and central Arizona. The West Valley Resort will be located at 95th and Northern avenues. It will be constructed at no cost to taxpayers and is expected to create nearly 10,000 jobs and have more than a \$300 million annual impact. For information, visit www.westvalleyopportunity.com.

#