



Tohono O'odham Nation Office of the Chairman & Vice Chairwoman

COMPASSION FAITH TRADITION RESPECT
T-I:BDAG 'AMJED S-WOHOCUDA HIMDAG PI:K 'ELID

Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairman

Wavalene M. Romero
Vice Chairwoman



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NINTH CIRCUIT COURT HEARS WEST VALLEY RESORT CASE

Tohono O'odham Nation remains confident three-judge panel will uphold District Court decision

SELLS, Ariz. – A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit heard oral arguments today in an appeal of the U.S. District Court ruling that the Secretary of the Interior is obligated by federal law to take the Tohono O'odham Nation's West Valley property into trust.

The appeal was filed after the District Court rejected attempts by the City of Glendale and the State of Arizona to block the Tohono O'odham Nation's efforts to have the West Valley property added to the Nation's existing reservation lands in Maricopa County, creating jobs and economic development in the West Valley. The District Court ruling for the Nation is one of eight straight rulings by the courts and federal agencies in favor of the Nation.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"We remain confident of another favorable ruling. There is overwhelming public support for this project and we are eager to move forward with creating thousands of jobs and positive economic opportunity in the West Valley."*

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally-recognized Indian tribe, with existing reservation lands in Maricopa County, Pinal County, and Pima County, Arizona. The West Valley Resort will be located at 95th and Northern avenues and will generate thousands of new jobs and more than \$300 million in annual economic impact. For more information, visit www.westvalleyopportunity.com.

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