



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

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NINTH CIRCUIT AGAIN RULES FOR THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION ON MULTIPLE KEY ISSUES

Court requests more information from Department of Interior on one outstanding question

SELLS, Ariz. – The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling today on the Tohono O'odham Nation's efforts to take land into trust for its West Valley Resort & Casino project. The Court rejected the opposition's arguments on multiple key issues, removing them from contention and further clearing the way forward. The Court did request more information from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) on one question concerning the county island status of the project site.

In its ruling, the Court found in the Nation's favor on numerous important points, including questions on the issue of acreage allotment and Tenth Amendment concerns. The Court also found in the Nation's favor when it rejected attempts by opponents to have the full Circuit Court rehear its earlier trust decision in the Nation's favor. The Court also rejected a number of arguments from opponents, chiding them for taking multiple positions that contradicted their own earlier arguments.

On its request for additional information, the Ninth Circuit asked for a fuller explanation from the DOI concerning the Department's determination that the project site is eligible for trust acquisition. DOI has already determined that the site is not within the corporate limits of any city or town, as required by the Nation's land and water rights settlement with the federal government.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"We are very pleased that the Ninth Circuit has knocked down more of the opposition's spurious arguments. The Nation is currently reviewing the court's request for additional information and we look forward to this matter being expeditiously resolved by DOI. We are confident the Nation will prevail on this outstanding question, just as we have on every single other issue that has been raised."*

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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