



# TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

*We:sij T-we:m*

ALL OF US TOGETHER

NED NORRIS JR.  
CHAIRMAN

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COURT RULES THAT GLENDALE CANNOT ANNEX TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION'S LANDS

*Decision is Seventh Consecutive Ruling in the Tohono O'odham Nation's Favor*

SELLS, Ariz. – Today, U.S. District Court Judge David Campbell ruled that H.B. 2534, an Arizona law that would have allowed the City of Glendale to annex Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation) land, was unconstitutional and in direct violation of federal law. In his decision, Judge Campbell wrote, "H.B. 2534's clear purpose and effect would be to block DOI from taking the land into trust, contrary to the express command of Congress."

Today's decision is the latest in a string of rulings in which the courts have repeatedly found that the Nation has the right to take lands it owns into trust. The Nation intends to construct the West Valley Resort on this property which will create 6,000 construction jobs, more than 3,000 permanent jobs and \$300 million in annual economic development in the West Valley.

In addition to four favorable court rulings, federal and regional agencies have found in the Nation's favor on three other occasions. These repeated findings for the Nation are clear evidence that Glendale and other opponents are using the courts in their misguided efforts to delay this important economic development project.

Chairman Ned Norris Jr. of the Tohono O'odham Nation said, "*With yet another decision in favor of the Nation, further litigation by Glendale and others serves only to waste limited taxpayer dollars. It is time for Glendale leaders to come to the table with the Nation to resolve our differences and work together to the benefit of our communities.*"

Upon completion, the West Valley Resort will draw 1.2 million people to the West Valley each year and have a \$300 million annual economic impact. More than 9,000 jobs will be created during the construction of the facility and the day-to-day operations. For additional information on the Tohono O'odham Nation, the West Valley Resort and the history behind this project, please visit <http://www.westvalleyopportunity.com>.

**Editor's Note: See attached for Judge Campbell's decision**

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