



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

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

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Chairman

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NINTH CIRCUIT FAST TRACKS APPEAL IN WEST VALLEY RESORT CASE *Oral Arguments Set for April 16th*

SELLS, Ariz. – The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced yesterday the expedited oral argument of an appeal of the ruling by the U.S. District Court that the Secretary of the Interior is obligated by the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act to take the Tohono O'odham Nation's West Valley property into trust. The City of Glendale and the State of Arizona opposed the Nation's request for expedited oral argument.

The appeal was filed after the District Court rejected opponent's attempts 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 appreciate the Court's decision to fast track the appeal. The Nation is confident of another favorable ruling and looks forward to 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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