



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

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Contact: Peter Delgado, (520) 383-2028

Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

POLL SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT FOR WEST VALLEY RESORT

More than 2 out of 3 West Valley Voters Continue to Believe Project is Good for the West Valley

SELLS, Ariz. – Results of a new poll about the West Valley Resort show that 68 percent of West Valley voters are in support of the resort and casino project. By contrast, fewer than one in four voters are opposed to the project. The latest survey mirrors results from one year ago, when the Tohono O'odham Nation found 74 percent support for this economic development project among West Valley voters two months after it was announced. As with that 2009 study, support remains high across all demographic groups, regardless of gender, age, income or political affiliation.

The timing of this survey is significant as it was conducted immediately after the Arizona House of Representatives approved a bill that would grant the City of Glendale the right to annex the Nation's land without consent. Additionally, it follows announcements of opposition by various elected officials. The survey's findings clearly illustrate that opponents' views are not in line with those of the overwhelming majority of West Valley voters.

Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, said, *"The result of this poll validates our efforts to move forward with the West Valley Resort, a project that will create 6,000 construction jobs and more than 3,000 permanent jobs once completed."* Chairman Norris continued, *"The voters' strong support is consistent with the overwhelming community support we have received and it means a great deal. We remain committed to working with local communities to ensure this important economic development project moves forward."*

Other results of the poll show that awareness of the project among West Valley voters increased substantially over the past year, up to 80 percent from 57 percent in a poll conducted last March. The poll also found that 70 percent of respondents are more supportive of the West Valley Resort knowing that it will: create jobs and have a positive economic impact; not be funded by taxpayer money; and, be located near Loop 101.

- more -



Quite telling is the lack of influence the opposition has had on West Valley residents. 62 percent of voters said that the opposition of various elected officials made no difference in their level of support for the West Valley Resort. In fact, when voters were apprised of that opposition their level of support for it actually *increased*.

Also instructive is the fact that two out of three voters disagree with the City of Glendale's attempt to immediately annex the Nation's land through special legislation, with 49 percent strongly opposed to the City's action.

The poll of 400 West Valley registered voters was conducted between March 19 and March 21, 2010, by Behavior Research Center of Phoenix. The poll's margin of error is +/-5.0 percent.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally-recognized, sovereign tribe located in southern and central Arizona. For information visit <http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/> and www.westvalleyopportunity.com.

Editor's Note: See attached for a summary of the poll results.

###