



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Treena Parvello, 520-342-2905

Matt Smith, 520-321-1111

\$400 MILLION CASINO BREAKS GROUND IN PHOENIX WEST VALLEY *Construction Begins on Full-Scale Desert Diamond West Valley Casino*

GLENDALE, Ariz. – More than eight years after the project was first announced, the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise (TOGE) broke ground today on the permanent, full-scale home for its Desert Diamond West Valley Casino. The new facility will feature a 75,000 square-foot casino floor with Class III slot machines, poker and blackjack tables, and live bingo, as well as five restaurants. Construction of the \$400 million project will last an estimated 24 months.

Construction of the project is being headed by the Hunt/Penta Joint Venture as general contractor and will create over 1,500 construction jobs. Once complete, the full-scale casino will employ approximately 1,600 people. The facility is located on 54 acres of reservation land near the cities of Glendale and Peoria, Ariz. The full-scale casino will complement the region’s vibrant sports and entertainment attractions, including Glendale’s Westgate Entertainment District and Peoria’s P83 Entertainment District.

The Tohono O’odham Nation first announced the major casino project on Jan. 29, 2009. The casino project faced significant challenges from special interests in court and in multiple attempts to move federal legislation to halt the project. All of these challenges failed and an interim casino opened to huge crowds on Dec. 20, 2015. It currently employs nearly 600 people. The interim casino will continue operating during construction and then transition to use as a warehouse after the full-scale casino opens.

Edward Manuel, Chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation said, *“This facility will provide jobs and economic opportunity for members of the Tohono O’odham Nation, the West Valley, and Arizona. The Nation is proud of the partnerships we have forged in the region, which will only strengthen and grow as we move forward.”*

Andy Asselin, CEO of the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise said *“This is a day our guests and employees have been looking forward to for a long time. We’ve put together a terrific construction team that will be developing a unique attraction for the entire West Valley. We’re eager to get started.”*

TOGE is also planning future phases of construction once the permanent casino is complete, including a hotel, spa and other resort amenities. Once fully built out, the resort and casino will occupy over one million square-foot and create more than 3,000 jobs.

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P.O. Box 22230 Tucson, Arizona 85734 | Phone 520-294-7777 | Fax 520-342-2019

Desert Diamond Casinos are operated by the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise.



Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment, with three locations in Southern Arizona (Tucson, Sahuarita, and Why) and one in the West Valley, is owned and operated by the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise, an enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Additional information can be found at www.ddcaz.com or by calling 866-DDC-WINS. For updates on the construction, follow Desert Diamond West Valley Casino on Twitter (@DDCWestValley), Facebook (/WestValleyOpportunity), and Instagram (@DiamondCasinos).

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