



Tohono O'odham Nation Office of the Chairman and Vice Chairman



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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARIZONA COURT OF APPEALS RULES IN FAVOR OF GLENDALE & WEST VALLEY CASINO AGREEMENT

Opposition spent \$278,000 on frivolous effort against City of Glendale's support for project

SELLS, Ariz. – In another win for Glendale and the Tohono O'odham Nation's Desert Diamond Casino – West Valley project, the Arizona Court of Appeals has ruled that the city's support for the project cannot be put to a referendum.

This litigation was the result of East Valley special interests opposed to the fact that Glendale supported the Nation's project. The political committees which brought this lawsuit were entirely funded and organized by an East Valley Tribe. That tribe contributed \$278,000 in funds and legal services to their effort, through a shell political committee called Neighbors for a Better Glendale.

In its ruling, Arizona Court of Appeals reaffirmed that Glendale's support for the Nation's economic development project cannot be put to a referendum. The agreement between Glendale and the Nation remains in place as construction nears completion on the Desert Diamond Casino – West Valley.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward Manuel said *"This is just the latest frivolous lawsuit designed to stop the Nation from bringing jobs and economic opportunity supported by Glendale and the West Valley public."* He added, *"The Nation congratulates Glendale on this major victory, and we look forward to continuing our partnership as we prepare to open our project later this year."*

Construction of the Desert Diamond Casino – West Valley at 95th Ave. and Northern Ave. is on schedule to open later this year. \$200 million has been invested into the construction of the first phase of the project. The casino will open with over 1,000 Class II gaming machines. Revenue from the new facility will be shared with local communities under the same formula used for other Arizona casinos. Hiring is underway, and a major job fair is scheduled for Sept. 27 – Sept. 28, 2015 to fill multiple positions at the new property.

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