



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
OFFICE OF THE
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O'ODHAM HA-WE:HEJED
"For the People"



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION SEEKS PURCHASE OF ADJACENT PARCEL FROM CITY OF GLENDALE

11-acre purchase would create single contiguous property; parcel would not be used for gaming

GLENDALE, Ariz. -- Today, the Tohono O'odham Nation announced it is seeking to purchase an 11-acre parcel owned by the City of Glendale that is bordered by the Nation's existing West Valley lands. The proposed purchase would take place in accordance with the Nation's settlement agreement with the State of Arizona and would create one contiguous property in the West Valley.

The parcel is surrounded on three sides by unincorporated, non-trust land owned by the Nation, with the parcel's fourth side fronting Northern Avenue. If purchased, the property would remain within the City of Glendale's municipal boundaries and would not be part of the Nation's reservation trust lands. The parcel would not be used for gaming purposes.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward Manuel said *"This proposal is the result of positive and productive discussions with the City of Glendale. The Nation is very proud of the partnerships we have built in the West Valley, and we are pleased to work towards an agreement that benefits the Nation, Glendale and the entire region."*

Rudy Prieto, CEO of the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise, said *"This purchase would produce a cohesive property and assist in planning future development of the property that complements the existing amenities at Westgate and elsewhere in the Sports and Entertainment District."*

The Nation opened its current Desert Diamond West Valley Casino in 2015 as a Class II facility, located on Northern Avenue just east of Loop 101. The casino employs over 600 people in the West Valley and has created hundreds of millions of dollars in positive economic impacts for the region.

This potential purchase comes as the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise is moving forward with a major construction project on its West Valley reservation land to build a full scale casino with a larger gaming floor, Class III slots, poker, blackjack, live bingo, five restaurants, and more. The construction is expected to be completed by December 2019. The Enterprise is building out the West Valley property in phases and there are no immediate plans for developing the parcel.

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