



Pier project gets boost from ruling

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Huntington Beach council members who favor a long-disputed plan to build restaurants next to the city pier might have a way to get the project approved because of a legal opinion issued Friday by City Attorney Gail Hutton.

The question was whether the site of the proposed \$15 million Pierside Restaurants project is waterfront property and therefore, by state law, requires four-fifths of the council to approve its sale to the developer.

Three of the seven council members oppose the project.

On Friday, Hutton said the site is waterfront. But, if the land is leased to the developer, the law requiring a four-fifths vote would not apply, she said.

A simple majority of the council could choose to rewrite the agreement with developer Jonathan Chodos of Los Angeles to give him a 66-year lease, Hutton said.