

# Huntington residents seek funds for pier-to-reef project

By Ann Pepper

The Orange County Register

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — City officials and activists launched a drive Thursday to raise the \$68,000 needed to turn chunks of the doomed, old municipal pier into a fishing reef.

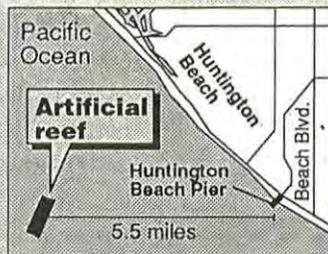
And Saturday, Pier Special Events Committee members will throw a Pier Fiesta, as they continue their efforts to raise about \$4 million still needed to rebuild the structure.

The 75-year-old landmark will be razed in September. Its replacement is supposed to be built by spring 1992.

Rather than dump valuable parts of the old structure in a landfill, representatives of the state Department of Fish and Game, city government and fishing enthusiasts, including the Gill Net Watch Committee, want to see it given a burial at sea.

## Bolsa Chica artificial reef

The reef that would benefit from chunks of the old Huntington Beach Pier is about a mile long and lies more than five miles offshore from where the pier will be rebuilt.



Source: City of Huntington Beach

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"This is a win-win-win idea," said Jim Palin, a deputy city administrator. "The environment benefits. It helps the city comply

with state law on lowering the amount of refuse we are dumping in landfills. And fishermen and diving enthusiasts get a reef where fish will be able to thrive."

Palin said the pier-to-reef project will cost only slightly less than the \$70,000 it cost to build the original pier.

The only hitch is that burying the pier about five miles offshore will cost about \$67,600 more than trucking it to a landfill.

The request for the additional money to take chunks of the pier out to the reef site will come before the City Council on Monday.

"We've already raised \$25,000 toward reimbursing the city for the project," said Jim Paulk, a spokesman for the committee.

The Pier Fiesta will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The fiesta will be at Peter's Landing, 16450 Pacific Coast Highway.

