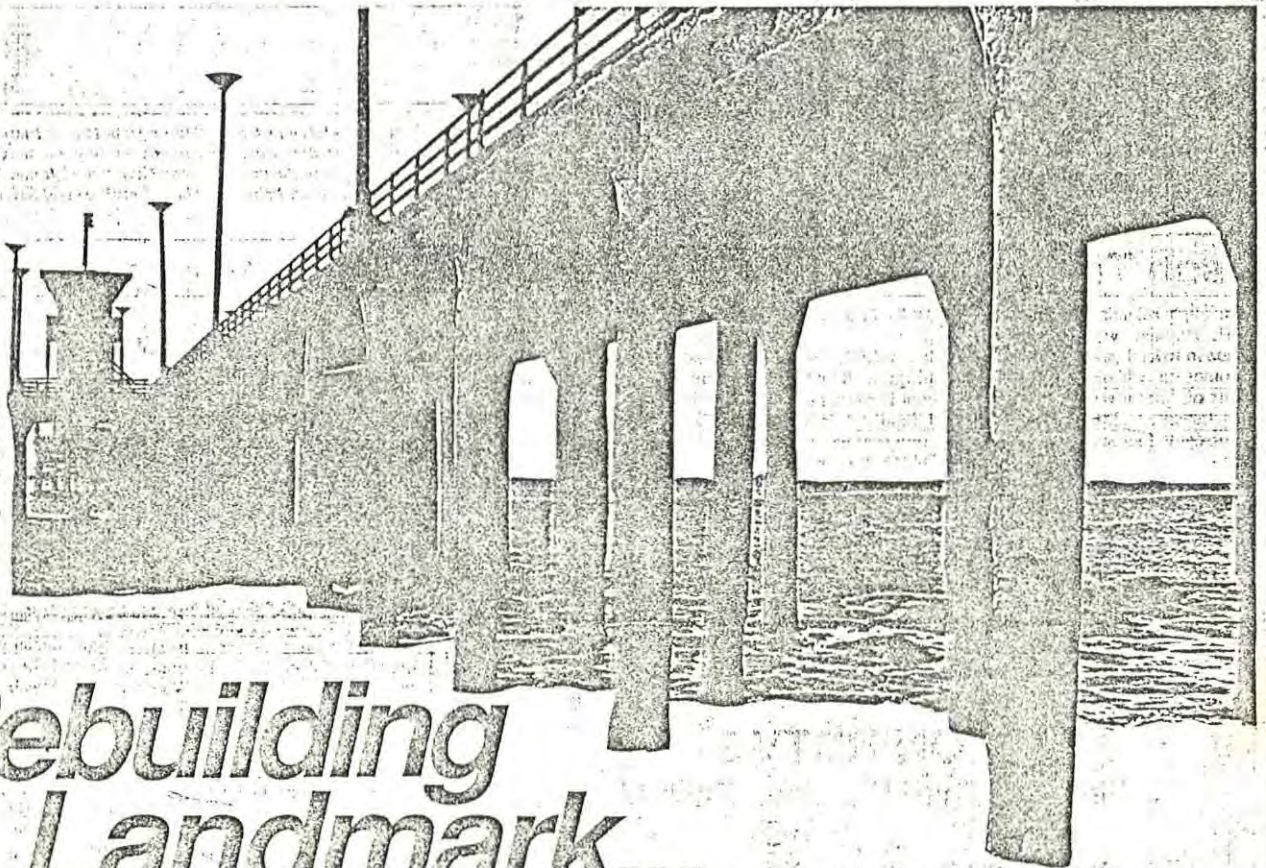


# City Searches Far and Wide for Pier Fundraising



## Rebuilding A Landmark...

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by Greg Hernandez

Since last summer, Huntington Beach has existed without its familiar pier. On July 12, the 75-year-old structure was declared unsafe and closed off from the public. It had been severely damaged the previous winter in a storm.

The City Council immediately came out in full support of rebuilding the 1,820-foot structure and appointed a Pier Design Committee to oversee design of the new pier and a Pier Fundraising Committee to organize fund-raising efforts for the project.

Frank Higgins, Pier Design Committee chairman, said it has been determined that the new pier must be at least 10 feet higher at the mean and to avoid the cresting waves which destroyed the furthestmost 200 feet and dropped the popular End Cafe into the sea.

The Committee is reconsidering a previous decision to go with steel for the pier pilings in the light of negative reports from the city's consultants, Moffatt and Nichols Engineers. Higgins says concrete, which will cost \$1.5 million more and add five or six months to construction time, is now the favored material for the pilings after the engineering company discovered rust on other Southern California piers supported with steel. The earlier preference was based on the Committee's desire to reduce the time and money necessary for the reconstruction, he explained.

Architectural designs are on a preliminary level and will not have to be redone because of material substitution, Higgins reported. Completion is now set for June 1991.

Facing the \$10 million plus price tag on the pier, city officials are seeking financial assistance on every level.

Former Mayor Ron Shenkman, chairman of the Pier Fundraising Committee, said fund-raising efforts are beginning to "escalate." The first of several major events will take place on June 17 with the Humana Hospital Huntington Beach Run for the Pier.

But fund-raisers aren't the only route being explored. The city hopes governmental agencies will be able to assist financially with reconstruction.

"There are efforts going on at the state level. We know there are funds available, we just have to dig deep," Shenkman said.

**"The people really want and need the Pier. The smaller, individual efforts are so important."**

Ron Shenkman  
Chairman, Pier Fundraising Committee

Next week, Shenkman, along with City Council members Grace Winchell, Tom Mays, Don MacAllister and former Mayor Jack Kelly, will spend two days in Sacramento meeting with state officials in an attempt to identify funding sources for rebuilding the pier.

A similar trip will be made to Washington D.C. by Councilmen Don MacAllister, Peter Green, John Erskine and Orange County Super-

visor Harriet Weider to try to identify potential funding on the national level.

And the community is doing its part on the grass-roots level. Most prominent are the efforts of the P.I.E.R. (Persons Interested in Expediting Reconstruction) Group, currently headed by Tom Bagshaw. The group, which has approximately 50 active members, has raised money through t-shirt sales each weekend as well as of assorted pier-related items such as posters and sweatshirts.

The group was founded by Bagshaw and former President Julie Kotsch. Both were employees of the End Cafe before it washed out to sea in the January 1988 storm.

In addition to selling souvenir items each weekend at the base of the pier, the group is scheduling a country-western concert later this year.

"We're out there every weekend and we're happy to give everyone information on the schedule for reconstruction and how much money has been raised," Bagshaw said.

Fund-raising has come from some unlikely sources, signaling deep community commitment to reconstruction.

Students at Haas School have raised \$1,000 for the new pier by selling bookmarks. The city's senior citizens have also participated by holding a pageant with all proceeds going towards the pier. Shenkman is pleased to see the efforts.

"Legislative agencies are far more supportive

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