

Huntington Beach OKs design to replace pier

New structure will sit higher over water

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — In its first formal decision on the design of the new Municipal Pier, the City Council on Wednesday approved a structure with essentially the same dimensions as the landmark it will replace.

The 5-0 decision calls for a deck extending 1,830 feet over the ocean, about 5 feet shorter than the old pier was before 250 feet of it was washed away by storms in January 1988.

The two biggest differences will be the pier's height and the shape of the platforms holding the buildings.

The new pier will sit higher over the water. At the end, it will be about 38 feet over the water at low

tide, about 11 feet higher than the old pier.

Engineers believe the added height will improve the pier's chances of weathering storm waves.

The pier will have three octagonal surfaces for buildings, rather than four rectangular platforms as it's now configured.

Also, the end platform, which had been a square coming off the deck at right angles, will be a square set at a 45-degree angle to the deck to resemble a diamond.

Buildings on the pier probably will retain the same uses and include room for one or two snack shops, a bait shop, a lifeguard tower, restrooms and a two-story restaurant at the end.

An engineering report said the existing 75-year-old pier is no longer structurally sound. It was closed last year.

