

# Same as old pier? Almost

## Seismic laws will cause some changes

By Ann Pepper

The Register

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — The silhouette of the new municipal pier will echo the old one, but it will not be the same, City Councilman John Erskine warned Monday night.

Erskine's caution preceded the council's 6-0 vote to keep the current design of the long arches between the pier's pilings. The arches are straight, with short curves at each end.

The council could have chosen arches with a taller, continuous curve — typical architecture when the 75-year-old pier was built.

But members chose to hang onto the pier's current appearance as much as possible.

New seismic laws and changes in the building trade make that difficult.

"This pier will definitely look different than the pier everyone is used to," Erskine said.

The pier was closed in July 1988 after engineers determined it was structurally unsafe. Seven months earlier, the popular haven for those who stroll and fish took a devastating battering in a fierce winter storm that knocked 250 feet off its end.

Within hours of the closure, building a new pier became a top priority citywide. Everyone from business people to schoolchildren worked toward raising the estimated \$11 million needed for construction. At least \$3.5 million is still needed.

Despite the fund-raising struggle, Erskine on Monday urged the council to select traditional round pilings for the new pier rather than less-costly octagonal ones. The current pier has round pilings. But the council put off that decision until it can compare construction bids for the shapes.

The octagonal pilings are stock items with builders. The old-style round ones must be custom-made and could add as much as \$500,000 to the pier's price.

Erskine said it would be worth the cost to avoid changing the pier more than necessary.

A big change, and an unavoid-

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# PIER: Huntington tries to maintain landmark's traditional look

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able one, is that the new pier's pilings will be moved from the edges of the pier, where they are now, to at least 2 feet, 9 inches from its sides, said James Crumpley of Moffatt & Nichol of Long Beach, design engineers for the new structure. The money-saving change is required by today's seismic-safety criteria.

"That means we can't duplicate the original pier," Crumpley said. "But we have worked to come as close as we can."

Monday's vote on the shape of the arches virtually completed design specifications for the new pier, clearing the way to begin construction Nov. 1.

All design decisions passed re-

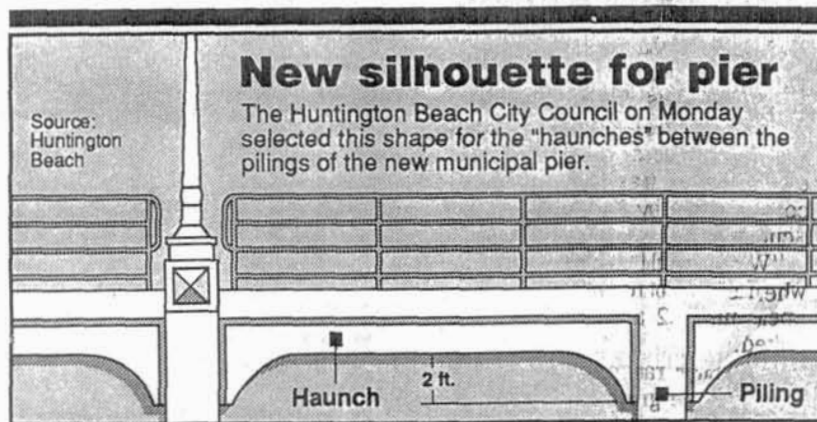
views by the City Council, the Pier Design Committee and the Design Review Board. The council made the final choices.

The pier is expected to be completed Feb. 28, 1992, said Lou Sandoval, city director of public works.

Mayor Tom Mays was absent from most of Monday's council meeting and missed the vote on the arch design.

In other business, the council:

■ Unanimously voted to begin the 20-month process of annexing the 1,600-acre Bolsa Chica Wetlands. The procedures will make the wetlands along Pacific Coast Highway and Warner Avenue part of Huntington Beach.



■ Approved the appointments of Erskine and Councilman Peter Green and planning commission-

ers Geri Ortega and Ken Bourguignon to the Huntington Harbour Code Amendment Committee.

# New pier to look familiar

By Tony Dodero  
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HUNTINGTON BEACH —

In with the old and out with the new.

That is the upshot of the city council's unanimous decision regarding the Huntington Beach pier at Monday night's meeting.

In response to a presentation by the pier design consultants, Moffatt and Nichol Engineers, the council chose to forego newer, state-of-the-art designs in favor of a traditional look that would better reflect the appearance of the original structure.

But Moffatt and Nichol Project Manager James R. Crumpley warned that because of parking and construction regulations, the new structure will not look exactly like the old.

"We cannot duplicate the exact architecture of the old pier," Crumpley said.

Councilman John Erskine agreed with Crumpley's

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## PIER

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assessment.

"This pier will definitely look different than the pier everyone is used to," Erskine said.

The existing structure will be torn down by the city in late July and early August of this year, and the construction of the new pier is scheduled to begin on November 1 with an anticipated completion date of February 28, 1992.