

# Governor Nixes Source Of Funding For Pier Renovation

By Greg Hernandez

Just days after the Huntington Beach Council approved a design for the new pier, Gov. George Deukmejian undermined the payment plan.

The governor cut \$1.5 million in state funds earmarked to rebuild the city landmark when he approved the state budget on

Friday, 7-13-89

City officials estimate it will cost \$10 million to rebuild the pier, which was closed last summer because it was unsafe after a winter storm damaged the foundation.

The City Council immediately voted to rebuild the structure and fund-raising efforts have

been under way since.

In April, a city contingent traveled to Sacramento to lobby for state funds to help out with the renovation project.

The trip appeared successful when Sen. John Seymour (R-Fountain Valley) introduced a bill that would have allocated \$1.5 million to rebuild the struc-

ture.

The bill passed through the state Legislature and city officials were optimistic.

"We're very, very disappointed. Once it got through both the Assembly and state Senate, we thought it was going to be smooth sailing," said Councilman Tom Mays, who serves

on the city's Pier Funding Committee.

Despite the setback, all hope for state funds is not lost. A bill introduced by Assemblyman John Burton (D-San Francisco), which could mean money for 13 state piers, is in front of legislators.

While funding remains up in

the air, council has approved a conceptual design for the structure.

The plan provides for the same classic pier silhouette seen on postcards and in photos, but the pier will be 10 feet higher at the end.

It will be 1,830 feet long and (See HB Pier, Page A2)

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30 feet wide with pilings made of concrete.

The renovation, scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1991, will be similar in appearance to the present pier with a lifeguard tower, bait shop, restroom building, snack shop and a 115-seat restaurant at the end.

Ella Christiansen, who oper-

ated three businesses on the pier for 37 years, said she has not been offered first-refusal rights to return once the new structure is built.

"I doubt I'll get any opportunity to get back in. They have other plans," she said.

Vendors for the businesses on the pier have not been decided on, according to Rich Barnard, deputy city administrator.

"That would be a bit premature since we don't even have a pier yet."

