

----- Original message -----

From: "commonsense-sayssavthefence@fastmail.fm" <cacrewood8@fastmail.fm>
To: cc0164@staplescopycenter.com
Date: Sun, 31 Jan 2010 18:13:23 -0800
Subject: COPY FOR LONG BEACH CITY COUNCIL HEARING FEBRUARY 2,2010;FULL TEXT :INCLUDES SANDOVAL'S JUSTIFICATION FOR REDUCING ACTIVE TRANSIT LANES OF INLAND WATER WAYS OF UNITED STATES.

----- Original message -----

From: "John Futch" <john.futch@presstelegram.com>
To: cacrewood8@fastmail.fm
Date: Mon, 16 Nov 2009 11:42:22 -0800
Subject: Krikorian

MAC

Long Beach Press-Telegram (CA)
March 13, 2009
Edition: MAIN
Section: SPORTS
Page: 1C

NOTE FROM APPELLANT;NOTE SANDOVAL'S SPECIOUS JUSTIFICATION
5/6 of the way
down..."I have other stake holders to consider-ie Dragon Boats"

HOW DOES CONSTRICTION OF SAID WATER WAYS BENEFIT DRAGON
BOATS(or others)!!!???

The answer of course is:IT DOES NOT!!!

The Great Waterway Debate continues

Article Text:In **the** latest chapter of **the** Long Beach Rowers vs. Mark Sandoval in what has become known as **the Great Alamitos Bay Waterway Debate**, well, nothing of note can be reported except I found out that one member of **the** Marine Advisory Commission belongs to **the** Long Beach Yacht Club. "You're wasting your time coming here today," Sandoval told me before Thursday's 2:30 meeting got underway at **the** LBYC's second-story

banquet room in which **the** Marine Advisory Commission was supposed to announce its non-binding recommendations about Sandoval's controversial \$88 million (!!!) dream known stirringly as **the** Alamitos Bay Rebuild Project. "Why?" I wanted to know. "I believe **the** Marine Advisory Commission is going to have a couple of more public meetings before it makes a decision," he said. And, presto, Mark Sandoval turned out to be on target. **The** Marine Advisory Commission's chairman, a Mr. Bradley Whyte, announced that his august albeit pruned down body - it has only six members because **the** brilliant Long Beach mayor, Bob (Bananas) Foster, for some unfathomable reason has failed to fill three vacancies - would render a verdict after listening "to other stakeholders with views slightly different than that of **the** rowers." **The** other stakeholders, of course, are **the** big boaters like, well, Mr. Bradley Whyte, who has resided with his wife in a 42-foot yacht at **the** Shoreline Marina for **the** past 14 years. "Oh, I know where you stand on this issue," I kidded Mr. Whyte, an affable gentleman with a sense of humor befitting that of a salesman, which he is. "Oh no, I have a totally open mind on this issue," he asserted. "I'm a rower myself. You come to my boat, and you'll see a scull on it." Being a true investigative reporter, I do plan to take Mr. Whyte up on his offer, but I'll be sneaky and won't tell him when I'll show up just to make sure there really is a scull aboard his vessel. Mr. Whyte does admit, though, he would like a more fair and balanced turnout at **the** next public gatherings that haven't been scheduled, meaning he would like to hear from a lot of people who aren't angry about Sandoval's proposal to narrow **the waterway** between **the** Second Street Davies Bridge and **the** LBYC up to 35 feet, according to Sandoval's calculations, or 90 feet, according to **the** rowers' calculations. "But if narrowing **the waterway** and sticking a new dock besides **the** LBYC like Sandoval proposes eliminates rowers' lanes and poses serious safety issues, why narrow **the waterway**?" I asked Mr. Whyte. "I want to find out myself what impact it will have on **the waterway**," he replied. Good. I do, too, and just can't wait to attend **the** next two meetings of this thickening drama that was pretty tame Thursday compared to **the** tense atmosphere that pervaded in **the** first showdown staged last week at **the** Peter Archer Rowing Center. In that one, one person after another got up and informed Mark Sandoval in no uncertain terms that he was committing a heinous maritime disaster. This one was quite docile, as Mark Sandoval even showed he is quite an environmentalist, as he displayed a box overflowing with letters to his office that I'm sure weren't exactly praising his work. "Please, don't waste paper ... save **the** trees," he pleaded. "If you want to protest, do it through e-mail." I asked Bradley Whyte if there was anyone on his panel who belonged to **the** Long Beach Yacht Club, expecting no one to be since anyone who was would be in clear conflict of interest. But darned did one gentleman, a Mr. Peter

Hogensen, raise his hand. "I didn't even know that," said Mr. Whyte. Should Peter Hogensen now recuse himself from this affair, since, after all, **the** Long Beach Yacht Club stands to benefit from Mark Sandoval's plan. I have no idea, although I must admit, even though Thursday's meeting was at **the** LBYC, **the** only side that was doing any protesting was that of **the** rowers. "Wouldn't it be nice after 20 years on **the** job that your legacy would be that you helped a lot of young kids in rowing?" one guy told Sandoval, whose extraordinarily poofed-up gray hair seemed to stand up even straighter at this comment. There were, as always, some unusual remarks from a few of **the** 40 or 50 people who were present, like **the** one from **the** lady wanting to know **the** status of kite-flying instruction on **the** beach and another one from a person saying **the** entire Alamitos Bay marinas should be down-sized. "Can't you do your project without narrowing **the** waterway between **the** Davies Bridge and **the** Yacht Club?" I asked Sandoval. "I have other stakeholders like dragon boaters that I have to pay attention to," he said. "This is just not about **the** rowers." Maybe so, but **the** rowers are **the** only ones so far to have articulated their position... No matter what unfolds in **the** Big West Tournament in which his team opens play tonight, Long Beach State coach Dan Monson already has done an extraordinary job of reviving **the** 49ers' men's basketball program. How will it do this weekend? "If we sustain our focus, I think we'll do well," says Monson. "If we don't we'll get beat. It's that simple." What isn't simple to explain has been **the** 49ers' tendency in recent weeks to lose their concentration, which they did in **the** agonizing closing moments of last Saturday's one-point loss (76-75) to UC Santa Barbara when they committed three turnovers in a row that resulted in their squandering a four-point lead. "We've played good enough in spurts, but we haven't been able to sustain it now for almost two months," says Monson. "We haven't won back-to-back games since **the** middle of January. "Why? I think it's a combination of things. One, youth (Monson starts four freshmen). Two, changing **the** culture of **the** program. It's a process and doesn't happen overnight. We haven't learned to go for **the** jugular yet. And, three, talent. There's just not that much separating us from our Big West opponents. Our margin of error is thin." Monson says he's warned his team what will happen if it continues its recent flameouts. "We're going to have to play hard and keep focused for 40 minutes," he says. "I told them if we don't and we let down for three or four minutes, our season will be over..." I have a hunch **the** 49ers will heed Dan Monson's warning, and will wind up winning **the** Big West Tournament... Mary Hegarty was a class act, and becomes **the** latest Long Beach State women's basketball coach unable to duplicate **the** success of Joan Bonvicini, who set a standard at **the** school that probably never again will be matched. Glenn McDonald and Dallas Bolla endured **the** same fate as

Hegarty, who was informed **the** other day by Vic Cegles that her contract would not be renewed. You hate to see anyone lose a job in this tough financial climate, especially a person who worked at it as hard as Hegarty, whose teams have been plagued by injuries **the** past couple of bleak seasons... Gentleman Gene Rotondo, owner of Legends, claims his establishment has just put up **the** largest commercial non-theater TV screen in Southern California. "It's a 20 footer, and it's huge," says Rotondo proudly... Kobe Bryant has left me shaking my noggin in awe so many times across **the** years that it's become a routine event, but his 18-point fourth quarter eruption Wednesday night against Ron Artest and **the** Houston Rockets was something to behold... We all know Ron Artest is a kucklehead, but how stupid was it of him to ignite Kobe Bryant in that final quarter with his non-stop trash drive?... Hope Phil Jackson continues to start Trevor Ariza, as he did against **the** Rockets and Thursday night against San Antonio, instead of **the** Teacher's Pet, Luke Walton... I'm going to rush out and buy **the** Manny Ramirez book so I can get his innermost thoughts on everyday life... I'm also waiting anxiously for Ned Colletti's book so I can find out how a guy can blow millions and millions of dollars for his boss - think Andruw Jones and Jason Schmidt - and still retain his job. Ol' Mustache Ned has become my new idol... Manny Pacquiao says he is willing to fight Juan Manuel Marquez for a third time - and it well might happen if Pacquiao gets past Ricky Hatton on May 2 in Las Vegas. Their previous matches were classics - **the** first a draw, **the** second a split decision to Pacquiao - and I'm sure another would be **the** same, since both men are at their peak. Marquez certainly was in his recent ninth-round knockout of tough Juan Diaz, and we all know what Pacquiao did to Oscar De La Hoya... **The** ol' Downey Flash, Johnny Ortiz, is picking Hatton to upset Pacquiao. "Hatton is a strong, natural 140-pounder who I think can smother Pacquiao **the** way he did Kostya Tszyu," says Ortiz, who thinks Pacquiao's impalement of De La Hoya was an aberration due to De La Hoya's dramatic weight loss... Rossmoor native Kevin (Brother of Dennis) Lamp says **the** big bash being staged Saturday night at Frisco's is for people from his old Los Alamitos neighborhood - and that **the** restaurant already has received 125 RSVPs. **The** Muhammad Ali impersonator and one-time Long Beach State pitcher says a band will play 1970s music, and **the** \$35 fee will include dinner, soft drinks, dessert and an opportunity to listen to him talk. "We're hoping all **the** Rossmoor homeboys show up," says **the** 6-foot-4, 350-pound Lamp, who will emcee **the** event, meaning there will be hilarious moments of high camp... . Restaurateur Phil Trani reports his one-time summer intern chef, Mark Sanchez, is keeping his fingers crossed that he will be picked by **the** New York Jets in **the** upcoming NFL draft... Long Beach Boys & Girls executive director Don Rodriguez was in Sacramento Thursday with a Youth of **the** Year

finalist, Poly High senior Linda Moy, whose name was jointly announced on **the** floor of **the** California State Capitol building by local politicians Alan Lowenthal and Bonnie Lowenthal. Moy was one of six to make it to Sacramento out of candidates who competed for **the** honor from 120 clubs around **the** state... Is there a fitter couple in Long Beach than **the** Olympic Rowing Couple, **the** Van Bloms, Joan and John, who are leading **the** charge against Mark Sandoval?... doug.krikorian@presstelegram.com
Copyright (c) 2009 Press-Telegram

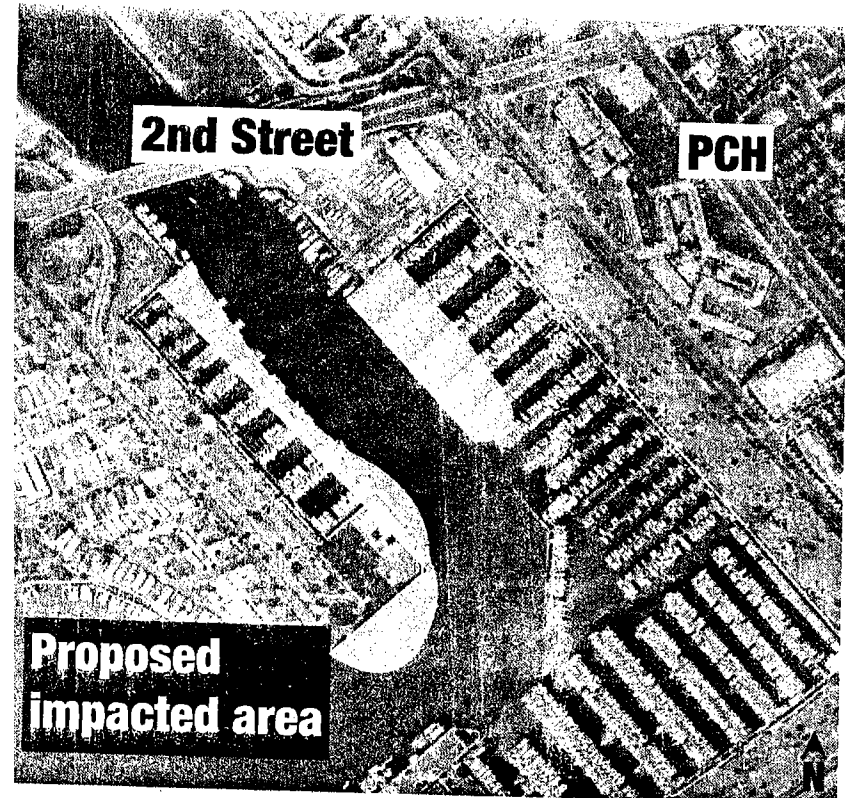
--

cacrewood8@fastmail.fm

--

cacrewood8@fastmail.fm

Alamitos Bay Marina rebuilding plan draws fire



MEETING: Recreational users fear waterways will become more congested.

By Phillip Zonkel
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — A standing-room-only crowd of around 100 people voiced safety concerns and opposition to a proposal for a massive rebuild of Alamitos Bay Marina at a meeting Monday night.

The Marine Advisory Commission's proposal already has been rejected by the Long Beach Rowing Association, said Mark Sandoval, Long Beach Marine Bureau manager, during the public comment session at the Pete Archer Rowing Center.

Sandoval said Tuesday that he supports the proposal.

The \$88 million project — which may begin construction later this year or in early 2010 and be completed by 2014 — would rebuild the docks and boat slips in basins 1 to 7 and the restrooms, Sandoval said.

"Everything from the street into the water will be replaced," he said.

The project has received a \$21 mil-

lion loan from the California Department of Boating and Waterways, but is short \$67 million, Sandoval said.

If approved by the advisory commission, the project will move on to the city's planning commission and city council before reaching the California Coastal Commission, which could reject the development permit request.

The marina must be rebuilt because it has an obsolete 50-year-old design, and a newly designed marina will accommodate users' needs for the next 40 to 50 years, Sandoval said.

But critics of the plan asked whose needs are being accommodated.

The marina needs repair, but the plan proposed by the advisory commission creates a safety problem, particularly the expansion of docks and boat slips around the Long Beach Yacht Club, which will narrow the public waterway by 90 feet, they said.

That part of the channel, which stretches between the Davies Bridge on Second Street and the Long Beach Yacht Club, was the site of the 1932 Olympic Games rowing competition.

It is six lanes across and a popular practice and recreational spot for rowers, kayakers, canoeists, paddleboarders, boaters and swimmers.

As a result, the area is a congested waterway and expanding the docks and boat slips will cause a "huge, huge safety issue," said Keith Johnson, president of the board of directors of Long Beach Junior Crew, a local youth rowing club. "We are being squeezed out of the water."

Sandoval, who didn't address safety issues mentioned by members of the audience, said the advisory commission didn't have an option to build anywhere else and the proposal takes into account the "competing demands from various interests."

Third District Councilman Gary DeLong, who was at the meeting, said Tuesday that he had not decided whether he would support the proposal.

"I have to hear lots of points of view," he said. We will have to see how it plays out."

The advisory commission is set to make a recommendation at its March 12 meeting at the Yacht Club, 6201 E. Appian Way, at 2:30 p.m.

phillip.zonkel@prsstelegram.com,
562-499-1258

Source: Google Earth, longbeachrowing.org

3/1/09

beachcomber

News and Views of Greater Long Beach

Volume XVII Number 5 February 27, 2009

Les Robbins

Term Limits Lake Calif. Dysfunctional

During the past several months it has become painfully clear to me that one of us who live in California have a ubiquitous distinction of living the most politically dysfunctional in the union. The budget debacle just ended a week ago embarrasses and typifies all that is wrong with our state and its legislature.



Les Robbins

There are several changes that need to be made in our state constitution in my opinion. Term Limits have become a total disaster in this state. I don't think of any level of government that has enacted them where I don't say that they have resulted in a net improvement in the quality of the government that serves the people.

Ski Time



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS beckoned skiers last week after a few days of much-needed rain and snow passed through the area.

I complained about paying my fair share of taxes and my wife and I certainly do that. But, I am afraid that the tax situation in our great state is getting to the point where it is just too much.

the big projects funded by the state were told their paychecks would stop. I suspect that the attitudes of our state legislators would have been a little different if their own paychecks stopped because of their own actions.

Rowers Feeling the Squeeze in Alamitos Bay

By Sean Belk

James Litzinger gets up before sunrise for a brisk paddle on the serene waters of Alamitos Bay almost every day. He regularly trains on a 20-foot outrigger, rowing along a 2,000-meter stretch that leads underneath a 2nd Street bridge. Other than a few pelicans diving for food, all is calm on the waterfront.

But there's one thing Litzinger can't keep quiet about: the city's plan to encroach on what he calls public territory with private property.

"You'd think that there's plenty of room, but come here in the afternoon, during the summer and on the weekends," said the Long Beach Rowing Association president. "...There's not enough room as it is."

During busy days, recreational kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders, dragon boaters and swimmers all load the channel with traffic as larger boats move in and out, making the waterway a hot spot.

Traffic has become a concern, especially for the preservation of a body of water, used by championship rowing teams to train near Marine Stadium, which was designated as a California State Landmark in 1995 as one of the only structures still standing from the 1932 Olympics.

Now, if the City of Long Beach approves the design for an \$88 million project to rebuild the Alamitos Bay Marina, Litzinger says the open space left for competitive rowers will be permanently squeezed thinner, particularly increasing the potential for accidents.

"It's a safety issue," he said. "We're not against the building of the [Alamitos Bay] marina, we're just against what they do with it. We want them to build it in the original footprint."

The city plans to rebuild about 1,650 boat slips, along with eliminating some smaller slips to make way for some bigger ones, which

A Sig-Alert on Long Beach's waterfront

He'll hath no fury like a woman rower scorned.

Or at least not one who believes that a good portion of the Alamitos Bay waterfront where the rowers train and compete between the Davies Bridge on Second Street and the Long Beach Yacht Club — a stretch also used by kayakers, canoeists, paddleboarders, dragon boaters, swimmers, sail boaters, small boaters, big



DOUG KRIKORIAN

boaters — is going to be narrowed up to 90 feet if the city of Long Beach has its way.

Indeed, Joan Van Blom, a

three-time Olympic rower who at the 1976 Montreal Games became the first American female to medal in the sport when she earned a silver in the single scull, is normally a soft-spoken, mild-mannered person of exemplary composure.

But when she called to voice her complaints about the Marine Bureau's proposed expansion of boat slips and docks in the basins three and

four sections of Alamitos Bay, I couldn't believe this was the same sweet, gentle, even-tempered lady I'd interviewed

on occasions across the years. Well, actually, she was, but this version of Joan Van Blom, albeit still maintaining



Van Blom

a dignified demeanor, was steadfast in her objections, firm in her complaints and resolute in her outrage. "Long Beach designates itself as the 'Aquatic Capital of the World,' and yet it would like to take away two acres of waterfront that would cause horrible crowding and even be quite dangerous," says Van Blom, who resides with her husband, four-time Olympic rowing competitor

John Van Blom, in Belmont Heights.

"This definitely will take away needed racing and practice lanes, and will have a negative effect on the four rowing entities that use them on a regular basis — the Long Beach Rowing Association, the Long Beach Junior Crew, the Long Beach State men and women rowing teams

DOUG/B6

DOUG

FROM PAGE B1

and the California Adapted Rowing Program for the physically challenged.

"But it's just not the rowing community that will be impacted. It's all the other people who use the waterway. You take away almost 100,000 square feet of water, and there are, suddenly, going to be safety issues because everyone is going to be all bunched up in a dramatically smaller area."

The sporting world is spinning crazily out of control.

Manny Ramirez haughtily declines a two-year, \$45 million contract offer from the Dodgers — and then, of course, blithely declines a one-year \$25 million offer from the same team. A 6-foot, 245-pound Pittsburgh Steeler linebacker named James Harrison returns an interception 100 yards in the Super Bowl with no time left in the first half and bounds into the end zone for what turned out to be a game-deciding touchdown. Alex Rodriguez, aka

A-Rod, has a pejorative new nickname — A-Roid. And now the Aquatic Capital of the World apparently would like to extend docks on a popular waterway — and even build a new one next to the Long Beach Yacht Club — even though, according to Joan Van Blom, it will cause a Sig-Alert among those who frequent the waterway.

I asked the Long Beach mayor, Bob Foster, his thoughts on the matter, and he said he was unaware of it. "I'll look into it, and get

back to you," he promised.

"From our perspective, we're designing the marina to cover up space that isn't in use at this time," says Mark Sandoval, manager of Long Beach's marinas and beaches who's overseeing the proposed project. "It's not something they (the rowers) have access to anyway."

Joan Van Blom disagrees. "We feel violated and ignored," says Van Blom. "I understand it's being done to raise more money for the city. But aren't there other ways they can raise money?"

Well, for sure, one way is for those sophisticated economists at City Hall who invested \$25.8 million with Lehman Brothers a week before it filed for bankruptcy to be slightly more careful in their next brilliant foray — eh, folly — into the esoteric world of high finance.

Joan Van Blom also wonders about the legality of Sandoval's plan, considering Marine Stadium long ago was designated an historic landmark because of it having been the rowing venue for the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"We've had a firm look into that, and we've been told that the historic designation doesn't extend beyond the Davies Bridge," says Sandoval.

To which Joan Van Blom counters, "In 1993, Marine Stadium was designated by the city as a Long Beach historic site in the same form that it was at that time. And that includes the Alamitos Bay waterway they now want to change."

Mark Sandoval insists those opposed to his plan will have an opportunity to voice their

objections.

"Before we do anything we must have approval from the Planning and Coastal Commissions," says Sandoval.

And Joan Van Blom promises that she and a lot of other people will bombard members of those august agencies with their opinions.

"You would think that Long Beach would be doing everything within its power to make sure there continues to be enough room for those who use the Alamitos Bay waterway," says Van Blom, who still competes in masters rowing events and is a lifetime member of the Long Beach Rowing Association because of her Olympic involvement.

"I'm really disheartened that we're facing the prospect of losing so much space. It's just not right. It really angers me . . ."

No kidding.

doug.krikorian@presstelegram.com

LIVES
FANTASY
CASTLE
SIGNAL HILL 562-4222

DOUG

FROM PAGE C1

you'll see a scull on it."

Being a true investigative reporter, I do plan to take Mr. Whyte up on his offer, but I'll be sneaky and won't tell him when I'll show up just to make sure there really is a scull aboard his vessel.

Mr. Whyte does admit, though, he would like a more fair and balanced turnout at the next public gatherings that haven't been scheduled, meaning he would like to hear from a lot of people who aren't angry about Sandoval's proposal to narrow the waterway between the Second Street-Davies Bridge and the LBYC up to 35 feet, according to Sandoval's calculations, or 90 feet, according to the rowers' calculations.

"But if narrowing the waterway and sticking a new dock besides the LBYC like Sandoval proposes eliminates rowers' lanes and poses serious safety issues, why narrow the waterway?" I asked Mr. Whyte.

"I want to find out myself what impact it will have on the waterway," he replied.

Good.

I do, too, and just can't wait to attend the next two meetings of this thickening drama that was pretty tame Thursday compared to the tense atmosphere that pervaded in the first showdown staged last week at the Peter Archer Rowing Center.

In that one, one person after another got up and informed Mark Sandoval in no uncertain terms that he was committing a heinous maritime disaster.

This one was quite docile, as Mark Sandoval even showed he is quite an environmentalist, as he displayed a box overflowing with letters to his office that I'm sure weren't exactly praising his work.

"Please, don't waste paper ... save the trees," he pleaded.

"If you want to protest, do it through e-mail."

I asked Bradley Whyte if there was anyone on his panel who belonged to the Long Beach Yacht Club, expecting no one to be since anyone who was would be in clear conflict of interest.

But darned did one gentleman, a Mr. Peter Hogensen, raise his hand.

"I didn't even know that," said Mr. Whyte.

Should Peter Hogensen now recuse himself from this affair, since, after all, the Long Beach Yacht Club stands to benefit from Mark Sandoval's plan.

I have no idea, although I must admit, even though Thursday's meeting was at the LBYC, the only side that was doing any protesting was that of the rowers.

"Wouldn't it be nice after 20 years on the job that your legacy would be that you helped a lot of young kids in rowing?" one guy told Sandoval, whose extraordinarily poofed-up gray hair seemed to stand up even straighter at this comment.

There were, as always,



DOUG KRIKORIAN

The Great Waterway Debate continues

In the latest chapter of the Long Beach Rowers vs. Mark Sandoval in what has become known as the Great Alamos Bay Waterway Debate, well, nothing of note can be reported except I found out that one member of the Marine Advisory Commission belongs to the Long Beach Yacht Club.

"You're wasting your time coming here today," Sandoval told me before Thursday's 2:30 meeting got underway at the LBYC's second-story banquet room in which the Marine Advisory Commission was supposed to announce its non-binding recommendations about Sandoval's controversial \$88 million (!!!) dream known stirringly as the Alamos Bay Rebuild Project.

"Why?" I wanted to know.

"I believe the Marine Advisory Commission is going to have a couple of more public meetings before it makes a decision," he said.

And, presto, Mark Sandoval turned out to be on target.

The Marine Advisory Commission's chairman, a Mr. Bradley Whyte, announced that his august albeit pruned down body - it has only six members because the brilliant Long Beach mayor, Bob (Bananas) Foster, for some unfathomable reason has failed to fill three vacancies - would render a verdict after listening "to other stakeholders with views slightly different than that of the rowers."

The other stakeholders, of course, are the big boaters like, well, Mr. Bradley Whyte, who has resided with his wife in a 42-foot yacht at the Shoreline Marina for the past 14 years.

"Oh, I know where you stand on this issue," I kidded Mr. Whyte, an affable gentleman with a sense of humor befitting that of a salesman, which he is.

"Oh no, I have a totally open mind on this issue," he asserted. "I'm a rower myself. You come to my boat, and

DOUG/C3

THE RE AT H2 W/7 DEB ARE COATH



Sandoval

3-13-09

SPORTS

Hit with a wave of dissent

They came out en masse to the Peter Archer Rowing Center the other evening to protest the controversial \$88 million — yes, \$88 million! — Alamitos Bay Marina Rebuild Project being proposed by Mark Sandoval, Marine Bureau manager.

There were around 200 people jammed into the building's main conference room, and not one person voiced support for Sandoval, who's become Public Enemy No. 1 in Long Beach among rowers, kayakers, fishermen, paddle boarders, sail boaters and various other aquatic oriented souls.

Natch, the most vociferous



DOUG KRIKORIAN

opponents of Sandoval's dream, the Olympic Rowing Couple, the Van Bloms, John and Joan, were present as were Third District Councilman Gary DeLong, Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine Director Phil Hester, Hall of Fame surfer Jericho Poppler, the former Wilson High principal Keith Hansen and wife Carol, the former Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief Larry Hambleton and wife Theresa, the daugh-



Sandoval



Van Blom

ter of the late Peter Archer, Robyn Archer, the revered Long Beach City College chemistry professor Dr. Mary Perrot, the famed USC Medical School professor Dr. Juan Felix and even a guy actually named Don Trojan, who said he wasn't even a USC loyalist and revealed he was, instead, a Long Beach State graduate.

For some strange reason, the illustrious mayor of Long Beach, Bob (Bananas) Foster, wasn't there, although Sandoval told me later Foster was monitoring the situation (that's political speak for saying ol' Bananas is steering safely clear of such contemps).

Before the event commenced, the tone of it was set when the chairman of the Marine Advisory Commission, a feisty, bewhiskered gentleman named Bradley Whyte, asked if there was anyone present who favored Sandoval's plans.

"Yeah, the captain of the

DOUG/C4

DOUG

FROM PAGE C1

Exxon Valdez is here in the back," shrieked one wiseacre, in reference to the infamous 11,000-square mile oil spill at Prince William Sound, Alaska in 1989 that spewed forth from the Exxon Valdez.

Poor Mark Sandoval.

You talk about a guy entrapped in a lion's den.

Blessedly, no one threw any shoes at him, but tempers flared on occasion and the atmosphere was thick with tension.

Oh, there were a few city bureaucrats, including one specializing in the EIR (Environmental Impact Report), there to lend him support, as was his wife Tricia, but they were slightly outnumbered by the passionate dissenters.

"Why would you subject yourself to this?" I asked Sandoval beforehand.

"This is my job... and I believe in what I'm doing," he said.

"I don't think we're that far apart anyway on this issue. There can be some give-and-take on both sides, and things will be worked out."

The gray-haired, burly, even-tempered, 6-foot, 240-pound Sandoval, a one-time Bishop Montgomery High football player who grew up in San Pedro and now resides in Long Beach, started the proceedings by patiently detailing his modernization vision of Alamitos Bay.

Like a professor addressing rabble-rousing students, he pointed to photographs on a video screen to the changes he would like to effect, and, of course, the one that has the rowers in an uproar is his desire to narrow the waterway between the Davies Bridge and Long Beach Yacht Club and stick another dock on the other side of the LBVC.

"Contrary to what has been said about the waterway being narrowed by 90 feet, we're going to cut the width down from 326 feet to 291, which means a loss of only 35 feet of water," he said amid murmurs from the crowd.

He recited a few other goals — he wants more big boat slips, he wants new restrooms installed, he simply wants change after nearly 60 years of marina immutability — and then the fun started.

It was the people's turn — and, oh, did they take advantage of the opportunity.

One person after another — Girl Scout leaders, rowers, teachers, boaters, fishermen, mothers of junior rowers, businessmen, doctors, massage therapists, retirees, computer nerds and insufferable windbags who, frankly, had me on even a greater brink of insanity than usual — marched up front and informed Mark Sandoval in no uncertain terms that he was changing the planet Earth as we know it, or at least Alamitos Bay as we know it.

"You're wrong... the waterway is going to be narrowed by 90 feet," boomed John Van Blom, as he pointed to a blown-up engineer's drawing of Sandoval's plan that was mounted on an easel.

The room erupted in cheers.

The general theme of the demurrers was that the rowing lanes — already down to four — could be cut in some stretches to just one and that combined with the proposed new dock at the LBVC posed frightening safety issues for everybody in the area.

"It's dangerous enough as it now, and it's only going to get more dangerous if your proposals go through," said one guy.

I have no idea, but I do know Mark Sandoval is marching gallantly forward despite the prohibitive cost in a spectacularly ominous financial climate.

"How in tarnation are you going to pay for it?" I asked Sandoval.

"We have a \$21 million loan from the state of California," said Sandoval, and Californians wonder where our tax money goes. "And we can float a bond for \$67 million. We can pay for it with the \$2 1/2 million annual net income we derive from our boat slips."

The next showdown in this continuing drama will occur Thursday afternoon at 2:30 at a more favorable site for Mark Sandoval, the Long Beach Yacht Club, whose membership doubtless views Sandoval as a Great Savior.

The Marine Advisory Commission's six members will be at this little get-together and will reveal their non-binding recommendations that will be forwarded to the City Planning Commission and City Council.

"For sure, we'll have a big turnout again," warns Joan Van Blom, who, paraphrasing Winston Churchill, promises her side will fight on the oceans and the beaches, will fight in the fields and the streets, will fight in the air and the hills, will fight with growing confidence and strength and will never surrender.

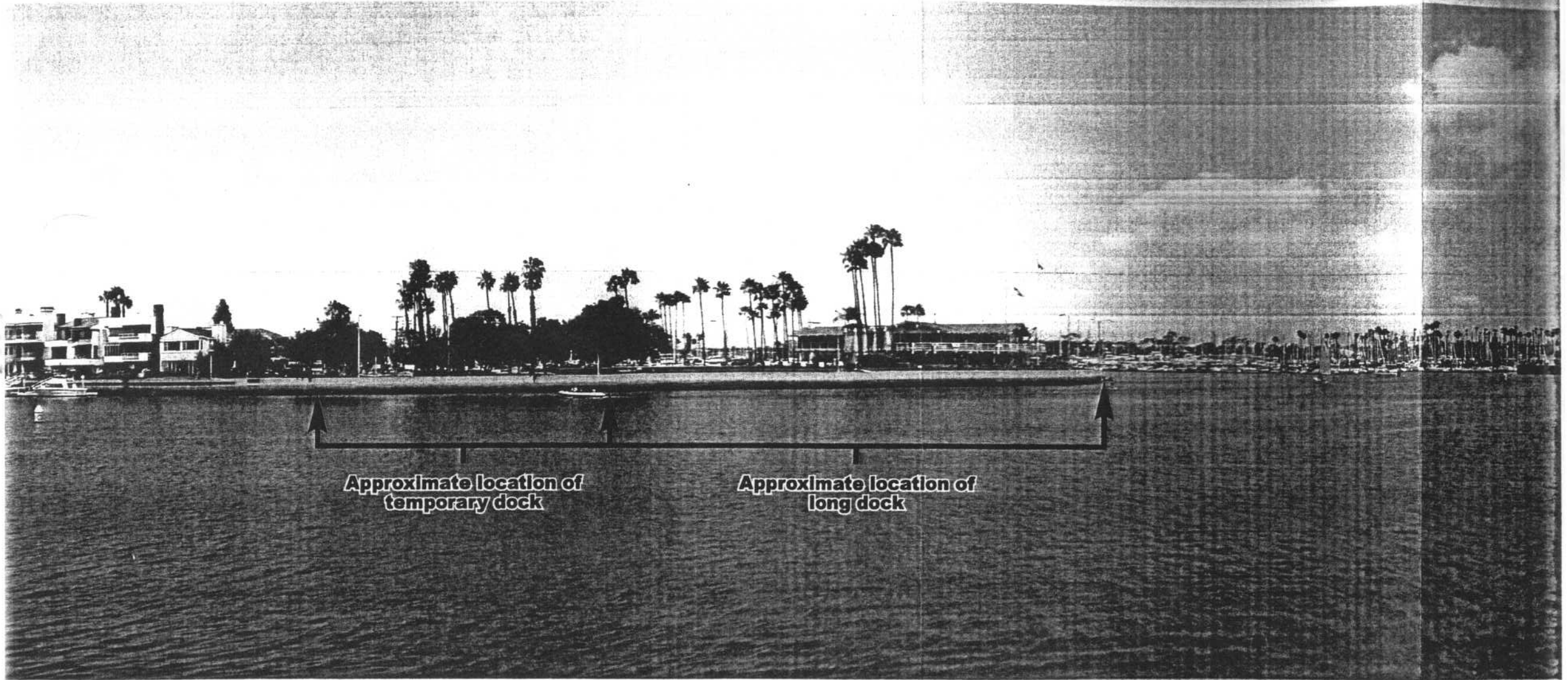
It went on like this for eternity — OK, the gab didn't quite reach three even though it seemed days — until Bradley Whyte stood up and heroically to the rescue by saying, think it's about time for us to go home to our families.

Unless someone has something different to say." And, would you believe one guy kept it going while he walked up and compared the Sig-Alert waterway threatened by Sandoval's proposal to the parking shortage in Belmont Shore — and then gave a weird dissertation the latter.

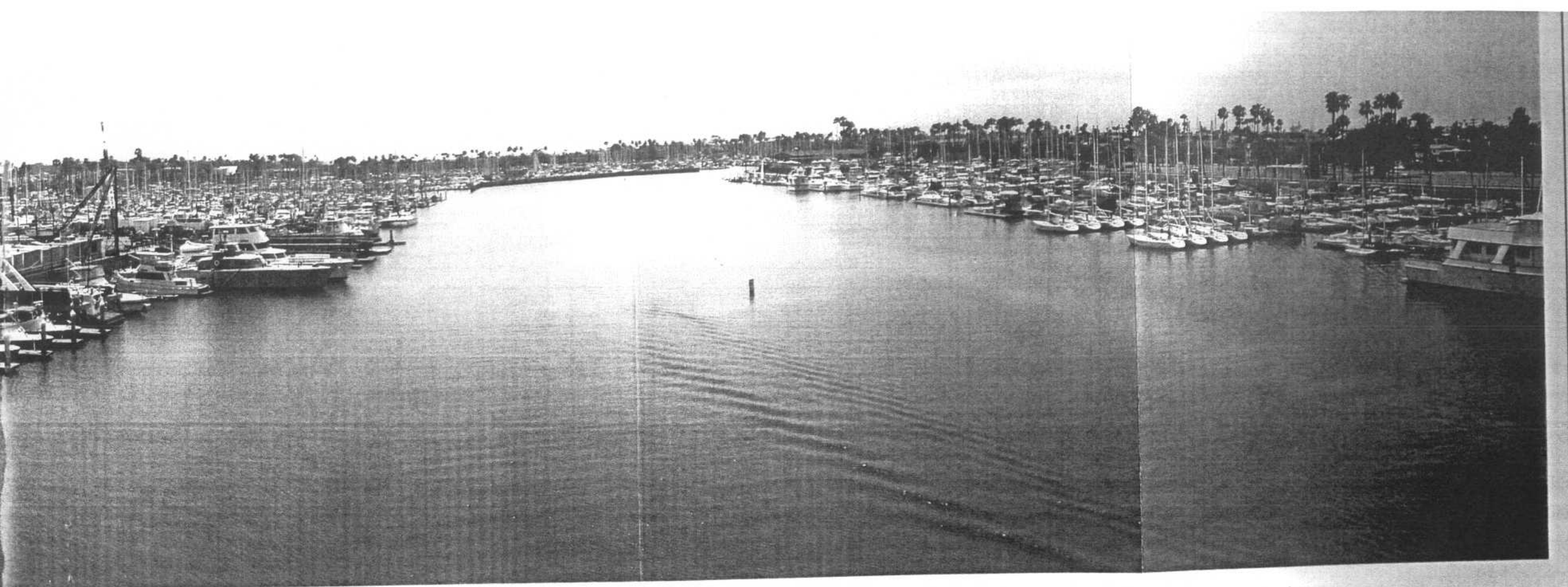
Oh yes, I must not forget about some other blöke who spoke of the three dolphins recently seen at Marine Stadium, intimating if Sandoval gets his way those dolphins might never return.

I swear I haven't heard such craziness since Leste William Robbins once upon a long time ago vainly attempted to stick an athletic facility at El Dorado Park.

Will Mark Sandoval's dream wind up in the dust of history like Robbins' dream?

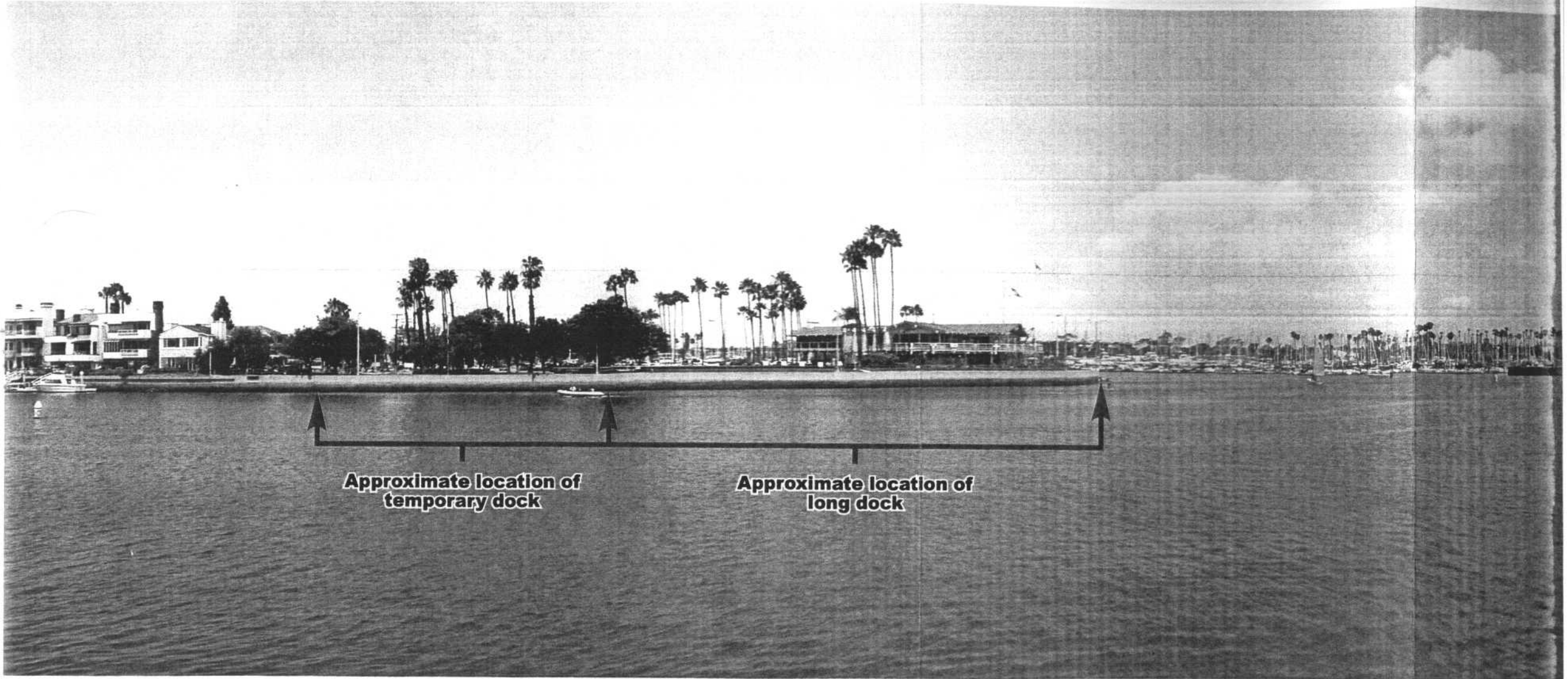


View of marina channel and Long Beach Yacht Club on Naples Island from park in Basin 2 facing north



Second Street Bridge facing south.

FIGURE 4.1.5



View of marina channel and Long Beach Yacht Club on Naples Island from park in Basin 2 facing north