

SJM 7/3/42 A-1 BOARDWALK

'Too intense' Hurricane will be tamed

Boardwalk coaster shut down until rough ride can be fixed

BY LEE QUARNSTROM
Mercury News Staff Writer

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk officials, admitting their newest ride is "too intense," have sent the Hurricane back to the drawing board.

Officials have shut down the ride and are asking the Italian firm that manufactured the \$2 million Hurricane to design and make new sections of track so the ride will be smoother, said Marq Lipton, vice president for marketing for the Seaside Co.

The metal roller coaster opened June 22 to much fanfare, followed by complaints from some

riders about sore backs and neck pain apparently caused by the rough ride. Lipton said the ride was "too intense."

"We slowed it down and made some other modifications," Lipton said. "We've been looking for ways to make it more acceptable."

Although two to three seconds were taken off the ride, some people still complained of soreness. The ride whips around curves, sometimes a tad too herky-jerky.

Lipton said the ride probably won't be open again until August.

"They have to make the track, then ship it to us, and we have to test it," he said.

Lipton said the modifications would not take the zip out of the Hurricane.

"It'll still be a thrilling ride," he said. "It'll still be an intense ride."