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## Money woes

# Trailside lawyers stymied

Trailside Murders

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SANTA CRUZ — The public defender's office says it cannot continue to prepare for the Trailside murder trial unless the county comes up with more money.

And, county government officials say they can't come up with that money until they get reimbursed from the state for costs already incurred.

A Superior Court judge has appointed the public defender (at county expense) for the Trailside suspect, David Carpenter, and has authorized \$70,000 for investigation and expert witness expenses in preparation of the case.

The county has paid \$45,000 of that amount, but Tuesday balked at authorizing payment for the remaining \$25,000.

Instead, supervisors, on a motion by Gary Patton, directed the county administrator to seek a court order for reimbursement from the state.

The state has set up a legal defense fund for indigents facing capital crime charges.

Public Defender Larry Biggam says that fund was created to gain liberal votes in the legislature for the death penalty.

The purpose, he says, was to insure that poor persons would have adequate defenses in capital cases to allay fears that only poor people would be executed.

Legal costs in murder trials can be expensive, as evidenced by the recent multi-million-dollar Juan Corona trial.

Counties required to provide public defender service for murder suspects can submit claims to the fund to recover their costs.

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