

✓ Trailside sentencing hearing is postponed until Nov. 16

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SANTA CRUZ — The final sentencing hearing for convicted Trailside Killer David Joseph Carpenter, scheduled for Friday, has been delayed until Nov. 16, the District Attorney's Office here said.

A sentencing jury in Los Angeles, where Carpenter was tried because of publicity in Northern California, last month recommended the death sentence for Carpenter. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dion Morrow will formally pass sentence on Carpenter. Morrow has the power to send Carpenter to the gas chamber, or to sentence him to life in prison without parole.

A spokeswoman for Santa Cruz County District Attorney Art Danner said the Los Angeles Probation Department has not completed Carpenter's probation report, causing the delay. Public Defender Gerry Christensen confirmed that report.

A Los Angeles jury convicted Carpenter of murdering two women along hiking trails in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1981. He also was convicted of raping one of the women, attempting to rape the other and attempting to murder the boyfriend of one of the women.

Carpenter has been charged with five similar murders in Marin County.