

Trailside Murders Carpenter trial ordered to begin Monday ✓

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LOS ANGELES — The judge in accused Trailside killer David Joseph Carpenter's long-delayed trial has ordered a Monday starting date.

Attorneys in the case have been working to select the trial's two juries since October. Last week, Santa Cruz County District Attorney Art Danner said that process could be finished this week, but a spokeswoman in his office this

morning said the selection was still in progress.

She said Superior Court Judge Dion Morrow told attorneys the trial would begin Monday and ordered them to complete their preparation before that date.

Carpenter, 51, is charged with two murders, attempted murder, rape, and attempted rape in Santa Cruz County. If convicted of the 1981 crimes and the special allegations also charged,

he could be sent to the gas chamber.

He is charged with killing Ellen Hansen and Heather Scaggs in local state parks. He is also accused of shooting Hansen's companion, Steve Haertle.

Carpenter is also charged with five similar murders in Marin County. His trial was moved to Los Angeles after a motion for a change of venue was granted.