

COAST BOARD BACKS SIRHAN CASE REVIEW

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12 (UPI)—The County Board of Supervisors formally instructed its agencies Tuesday to support reopening the investigation into the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy to determine whether Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone or whether there was a "second gun."

The board voted unanimously to order the county counsel's office to appear in court Thursday to back a suit calling for a new examination of ballistics evidence in the trial at which Sirhan was found guilty of the fatal shooting of the Senator in 1968.

It also requested the district attorney's office to intervene in the case and, in a reversal of position, acting District Attorney John Howard agreed to do so.

"It is in the public interest to get this entire matter out in the open once and for all," said Kenneth Hahn, a member of the board. "Was there a conspiracy? Was the C.I.A. involved? Was there a person other than Sirhan involved? Those are the questions that need answering."

Mr. Howard, who was one of the prosecutors at the Sirhan trial, told the board the district attorney's office had no doubt that the Palestinian immigrant was guilty and that the verdict was a just one. Sirhan is now serving a life sentence at San Quentin.