

Sirhan up for parole review

By Alice Yarish

Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of the 1968 assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy, will appear before the state Adult Authority this week for review of his parole status.

The review could result in a shortening of his prison term, which has been set by the Adult Authority at 16 years and nine months. Sirhan was convicted in 1969 and sentenced to death, but was spared along with many others by a 1972 state Supreme Court

ruling that the California death penalty was unconstitutional.

Subsequently he was given a parole date of Feb. 23, 1986.

According to George Takahashi, public information officer at Soledad Prison where Sirhan is confined, this week's review is routine.

Each inmate who has a definite parole date meets annually with the Adult Authority for a progress review. If the prisoner's conduct is exceptionally good, the board may recommend an earlier parole date,

but it may not lengthen the incarceration period unless the prisoner has committed some serious offense, Takahashi said. A prisoner's parole date can be revoked only after an official hearing.

Sirhan has been a ideal prisoner, Takahashi said. He is kept in protective custody and spends most of his free time weight lifting. He is in good health and will be 32 March 19.

Sirhan reportedly has received a highly favorable conduct report from a prison psychiatrist.