



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

SUPERVISOR ENRIQUE AVILA

Term: 1868 - 1872
District: Not Applicable
Date of Birth: Unknown
Death: Unknown

Enrique Avila served as county supervisor for two terms. He assumed office in 1868. The following year the County was divided into four districts instead of five, and an election was held to choose new supervisors. However, the incumbents, including Avila, remained in office until 1872.

In the 1820s, Avila's family was one of the first to settle in Los Angeles under Mexican rule. His father was prominent, powerful and owned thousands of acres of land due to his ties to the Mexican government. "Rancho La Tajauta," consisting of almost 3,600 acres, stretched from San Pedro to the south to present-day Watts to the north, and the family prospered from farming and raising cattle.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, Avila was appointed deputy alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles under Jose Salazar. In 1848, following the American conquest of California, Avila left office to tend to the family business. The Gold Rush soon followed and created a demand for cattle to meet the needs of the ever-growing numbers of prospectors looking to "strike it rich". Beef and cow hides became much needed commodities, and the Avila family prospered from the cattle trade. The family maintained large herds into the 1870s, as well as raising flocks of sheep during the wool boom after the Civil War.

Avila's prominence in the city under Mexican rule carried over to the new American administration, culminating in his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1868.

After leaving public office in 1872, Avila returned to managing the family's ranch, raising cattle and sheep. As the building boom in Los Angeles began to take hold in the mid-1880s and again from 1900-1910, Avila sold off portions of the family ranch at a handsome profit.

Source: The City of Watts, 1907 to 1926, The Mayors of Los Angeles, LatinoLA.com.