

Avila Beach History

In 1842 a Mexican citizen named Miguel Avila requested a land grant from Mexico for over 22,000 acres which included the area known today as Avila Beach. The land given to his family became Rancho San Miguelito. The town was established in the latter half of the 19th century, when it served as the main shipping port for San Luis Obispo.

Over 2,000 years ago, Avila Beach was home to the Chumash people. In 1770 their population was around 10,000. The name Chumash means "bead maker" or "seashell people" and they were peaceful hunter-gatherers and traders. They spoke the Hoka language and called Avila "Sepaxatu," meaning Place of the Whales. The Chumash may also have called Avila "Hole in the Sky" because of the clear weather even when fog covers most other area beaches.

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