



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Defendant Pleads Guilty to 1998 Ventura Murder

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Manuel Alejandro Vasquez (DOB 02/10/78) pled guilty on September 30, 2026, to first-degree murder for the 1998 killing of Felipe Arambula in Ventura.

On June 13, 1998, Arambula was shot and killed inside his Ventura home by two men. Investigators with the Ventura Police Department later identified Vasquez and David Hampton as the individuals responsible. The investigation determined that Vasquez and Hampton were hired by Jose Vazquez to kidnap and extort money from Arambula over an alleged unpaid debt. During the confrontation, Hampton fatally shot Arambula.

Hampton and Jose Vazquez were convicted of murder in 1999, and each was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Manuel Vasquez fled to Mexico before charges were filed and remained a fugitive until he was apprehended in 2023. He was extradited to Ventura County in April 2025.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, prosecuted the case.

"I was glad to see the defendant take responsibility for his role in the murder of Felipe Arambula at an early stage in the proceedings," Mr. Barrick said. "The victim's family has suffered so much since Mr. Arambula's life was tragically taken from him in June 1998. This conviction won't replace the time that the defendant and his conspirators stole from Mr. Arambula's family, but I do hope it will bring them the peace they deserve."

Vasquez is scheduled to be sentenced on November 2, 2026, to 25 years to life in state prison. He remains in custody without bail.

Case: 1998007943
Court #: CR44629

Defendant Information:

Manuel Alejandro Vasquez (DOB 02/10/78)
Winnetka, Calif.

Charges:

- PC 187(a) – Murder

