

Proteja Canillas de Aceituno

Press release - for immediate release

New Evidence Reveals Mayor's Knowledge and Deception Regarding Controversial Recycling Plant Project in Canillas de Aceituno

Canillas de Aceituno 06/12/2024



Residents of Canillas de Aceituno and surrounding areas of the Axarquía are outraged after new evidence has come to light, proving that Mayor Vicente Campos has been aware of the controversial landfill and recycling center project since 2019. This revelation directly contradicts his public statements denying any knowledge of the project, made as recently as November 2024. Despite significant public opposition, Mayor Vicente Campos has consistently refused to support the community's objections. It has now become clear why.

The waste complex, proposed for construction in the natural areas of Lomilleja de Mingana, Cardal, and Loma Cuchiche, has been met with strong opposition from residents, local groups, and political factions. Concerns range from environmental degradation and increased stress on local infrastructure to a significant decline in the quality of life for nearby communities.



Valley proposed for the landfill

Residents have been consistently denied access to public information about the project from the Ayuntamiento and sought help from opposition parties to support their objection and demand related documents.

Key Developments:

1. Hidden Documentation from 2019:

Evidence from municipal records shows that in March 2019, Mayor Campos requested and received a report from the municipal architect confirming the project's compatibility with non-urbanizable land regulations. This report was formally ratified by the Mayor and the municipal secretary in November 2019, aligning the project with urban planning requirements.

2. Contradictory Statements:

Despite being a key player in the initial approval process, Mayor Campos publicly claimed ignorance about the project. On November 21, 2024, he stated in a neighborhood meeting and to media outlets, "I have no information," and, "I know as much as the residents."

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3. Ongoing Lack of Transparency:

It was not until the Socialist Municipal Group of Canillas de Aceituno demanded information that documents revealing the project's origins were uncovered. The project was never disclosed to residents until by chance a resident came across a BOJA announcing an investigation into the water table in the valley. Further investigation led to the discovery of the project plans which were filed with the Junta giving just 20 days for objection.

4. Community Opposition Grows:

The proposed project has sparked widespread protests, including the collection of 1,366 signatures opposing the plan and part of the objection formally submitted to the Junta by residents.

The VOX Municipal Group and PSOE have both voiced strong opposition, condemning the arbitrary decision-making and lack of clear, objective criteria in selecting the proposed location. They emphasize the project's potential to introduce noise, traffic hazards on the surrounding small, winding roads, and environmental pollution and degradation without offering meaningful benefits to the community.

"The Mayor has not only repeatedly lied to us during public meetings, claiming he knew nothing about this project, but these documents now prove he has been working against the community's interests for years. Instead of protecting our town and its residents, he has secretly supported a development that threatens our environment and quality of life. This betrayal of trust is unacceptable, and we will not stand by as our valley is sacrificed for reasons as yet unclear." A spokesperson for the newly formed Asociación Proteja Canillas de Aceituno stated.

A Repeating Pattern: From the Existing Tip to the Secret Recycling Plant Deal

Concerns about the proposed site echo the controversy surrounding the existing landfill of building waste, which appeared in the valley next to the main road into Canillas several years ago also without public consultation or knowledge. The facility was shut down by the Junta for **illegal dumping** and **unauthorised practices** involving construction waste—an alarming precedent that has heightened fears of a repeat scenario.(see page 3 for press links to the story)

We established the Asociación as it became clear from the response of the Ayuntamiento that they did not support our protest or recognise the outrage of the community they serve. We expected a prolonged legal process so are delighted PSOE are also supporting us with their own legal team and VOX have submitted a formal objection to the Junta. Residents refuse to stand by and let this happen again.

However, since these allegations have come to light last night, we asked the mayor for a statement who told us "I will make the response and the statement on Tuesday. I will tell you in advance that the City Council, this governing team, will block and vote against the project. The 2019 document was not in the File, for that reason and for other reasons that we will explain, we will vote against the Project."

Next Steps:

Residents and opposing political parties will continue their fight against the project with, it now appears, the support of the Ayuntamiento. Legal teams are analyzing the latest evidence, and further actions are being planned to ensure transparency and accountability. The community remains steadfast in its commitment to opposing any development that threatens the area's beauty, local economy, public health and safety.

Call to Action:

Our online petition remains open so we can continue to gather support as more about this story will undoubtedly unfold as the investigation continues - www.protejacanillas.org. **If you have not yet signed, please do!**

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[Facebook](#) page for Protejacanillas

Additional Information : Past articles about the forced closure of the existing tip

<https://andaluciainformacion.es/malaga/930172/la-junta-en-pie-de-guerra-con-la-planta-de-tratamiento-de-escombros-de-canillas/>

<https://www.axarquiaplus.es/la-junta-detecta-irregularidades-en-la-gestion-del-vertedero-de-escombros-autorizado-en-canillas-de-aceituno/>

<https://www.diariosur.es/axarquia/informe-seprona-vincula-20171113013734-ntvo.html>

<https://www.elmira.es/articulo/malaga/la-junta-en-pie-de-guerra-contra-la-planta-de-tratamientos-de-escombros-de-canillas/20201029204545196162.html>