



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Zion National Park
Springdale, UT 84767



C38 (ZION)

November 28, 2016

Mr. Thomas A. Schatz, President
Citizens Against Government Waste
1100 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 650
Washington, DC 20036

Reference FOIA Request# NPS-2016-00383

Dear Mr. Schatz:

As you know, since 2009, Zion has banned the sale of water in plastic bottles. Even with the elimination of the sale of water in individual disposable containers, Zion National Park still sees a large amount of single-use plastic bottles in the waste stream. Over 60% of the plastic recycled in Zion by weight is plastic bottles, as well as 3% of landfilled waste (solid waste study, March 2012 & August 2012). The elimination of bottled water sales is one step in the park's goal to obtain a 50% diversion, mandated per Executive Order 13693. Zion National Park's outreach on water availability and having visitors bring reusable bottles are exercised on the park's website, Map & Guide and water filling station exhibits, which encourages visitors to carry a reusable water bottle. These outlets also uses the beauty of the park, the safety, quality and purity of our water to attract attention, and the importance of staying hydrated, especially in desert.

With regard to your concerns and questions as to the plastic recycling tracking amounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015: In February 2013, Zion's concessionaire, Xanterra Parks & Resorts made a business decision to have the local recycling company, Republic Services, pick up their recycling commodities through a co-mingled process, rather than the single waste stream. Please note the "Mixed Commodity" row, from the years 2013 through 2015 in the report. The large influx of recycled weight is in the mixed commodity which includes plastics, paper, metal and cardboard.

The park's non-profit partner, Zion Natural History Association, and the Park Concessionaire Xanterra Parks & Resorts have supported the elimination of sales of water bottles in the park by selling affordable reusable bottles. To create an almost seamless continuum, the town of Springdale, Utah, which borders the park to the South, and the Zion Canyon Rotary Club, have recently installed their "Hydration Station" on Earth Day of this year.

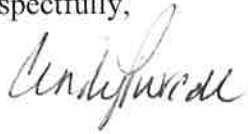
Even as park visitor educational efforts continue to focus on reducing, reusing and recycling, many of the park visitors bring in their own bottled water and beverage containers. The park remains committed



to increasing our landfill diversion rate and sharing successes with local communities and partners in sustainability.

Please reference the attached Zion Water Bottle Refilling station power point for additional information. Thank you for interest in the recycling and sustainability programs in Zion National Park.

Respectfully,



JB Jeffery Bradybaugh
Superintendent

