



ATACAMA PACIFIC PROVIDES UPDATE

CERRO MARICUNGA TECHNICAL DRILLING PROGRAM COMPLETED

Toronto, March 3, 2017 – Atacama Pacific Gold Corporation (TSXV:ATM) (“Atacama Pacific”) is pleased to announce that the technical drilling program at its Cerro Maricunga Oxide Gold Project has finished with 700 metres of metallurgical drilling in three PQ drill holes and 1,860 metres of reverse circulation technical drilling completed.

Samples from the metallurgical drilling program are being shipped to the Kappes, Cassidy and Associates’ facility in Reno, Nevada for column test work. The purpose of the metallurgical testing is to confirm the 72% to 80% gold recoveries achieved from previous conventional column tests completed on oxide ore crushed to five, ten and fifteen centimetres. The planned feasibility study will consider single stage crushing to a coarse crush size (~10 cm) as part of optimization efforts.

The technical drilling was undertaken to collect geotechnical data to determine pit wall angles as well as for condemnation purposes in the areas of planned development. The program included three large diameter drill holes which will be surveyed with a borehole optical televiewer within the next few weeks. The data will be incorporated with the existing geotechnical information to determine the optimum pit wall angle in an area where limited geotechnical information was previously available.

The Cerro Maricunga oxide-associated, breccia-hosted gold deposit hosts total Proven and Probable mineral reserves of 294.4 million tonnes grading 0.40 grams per tonne for 3.74 million ounces of gold representing one of the largest undeveloped oxide gold deposits in the world. Before commencing a feasibility study, Atacama Pacific is reviewing development options for Cerro Maricunga with the goal of reducing capital and operating costs through the elimination of the secondary and tertiary crushers, by using valley fill leaching at a location adjacent to the open pit and by commencing operations at a lower production rate of approximately 40,000 tonnes per day over the first years of production ramping up to 80,000 tonnes per day. The project also will be re-examined in light of current lower input costs for items such as electricity, fuel, labour, metallurgical consumables, equipment, etc.

Atacama Pacific also announces the appointment of Spinnaker Capital Markets Inc. (“Spinnaker”) as its capital markets and investor relations advisor. Spinnaker’s mandate is to focus on developing and expanding the network of investors, analysts, and financial intermediaries who are interested in following the Atacama Pacific growth and investment story. The appointment is for a term of six months and provides for a range of advisory services for a monthly fee of \$7,000. The related agreement is subject to the acceptance of the TSX Venture Exchange.

National Instrument 43-101 Disclosure

As defined by National Instrument 43-101 (“NI 43-101”) of the Canadian Securities Administrators, the Qualified Person for the Cerro Maricunga program is Sergio Diaz, a resident of Santiago, Chile. Mr. Diaz is a Public Registered Person for Reserves and Resources N° 51, in Chile, and is also registered in the Colegio de Geólogos de Chile under N° 315. Mr. Diaz has reviewed and verified the technical contents of this press release. Maria Leticia Conca Benito, Mining Engineer, Universidad de Chile, Registered Member of Chilean Mining Commission, CEO and Project Director, Alquimia Conceptos S.A., was the independent qualified



person, as defined by NI 43-101, responsible for the compilation of the information and preparation of the overall 2014 Prefeasibility Study.

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FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This news release contains forward looking statements, including predictions, projections and forecasts. Often, but not always, forward looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "planning", "expects" or "does not expect", "continues", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "potential", "anticipates", "does not anticipate", or "belief", or describes a "goal", or variation of such words and phrases or state that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved.

Forward looking statements involve known and unknown risks, future events, conditions, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, prediction, projection, forecast, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward looking statements. Such factors include, among other items, the timing of the completion of the feasibility study, the impact of proposed updated mining conditions, including crushing and processing methods and mining rates, the results of due diligence activities, changes in economic parameters and assumptions, the interpretation and actual results of current exploration activities; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; the results of regulatory and permitting processes; future prices of gold; possible variations in grade or recovery rates; failure of equipment or processes to operate as anticipated; market conditions, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; the results of further economic and technical studies, delays in obtaining governmental approvals or financing or in the completion of exploration, as well as those factors disclosed in Atacama Pacific's publicly filed documents.

Although Atacama Pacific has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward looking statements.

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