

**Mineral Resources.** The Company estimates Mineral Resources at the San Andres mine, as at December 31, 2017 are as follows:

| Resources Category          | Oxide         |             |              | Mixed         |             |            | Total         |             |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
|                             | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000      | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000    | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000      |
| Measured                    | 32,850        | 0.48        | 508          | 9,400         | 0.50        | 151        | 42,250        | 0.49        | 660          |
| Indicated                   | 37,850        | 0.44        | 537          | 15,300        | 0.50        | 245        | 53,150        | 0.46        | 782          |
| <b>Measured + Indicated</b> | <b>70,700</b> | <b>0.46</b> | <b>1,045</b> | <b>24,700</b> | <b>0.50</b> | <b>397</b> | <b>95,400</b> | <b>0.47</b> | <b>1,442</b> |
| Inferred                    | 5,800         | 0.69        | 128          | 3,800         | 0.67        | 82         | 9,600         | 0.68        | 210          |

Notes\*:

1. The Mineral Resources estimate is based on optimized shell using \$1,600/oz gold.
2. The cut-off grade used was 0.23 g/t for oxide material and 0.30 g/t for mixed material.
3. Contained metal figures may not add due to rounding.
4. Surface topography as of December 31, 2017, and a 200m river offset restrictions have been imposed.
5. Mineral Resources are inclusive of Mineral Reserves.
6. The estimate of Mineral Resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal, marketing, or other relevant issues.
7. Mineral Resource estimates for San Andres Mine were prepared under the supervision of Farshid Ghazanfari, P.Geo. as a Qualified Person as that term is defined in NI 43-101.

**Mineral Reserves.** The Company estimates Mineral Reserves at the San Andres mine, as at December 31, 2017 are as follows:

| Reserves Category        | Oxide         |             |            | Mixed         |             |            | Total         |             |              |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
|                          | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000    | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000    | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t)    | Oz' 000      |
| Proven                   | 26,093        | 0.51        | 424        | 3,290         | 0.59        | 62         | 29,383        | 0.51        | 486          |
| Probable                 | 30,296        | 0.47        | 462        | 8,093         | 0.58        | 150        | 38,389        | 0.50        | 612          |
| <b>Proven + Probable</b> | <b>56,389</b> | <b>0.49</b> | <b>885</b> | <b>11,383</b> | <b>0.58</b> | <b>212</b> | <b>67,772</b> | <b>0.50</b> | <b>1,098</b> |

Notes\*:

1. The Mineral Reserves estimate is based on a designed pit, which has been made operational using \$1,250/oz gold.
2. Mineral Reserves resulted from Hybrid model that was developed in 2017 by a combination of short term model and long-term model in San Andres.
3. The cut-off grade used was 0.28 g/t for oxide material and 0.37 g/t for mixed material.
4. Contained metal figures may not add due to rounding.
5. Surface topography as of December 31, 2016, and a 200m river offset restrictions have been imposed.
6. Mineral Reserve estimates for San Andres Mine were prepared under the supervision of Farshid Ghazanfari, P.Geo. as Qualified Person as that term is defined in NI 43-101.

The following description of the San Andres Mine is the Executive Summary contained in the San Andres Technical Report.

## **Introduction**

The Company has prepared a technical report (the “Report”) compliant with National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects (“NI 43-101”) on the updated Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves pertaining to its San Andrés mine (the “Mine” or the “Project”).

## **Project Description and Location**

The Mine is an open pit, heap-leach operation located in the highlands of western Honduras, in the municipality of La Unión, Department of Copán approximately 210 km southwest of the city of San Pedro Sula. The Mine’s surface and mineral rights are owned by Minerales de Occidente, S.A. de C.V. (“Minosa”), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Aura existing under the laws of Honduras.

## **Accessibility, Climate, Local Resources, Infrastructure and Physiography**

Access to the Mine is via paved highways and gravel roads approximately 210 km from San Pedro Sula or 360 km from the capital city of Tegucigalpa. Both cities are serviced by international airports with daily flights to the United States of America and cities in Latin America.

The Mine is located approximately 18 km due west of the town of Santa Rosa de Copán, the capital of the Department of Copán. The town site and property of San Andrés is reached via a 28 km paved highway from Santa Rosa de Copán, and then by a 22 km gravel road from the turn-off at the town of Cucuyagua. The gravel road is public, but Minosa assists local authorities with the maintenance of this road.

The climate of San Andrés is temperate, with a distinct rainy season locally called winter from May to November. Although parts of Honduras lie within the hurricane belt, the western Interior Highlands are generally unaffected by these storms.

Temperature decreases with increased elevation and as the Mine site is situated at an elevation of 1,200 m, the climate is quite temperate. Typically, December and January are the coolest months, with average daily temperatures of 17.9°C and 17.8°C, respectively. April and May are typically the warmest months, with average temperatures of about 22°C.

There are a number of mines operating in Honduras and throughout Central America. These mining operations are supplied and serviced by branch offices and facilities of international contractors and suppliers and by domestic contractors and suppliers. Cement and fuel are provided locally by Honduran companies. Spare parts and supplies from major centers in North or South America can be readily delivered to the site within a reasonable time.

Labour is sourced locally from the many communities located near the Mine. Educational, medical, recreational, and shopping facilities are established. Management and technical staff are available within Central America and from North or South America as is required. Aura also maintains a corporate office in Canada of experienced geologists and engineers to provide technical support and oversight for all of its projects, including the Mine.

The Mine has been in operation since 1983, and has a well-developed infrastructure which includes power and water supply, warehouses, maintenance facilities, assay lab and on-site camp facilities for management, staff and contractors. On-site communication includes radio, telephone, internet and satellite television services. Process water is supplied by rainwater run-off collected in a surge pond and by direct pumping from a water well pump station in the perennial Río Lara adjacent to the carbon-in-column adsorption, desorption and recovery plant (“CIC-ADR”). Chlorinated potable water for the town of San Andrés and camp facilities is supplied from a source originating upstream from San Andrés along the Río Lara, near the village of La Arena. Purified water for drinking and cooking is purchased from local suppliers.

## **History**

The San Andrés property was explored in the 1930s and 1940s by numerous companies including Gold Mines of America and the New York and Honduras based Rosario Mining Company (“Rosario”). In 1945, the property was acquired by the San Andrés Mining Company and then purchased by the New Idria Company (“New Idria”) (Malouf, 1985). A 200 short tons-per-day cyanide circuit was installed in 1948. Approximately 300,000 short tons of surface and 100,000 short tons of underground ore averaging 5.8 g/t Au were mined and milled by New Idria. In 1949, San Andrés became the first operation to use a carbon-in-pulp plant to recover gold and silver by adsorption using granular carbon, however, numerous problems including poor air travel support logistics and high underground mining costs caused the operation to close in 1954 (Marsden and House 2006). The area remained inactive until it was reopened in 1974 (Malouf, 1985).

In 1974, an exploration permit was granted to Minerales, S.A. de C.V. (“MINSA”), a Noranda Inc. subsidiary. MINSA then joint-ventured the property with Rosario and exploration efforts

consisted of soil sampling, mapping and trenching with the purpose of identifying a large, disseminated, open pit gold deposit. Changes in the Honduran tax law forced MINSA to drop the concession in 1976. Compañía Minerales de Copán, S.A. de C.V. (“Minerales de Copán”) acquired the property in January 1983 following changes in the Honduran tax laws. A 60 short tons-per-day heap leach operation was installed and 170 local residents were employed on a basic, shovel-and-wheel-barrow operation.

In 1993, Fischer-Watt Gold Company Inc. (“Fischer-Watt”) acquired an option from Minerales de Copán to further explore the property. Fischer-Watt conducted additional mapping and sampling programs with encouraging results.

In 1994, Greenstone Resources Ltd. (“Greenstone”) acquired the option from Fischer-Watt. The option was exercised in 1996 and Greenstone subsequently acquired in excess of 99% of Minerales de Copán. Feasibility studies began in 1996, and in 1997 Greenstone completed a feasibility study that evaluated mining the Water Tank Hill deposit. Proposed production was 2.1 million tonnes per annum (“Mtpa”), with the mine life estimated at seven years. The facilities were constructed to handle in excess of 3.5 Mtpa of ore and waste.

Following review and approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) for the mine, Greenstone Minera de Honduras, S.A. de C.V., Greenstone’s wholly-owned Honduran subsidiary company, received the mining permit on December 9, 1998 and began mining in early 1999. Their first shipment of gold was on March 30, 1999. Due to cash flow problems within Greenstone, mining and crushing operations ceased at the Mine in mid-December 1999.

Greenstone subsequently defaulted of its obligations to its secured creditor, the Honduran Bank, Banco Atlántida, and the property rights and obligations associated with the mine were transferred to Banco Atlántida. Banco Atlántida formed Minosa to own and operate the Mine and on June 26, 2000 Banco Atlántida’s real estate branch provided a bridge loan to Minosa for operations to resume. RNC Gold Inc. (“RNC”) was retained to provide management services to Minosa, and mining operations resumed in early August 2000 at the Water Tank Hill deposit. The Water Tank Hill pit was depleted in early 2003 and production commenced in the East Ledge pit in March 2003.

On September 7, 2005, RNC purchased 100% of the Mine through the acquisition of 100% of Minosa. On February 28, 2006, Yamana Gold Inc. (“Yamana”) acquired RNC and a 100% beneficial interest in Minosa, which was then acquired by Aura on August 25, 2009.

A summary of the historical and recent production at the Project by year is set out in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1. Historical and Recent Production

| Year | Ore Leached Tonnes | Grade Au g/t | Gold Recovered (Oz) | Silver Recovered (Oz) |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1983 | 21,480             | -            | -                   | -                     |
| 1984 | 22,459             | 2.12         | 1,388               | 575                   |
| 1985 | 22,332             | 2.46         | 1,433               | 636                   |
| 1986 | 29,120             | 3.08         | 2,510               | 750                   |
| 1987 | 40,178             | 2.46         | 2,710               | 806                   |
| 1988 | 56,154             | 2.21         | 2,957               | 803                   |
| 1989 | 76,209             | 1.87         | 3,406               | 1,247                 |
| 1990 | 105,598            | 1.37         | 3,495               | 1,120                 |
| 1991 | 133,084            | 1.93         | 4,813               | 1,385                 |
| 1992 | 129,647            | 1.09         | 3,737               | 944                   |
| 1993 | 138,766            | 1.15         | 4,607               | 1,100                 |
| 1994 | 138,083            | 1.06         | 4,291               | 739                   |
| 1995 | 130,956            | 0.93         | 3,482               | 708                   |
| 1996 | 127,801            | 1.21         | 4,504               | 1,242                 |
| 1997 | 42,885             | 0.87         | 1,048               | 262                   |
| 1998 | -                  | -            | -                   | -                     |
| 1999 | 1,357,544          | 2.04         | 42,455              | 44,392                |
| 2000 | -                  | -            | 6,006               | 7,477                 |
| 2000 | 719,631            | 1.85         | 17,508              | 22,841                |
| 2001 | 2,289,276          | 1.75         | 105,998             | 131,201               |
| 2002 | 3,378,116          | 1.09         | 99,064              | 108,694               |
| 2003 | 2,891,890          | 0.63         | 50,795              | 35,421                |
| 2004 | 3,793,870          | 0.69         | 65,032              | 18,502                |
| 2005 | 3,392,092          | 0.72         | 61,236              | 16,488                |
| 2006 | 3,732,049          | 0.70         | 70,779              | -                     |
| 2007 | 2,910,904          | 0.52         | 51,240              | 34,992                |
| 2008 | 3,567,279          | 0.58         | 47,761              | 17,636                |
| 2009 | 4,530,009          | 0.68         | 68,372              | 34,406                |
| 2010 | 4,913,900          | 0.70         | 70,641              | 52,394                |
| 2011 | 4,312,947          | 0.68         | 60,871              | 38,208                |
| 2012 | 4,372,598          | 0.61         | 59,751              | 41,487                |
| 2013 | 5,370,142          | 0.58         | 63,811              | 34,765                |

## Geology and Mineralization

The gold deposits at the Mine are hosted within Tertiary-aged felsic volcanic flows, tuffs and agglomerates, thick inter-bedded silica breccias, primarily containing volcanic fragments and tuffaceous sandstones. These volcanic units occur on the south (hanging wall side) of the San Andrés Fault. The fault strikes west-east and dips at 60° to 70° south and it marks the northern boundary of the Water Tank Hill and East Ledge pits. The fault forms the contact between the Permian phyllites (metasediments) to the north and the volcanic units on the south.

Mineralisation within the phyllites is limited to the Buffa Zone where quartz carbonate veining proximal to the San Andrés Fault. South of the Mine area, where there is no alteration, the

volcanic and sedimentary rocks have a distinctive hematite brick red color but, in the Mine area, they have been bleached to light buff yellow and grey colors due to alteration. The younger volcanic and sedimentary units typically have a shallow to moderate southerly dip and thicken to the south of the Mine area.

Structurally, the Mine area is transected by a series of sub-parallel, west to northeast-striking faults that are typically steeply dipping to the south and by numerous north and northwest-striking normal faults and extension fractures. The most prominent fault of the first set is the San Andrés Fault. The San Andrés Fault is parallel to, and coeval with, a major set of west to north-northeast trending strike-slip faults that form the Motagua Suture Zone, which is continuous with the Cayman Trough. The Motagua Suture Zone and the Cayman Trough result from the movement between the North American plate and the Caribbean plate. The direction of movement along these strike-slip faults, including the San Andrés Fault, is left lateral.

The normal faults and extension fractures occur within the volcanic and sedimentary units on the south side of the San Andrés Fault. Average strike of these structures is N25°W; dip is 50° to 80° to the southwest and northeast, forming grabens where the strata are locally offset. These faults and fractures are generally filled with banded quartz and blade calcite and have formed focal points for the alteration and mineralisation fluids within the Mine area. These extensional structures are distributed over a wide area, from the East Ledge open pit to Quebrada Del Agua Caliente, approximately 1,500 m to the east, and from the San Andrés Fault, for at least 1,200 m south and are coeval with the strike-slip faults.

There are abundant occurrences of hot springs throughout Honduras and hot springs occur within the immediate vicinity of the Mine. These geothermal systems are most likely caused by thin crust and high regional heat flow resulting from the rifting associated with the Suture Zone. The hot springs are neutral to alkaline in pH and range in temperature from 120°C to 225°C. The high-temperature springs are currently depositing silica sinter with cooling. Structurally, the hot springs are associated with the northwest-trending extensional faults and fractures.

The San Andrés deposit is classified as an epithermal gold deposit associated with extension structures within tectonic rift settings. These deposits commonly contain gold and silver mineralization, which is associated with banded quartz veins. At the Mine, however, silver does not occur in significant economic quantities. Gold occurs in quartz veins predominantly comprised of colloform banded quartz (generally chalcedony with lesser amounts of fine comb quartz, adularia, dark carbonate, and sulphide material). The gold mineralization is deposited as a result of the cooling and interaction of hydrothermal fluids with groundwater and the host rocks. The hydrothermal fluids may have migrated some distance from the source; however, there is no clear evidence at the Mine that the fluids or portions of the fluids have been derived from magmatic intrusions.

The rocks hosting the San Andrés deposit have been oxidized near surface as a result of weathering. The zone of oxidation varies in depth from 10 m to more than 100 m. The zone of oxidation is generally thicker in the East Ledge deposit compared to the Twin Hills deposit.

In the oxide zone, the pyrite has been altered to an iron oxide such as hematite, goethite, or jarosite. The oxide zone generally overlies a zone of partial oxidation, called the mixed zone,

which consists of both oxidized and sulphide material. The mixed zone may not occur continuously, but where it is present, it reaches thicknesses of over 50 m. below the zone of oxidation; the gold is commonly associated with sulphide minerals such as pyrite. The sulphide, or “fresh”, zone lies below the mixed zone.

The gold contained in the oxide zone is amenable to extraction by heap leaching using a weak cyanide solution. The gold recovery is reduced in the mixed zone as a result of the presence of sulphide minerals and the gold cannot currently be recovered economically from the sulphide zone by heap leaching. The estimated metal recovery by leaching from each zone is discussed in Section 17 of the Report.

High clay content in the ore, resulting from alteration, is detrimental to the heap leaching process because of reduced through-put rates in the crushing plant and reduced permeability in the heap leach operation. This poor leaching situation is resolved by agglomerating the crushed ore by adding cement to increase the permeability of the heap prior to leaching.

Based on metallurgical studies, the gold is primarily contained in electrum as fine-grained particles. The particle size of the electrum grains varied from 1 micron (“ $\mu$ ”) x 1  $\mu$  up to 10  $\mu$  x 133  $\mu$ . One native gold grain was noted. The silver generally occurs at about the same grade as gold and the correlation between silver and gold is low at 0.24. Silver is not considered important because of the lower price for silver compared to gold and the lower metal recovery of silver.

### **Exploration, Drilling, Sampling, Analysis, and Data Verification**

Since the acquisition of Minosa by Aura on August 25, 2009, exploration activities conducted at the Project by Minosa personnel consists of property scale mapping, road cut channel sampling and a limited reverse circulation (“RC”) drilling program in the Twin Hills Pit. During 2012, a new RC drilling programme was commenced in the Cerro Cortez and Cemetery areas for improving Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve definition, this programme continued throughout 2013.

The following is a summary of exploration activities carried out at the Project by previous owners.

The drill hole database for the Mine, including condemnation drilling and drilling conducted prior to 1994 on the Water Tank Hill, consists of 740 drill holes for a total of 100,365 m.

Aerial photography was flown over the Project on March 31, 1996 by Hansa Luftbild German Air Surveys of Munster, Germany. The aerial photographs were ortho corrected using seven ground control points and digital topographic maps with two-metre contour intervals created by Eagle Mapping Services Ltd. of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The digital topography was used by Minosa in the design of the East Ledge and Twin Hills block models and resulting pit designs.

During 1997 and 1998 Greenstone carried out geological mapping and sampling that collected 1,700 bedrock channel samples from road cuts and outcrop exposures on the property. The results of this work helped to develop the geological model, define mineralized zones and define

drill targets. As well, Quantec IP Inc. of Toronto, Ontario, Canada conducted induced polarization and magnetometer geophysical surveys consisting of 27.7 km, with readings at 12.5 m stations along lines 50 m apart, covering the Project from Water Tank Hill to south of Twin Hills and to the east over Cortez Ridge inside the San Andrés concession. The surveys identified four targets, three in a north to south corridor between Cerro Cortez and Twin Hills and a fourth located south of Water Tank Hill. Two of the targets have been mined and the third was drilled by Greenstone (SC-034) and intersected mineralization from surface to a depth of 50 m with individual sample grades up to 3.26 g/t Au with the remainder of the hole relatively barren. The fourth target on the east side of Cerro Cortez has not been drilled.

Geological mapping at 1:1,000 scales was conducted on the 1,150 m bench level of the Water Tank Hill pit in 2001. Mapping of the East Ledge pit high wall was conducted between the 1,120 m and 1,060 m elevations (11 benches) as the East Ledge pit was advanced from July through December 2004. The results of the mapping were used to assess the mineralization controls and the structural complexities of the deposit as well as for use in the geotechnical monitoring of the East Ledge Pit high wall. Geotechnical monitoring and geological mapping are continuing.

Drilling was initially carried out on the Water Tank Hill area because of the historical production from the area. The Twin Hills deposit was discovered in 1994 and the East Ledge deposit was discovered in 2001. Most of the drilling at the Project has been RC drilling.

Geological mapping and channel samples were completed in adjacent areas in 2010 and 2011 along with a RC drilling programme. Drilling targeted the Twin Hill South, Banana Ridge, Fault A, Cerro Cortez, Zona Buffa and Agua Caliente areas, totaling 6,209 m. The exploration program helped to develop the geological model and define future targets for infill drilling.

In 2012 and 2013, the RC drilling campaign conducted by Minosa was largely focused in Cerro Cortez and Cemetery areas.



A summary of the historical drilling at the Project by year and by drilling method is set out in Table 1-2 below.

Table 1-2. Summary of the Historical Drilling at the San Andrés Project

| Company       | Year         | RC Holes     |            | Core Holes   |          | Total        |           |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
|               |              | No. of Holes | Metres     | No. of Holes | Metres   | No. of Holes | Metres    |
| Fischer-Watt  | EX-1992      | 22           | 2,717.40   |              |          | 22           | 2,717.40  |
| Greenstone    | EX-1994      | 63           | 5,008.30   |              |          | 63           | 5,008.30  |
|               | EX-1996      | 41           | 5,920.50   |              |          | 41           | 5,920.50  |
|               | EX-1997      | 101          | 11,601.40  | 9            | 1,323.5  | 110          | 12,924.90 |
|               | EX-1998      | 150          | 18,437.90  | 37           | 4536     | 187          | 22,973.90 |
| Minosa        | EX-2001      | 15           | 1,674.00   |              |          | 15           | 1,674.00  |
|               | EX-2002      | 49           | 6,306.50   |              |          | 49           | 6,306.50  |
|               | EX-2005      | 25           | 2,280.00   |              |          | 25           | 2,280.00  |
| Minosa-Yamana | EX-2006      | 113          | 17,639.20  | 12           | 2,566.1  | 125          | 20,205.30 |
|               | EX-2007      | 59           | 8,316.10   | 28           | 6,253.4  | 87           | 14,569.50 |
|               | EX-2008      | 12           | 1,900.10   | 22           | 4,838.8  | 34           | 6,738.90  |
| Minosa-Aura   | EX-2010/2011 | 64           | 3,508.20   |              |          | 64           | 3,508.20  |
|               | SA-2010      | 9            | 426.8      |              |          | 9            | 426.8     |
|               | EX-2012      | 64           | 8,014.70   |              |          | 64           | 8,014.70  |
|               | SA-2012      | 21           | 853        |              |          | 21           | 853       |
|               | EX-2013      | 75           | 8,805.70   |              |          | 75           | 8,805.70  |
|               | SA-2013      | 22           | 1,400.6    |              |          | 22           | 1,400.60  |
|               | Total        | 905          | 104,810.30 | 108          | 19,517.8 | 1013         | 124,328.1 |

The RC and core drilling programs were designed to sample the entire oxide and mixed zones. Holes were generally drilled from 150 m to 200 m in depth and stopped in the sulphide zone. Some holes were drilled to sample the sulphide mineralization.

The RC sample collection procedures have been documented by Chlumsky, Armbrust, & Meyer L.L.C. (“CAM”) (Armbrust et al., 2005) and by Scott Wilson RPA (2007). Samples were collected continuously from the collar to the end of the hole at 1.5 m intervals. The weight of the drill cuttings was measured and then the sample was split using a Gilson splitter and reduced to two samples of approximately 5 kg each and retained in poly bags marked with the sequence number, hole number and depth. One sample was then transported to the Mine assay lab for sample preparation and the other sample was sent to a secure storage facility for future reference. Every 20th sample was split for a duplicate assay check. All sampling was carried out by Company employees. A QA/QC program consisted of the use of duplicate samples, standards, and blanks. These QA/QC samples were inserted to assess the sample accuracy, the assay accuracy and to determine if there was cross contamination between samples.

At the San Andrés lab, the RC samples were recorded in a sample book, oven dried at 60°C, then crushed using a jaw crusher to approximately minus ¼-inch and a 50 g to 60 g subsample split

was taken using a riffle splitter. The subsample was pulverized in a ring-mill pulveriser to 90% passing a 150 mesh screen. The pulverized sample or pulp was rolled and a sample was split off for fire assay. The pulps were packaged in plastic bags and then transported from the Mine site to Minosa offices in Santa Rosa de Copán and then shipped using an independent courier service to CAS de Honduras, S. de R.L. laboratory in Tegucigalpa (“CAS”).

The samples collected for the 2012 and 2013 drilling campaign were prepped and assayed on site using the site lab with regular check samples sent to an independent lab operated by Inspectorate America Corporate (“Inspectorate”). Samples were shipped to the Inspectorate prep-laboratory in Guatemala for sample preparation and then to Reno, USA for analysis.

Core sample intervals were determined by the geologist, and were based on changes in rock type or structure, and ranged in length from 0.5 m up to 3.0 m. The sample intervals were clearly marked on the core prior to splitting. The core was sawn in half with a diamond saw, with one half being retained for reference and the other being submitted for sample preparation and assay. All sampling was conducted by Company employees. The sawn core samples were then transported from the Mine site to the Company offices in Santa Rosa de Copán and then shipped using an independent courier service to CAS.

Several different North American laboratories were used to assay the San Andrés samples, with the exception of the East Ledge drilling program by Minosa in 2001, 2002 and 2012 and Twin Hills and Cerro Cortez programs between 2010 and 2012, where the samples were analyzed in the Mine on-site lab. Fischer-Watt used American Assay Lab in Sparks, Nevada, USA during their 1992 drilling program. Greenstone started out by using Chemex Labs (“Chemex”) located in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, but switched to Barringer Assay Lab in Reno, Nevada, USA (“Barringer”) in January 1998 (starting with RC hole SA-232 and core hole SC-5). In April 1997, a new procedure was initiated to reduce air freight costs where all samples were submitted first to McClelland labs in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for partial sample preparation. At McClelland, the five kilogram samples were dried, crushed to -10 mesh and an 800 g to 1,000 g subsample produced. The subsample was then forwarded to a North American assay lab for final sample preparation and assay analysis.

All samples were analyzed for gold and most samples were analyzed for silver by fire assay methods with an atomic absorption spectroscopy (“AA”) finish using a 29.162 g (1 assay-ton) sample. Except for the very early work (i.e., Fischer-Watt program), metal values were reported in g/t Au. All original assay certificates are on file on site.

The sample preparation and analytical procedures at both McClelland and the North American assay labs follow industry standards. The sample was dried in an oven at 60 °C, and then crushed to approximately -10 micron mesh. The crusher yielded a product where greater than 80% of the sample passed through a -10 micron mesh screen. A 200-400 g sub-sample was split off using a Jones Riffle Splitter, and the remaining portion of the -10 micron mesh reject was bagged and saved. The 200-400 g split was pulverized in a ring and puck pulveriser. The specification for this procedure was at least 90% passing a -150 micron mesh screen. The pulverized sample (pulp) was rolled on a rolling cloth until fully homogenized and a 29.166 g (1 assay-ton) sample was split off for fire-assay.

Gold analysis was done by fire-assay with an AA finish. The sample was fused with a natural flux inquarted with 4 mg of gold-free silver and then cupelled. Silver beads were digested for 90 minutes in nitric acid to remove the silver, and then 3 ml of hydrochloric acid was added to digest the gold into solution.

The samples were cooled, made to a volume of 10 ml, homogenized and analyzed by AA for gold. Silver analysis was performed on a prepared sample that was digested in a hot nitric-hydrochloric acid mixture, taken to dryness, cooled and then transferred into a 250 ml volumetric flask. The final matrix was 25% hydrochloric acid. The solutions were then analyzed by AA.

### **Metallurgical Testing**

The East Ledge deposit was assessed using bottle roll tests. Although bottle roll tests provide an indication that the ore is amenable to heap leaching, the tests do not provide quantitative estimates of the percent recovery. In the case of the East Ledge deposit, the recovery factors are based on production results. Historical production results between January 2003 and September 2007 indicate an overall recovery from the East Ledge deposit of 84%.

The Twin Hills deposit was assessed using a combination of bottle roll and column tests. Overall, column leach test data indicates that the Twin Hills bulk oxidized ore is readily amenable to heap leaching. Recoveries of 86.5%, 87.5%, and 87.2% in 68 days of cyanide solution contact were achieved from samples with a P80 of 3 inch, 1 inch, and ½ inch, respectively. Gold recovery rates were fairly rapid for all feed sizes, and extraction was substantially complete in 10 to 15 days of leaching. Additional gold was extracted after 15 days, but at a much lower rate.

Although the column test on the mixed zone from the East Ledge pit indicated a gold recovery of 43%, the test was conducted on coarse material (P80 of 2.5 inch) which predominantly consisted of fresh (sulphide) material. Additional column testing of material from the Twin Hills Pit of both clay type and rocky type mixed ores indicated recoveries ranging between 49% and 75% for ore crushed to a P80 of 3 inch.

Both the oxide and mixed ore recoveries are confirmed by historical production records, which show that between 2009 and 2013 approximately 6 Mt of mixed ore from the Twin Hills deposit was treated with a resultant recovery ranging from 73% to 82% for the oxide ore, and from 40% to 62% for the mixed ore.

Based on the bottle roll and column tests on the mixed zone at Twin Hills, and historical production records, a gold recovery of 57% and 76% for mixed ore and oxide ore respectively has been used for Mineral Reserve and Mineral Resource estimation and mine economics.

Although the test results indicated gold recoveries higher than 76%, at this stage, for the purposes of the Mineral Reserve estimate, Aura considers the 76% factor appropriate for the oxide zone.

The gold recovery based on production estimates for 2001 through 2013, is shown in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3. Gold Recovery Production<sup>1</sup>

| Period  | Ounces to Pad | Ounces Recovered | % Recovery |
|---------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| 2001    | 128,645       | 105,998          | 82.4       |
| 2002    | 117,015       | 99,064           | 84.6       |
| 2003    | 58,800        | 50,795           | 86.4       |
| 2004    | 83,877        | 65,032           | 77.5       |
| 2005    | 78,231        | 61,236           | 78.7       |
| 2006    | 83,625        | 70,779           | 84.6       |
| 2007    | 49,068        | 51,240           | 104.4      |
| 2008    | 66,988        | 47,761           | 71.3       |
| 2009(2) | 98,843        | 68,372           | 68.5       |
| 2010    | 110,518       | 70,641           | 63.9       |
| 2011    | 94,140        | 60,871           | 64.7       |
| 2012    | 86,292        | 59,751           | 69.2       |
| 2013    | 103,085       | 63,811(3)        | 61.9(3)    |

Note: Prior to February 2006, production was by RNC Gold Inc.

1. – From internal production data sheets
2. – Between 2009 and 2013, 6 Mt Ore from Mixed Zone Stacked and Leached.
3. – Due to labour strikes, most of the gold leached in December was not refined (effectively recovered in 2013).

A portion of the Mineral Reserves, located between, and adjacent to, the East Ledge and Twin Hills deposits, has not yet been tested. However, the geological setting and the style of mineralization are similar and the authors believe the recovery factor is consistent with what has been found to date.

As part of on-going leaching tests on the mixed zone, Aura has started the hot soluble cyanide gold assay procedure for both production blast hole assays and plant metallurgical control. This assay technique provides an excellent guide as to the degree of oxidation of the gold mineralization and its potential recovery.

### **Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves**

The Mineral Resources for the San Andrés deposit are estimated using ordinary kriging within 11 mineralisation domains defined by detailed geological modelling and reported by oxide, mixed, and sulphide boundaries. The Mineral Resources are also constrained by a 200 m exclusion zone along the Agua Caliente River. The block model used blocks measuring 10 m x 10 m x 6 m. The drillhole data was composited to 1.5 m and 6 m intervals depending on domain. The estimation search strategy was oriented to align with the variograms and 2 estimation runs applied within an octant search. Variable minimum and maximum values were set depending on composite lengths. The block model was then updated using the December 31, 2012 topography to account for previously mined material.

The estimation and classification of the Mineral Resources have been prepared in accordance with both Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (“CIM”) Best Practice Guidelines and NI 43-101 Technical Reporting standards. The classification of the Mineral Resources is based on two considerations, the search radius influence and a resource limit based on an optimized pit using a US\$2,000/oz gold price.

The December 31, 2013 Mineral Resources estimated by Aura total 104.8 Mt of Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources at an average grade of approximately 0.49 g/t gold grade and Inferred Mineral Resource of 4.3 Mt at an average grade of 0.49 g/t gold grade, using a long term US\$1,600 gold price and a 0.23 g/t Au cut-off for oxide and a 0.30 g/t cut-off for mixed material. The Mineral Resources pit shell optimization did not consider any sulphide material. Note that the Mineral Resources are inclusive of Mineral Reserves. Also note that Mineral Resources that are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

Table 1-4 sets out the estimated Mineral Resources for the Mine as of December 31, 2013.

Table 1-4. December 31, 2013 Mineral Resource Estimate\*

| Resources Category   | Oxide         |          |         | Mixed         |          |         | Total         |          |         |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|
|                      | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t) | Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t) | Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t) | Oz '000 |
| Measured             | 13,424        | 0.46     | 199     | 2,814         | 0.59     | 54      | 16,238        | 0.48     | 252     |
| Indicated            | 63,201        | 0.47     | 945     | 25,402        | 0.57     | 462     | 88,603        | 0.49     | 1,407   |
| Measured + Indicated | 76,625        | 0.47     | 1,144   | 28,216        | 0.57     | 516     | 104,841       | 0.49     | 1,660   |
| Inferred             | 3,319         | 0.42     | 45      | 1,029         | 0.74     | 24      | 4,348         | 0.49     | 69      |

Note\*:

1. The Mineral Resources estimate is based on optimized shell using \$1,600/oz gold.
2. The cut-off grade used was 0.23 g/t for oxide material and 0.30 g/t for mixed material.
3. Contained metal figures may not add due to rounding.
4. Surface topography as of December 31, 2013, and a 200m river offset restrictions have been imposed.
5. Mineral Resources are inclusive of Mineral Reserves.
6. The estimate of Mineral Resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal, marketing, or other relevant issues.

The estimate of Mineral Reserves is based on a long range mine plan and plant production schedule developed by Aura. The economic criteria using the Lerches-Grossman algorithm for pit limit evaluations, including process recoveries and operating costs are provided in Table 1-5.

Table 1-5. Economic and Geometric Criteria

| Pit and Cost Parameters   |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Bench height (m)          | 6                |
| Road width (m)            | 18               |
| Overall Pit Slope (°)     | Varies: 41 - 49  |
| Bench face angle (°)      | Varies : 65 – 70 |
| Minimum pit bottom (m)    | 20               |
| Berm width (m)            | 3.8              |
| Ramp slope (%)            | 10               |
| Gold Price (US\$/oz)      | 1,300            |
| Oxide recovery (%)        | 76               |
| Mixed recovery (%)        | 57               |
| Mining cost (US\$/t)      | 2.41             |
| Processing cost (US\$/t)* | 6.49             |
| G & A cost (US\$/t)       | 1.75             |

Note\*– Includes maintenance costs

The December 31, 2013 Mineral Reserves estimated by Aura total 68.1 Mt of Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves at an average grade of 0.52 g/t Au. Table 1-6 summarizes the Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves for the Mine estimated using a long term cut-off grade using a \$1,300/oz gold price of 0.28 g/t Au for oxide material and a cut-off grade of 0.37 g/t Au used for the mixed material as of December 31, 2013.

Table 1-6. December 31, 2013 Mineral Reserves Estimate\*

| Mineral Reserve Category | Oxide         |          |         | Mixed         |          |         | Total Material |          |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|----------------|----------|---------|
|                          | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t) | Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000 | Au (g/t) | Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000  | Au (g/t) | Oz '000 |
| Proven                   | 12,369        | 0.48     | 190     | 2,346         | 0.63     | 47      | 14,714         | 0.50     | 237     |
| Probable                 | 43,838        | 0.50     | 702     | 9,549         | 0.62     | 190     | 53,388         | 0.52     | 892     |
| Proven + Probable        | 56,207        | 0.49     | 892     | 11,895        | 0.62     | 238     | 68,102         | 0.52     | 1,129   |

Note\*:

The Mineral Reserves estimate is based on an optimized pit, which has been made operational, using \$1,300/oz gold.

The cut-off grade used was 0.28 g/t for oxide material and 0.37 g/t for mixed material.

Contained metal figures may not add due to rounding.

Surface topography as of December 31, 2013.

The Authors note that the Mineral Reserves are estimated in accordance with the CIM definitions and are considered to be NI 43-101 compliant. The reported Mineral Reserve estimate is reasonable for the remaining LOM Plan.

The Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves at the Mine contain approximately 1,129,400 oz of gold in 68 Mt of ore, sufficient for ten years of mine life at a calculated average production rate of approximately 7 Mt of ore per year. The Mine hosts a large Mineral Resource, and has had a good history of conversion of Mineral Resources into Mineral Reserves; as such there is a reasonable expectation that conversion of existing Mineral Resources into Mineral Reserves will extend the mine life beyond the current 10 years.

## **Mining and Processing**

Mining at San Andrés is by conventional open pit methods. Historical production rates for the years 2009 to 2013 averaged approximately 13,000 t of ore and 10,000 t of waste produced daily with generally continuous mining 24 hours a day for 360 days per year. Operating phases (push-backs) have been designed to support the Mine production from initial topography of December 31, 2012.

The San Andrés Mine is anticipating a material expansion in ore throughput from approximately 5Mtpa to 7Mtpa. This expansion was justified by the improved incremental economics with modest capital investment.

Mine production utilizes conventional drill and blasting methods with excavation on 6m high benches. Blasted material is then loaded via shovels and excavators onto haul trucks and is hauled to one of two jaw crushers utilizing a contract haul fleet. All of the ore is processed through a two stage crushing circuit and transported on conveyors before being stacked as the final product sized at 80% passing 2.5 inches. The crushing and conveying circuit is designed for a nominal capacity of 1,100 t/h, which is adequate for the expanded production rate if operating at approximately 74% overall utilisation rate. For the expansion, most of the capital investment is applied to improve the secondary screening and crushing plant in order to consistently achieve or exceed 74% utilisation factor.

After the ore has been crushed it is treated with 2.5 to 4.0 kg/t of cement and 1.5 to 3.5 kg/t of lime before reaching the agglomerators where the ore is retained and mixed while adding an intermediate process solution to achieve the optimum moisture of 18%. The process solution contains up to 400 ppm cyanide solution.

The Mine production schedule was generated based on the December 31, 2013 Mineral Reserves within the designed pit phases and has considered restrictions of the planned waste dumps, previously mined areas and the cemetery. The detailed 2014 mine schedule is summarized by year in Table 1-7.

Table 1-7. Life of Mine Schedule

| Year  | Oxide Ore     |                        |              | Mixed Ore     |                        |         | Total Ore     |                        |              | Waste          |      |
|-------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|------|
|       | Tonne (t)'000 | Oxide Gold Grade (g/t) | Gold Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000 | Mixed Gold Grade (g/t) | Oz' 000 | Tonne (t)'000 | Total Gold Grade (g/t) | Gold Oz '000 | Tonne (t) '000 | W/O  |
| 2014  | 6,333         | 0.47                   | 97           | 0             | 0.00                   | 0       | 6,333         | 0.47                   | 97           | 3,986          | 0.63 |
| 2015  | 7,046         | 0.47                   | 106          | 7             | 0.47                   | 0       | 7,053         | 0.47                   | 106          | 3,313          | 0.47 |
| 2016  | 6,582         | 0.49                   | 103          | 449           | 0.59                   | 9       | 7,030         | 0.49                   | 112          | 5,363          | 0.76 |
| 2017  | 6,107         | 0.52                   | 102          | 914           | 0.61                   | 18      | 7,021         | 0.53                   | 119          | 5,783          | 0.82 |
| 2018  | 6,839         | 0.47                   | 102          | 263           | 0.62                   | 5       | 7,102         | 0.47                   | 108          | 6,741          | 0.95 |
| 2019  | 5,415         | 0.51                   | 89           | 1,498         | 0.74                   | 35      | 6,913         | 0.56                   | 124          | 5,115          | 0.74 |
| 2020  | 4,207         | 0.51                   | 69           | 2,894         | 0.56                   | 52      | 7,101         | 0.53                   | 121          | 3,075          | 0.43 |
| 2021  | 2,650         | 0.48                   | 41           | 4,398         | 0.63                   | 89      | 7,048         | 0.57                   | 130          | 4,912          | 0.70 |
| 2022  | 6,080         | 0.49                   | 95           | 707           | 0.61                   | 14      | 6,786         | 0.50                   | 109          | 5,739          | 0.85 |
| 2023  | 4,949         | 0.55                   | 88           | 765           | 0.62                   | 15      | 5,714         | 0.56                   | 103          | 4,678          | 0.82 |
| Total | 56,207        | 0.49                   | 892          | 11,895        | 0.62                   | 238     | 68,102        | 0.52                   | 1,129        | 48,705         | 0.72 |

The ore is stacked on the leach pad in 8 m lifts on previously leached ore that has been ripped and prepared. The ore is leached for an average of 120 days before the area is allowed to dry and prepared for the next lift. The solution used for leaching comes from the ADR plant after the cyanide concentration has been replenished.

The Mine leach pad facility is a monolithic leach pad that has been constructed in multiple phases. The first four phases of the leach pad facility were designed by the consulting firm SRK Inc., Denver, USA (“SRK”).

Production rates from the current mining operation show that Phases III & IV of the existing heap leach pad would reach full capacity by the first quarter of 2015 without additional pad space. A new leach pad facility (Phase V), designed to be hydraulically independent from the existing Phase I-IV facility, was designed by the consulting firm AMEC, Denver, USA. The Phase V facility is being constructed in stages, with the first stage completed in 2013 and the final stage to be completed during the second quarter of 2015.

The Phase V heap leach pad expansion consists of a pad with a 32 hectare footprint, which partially overlaps with existing Phases II, III, and IV located immediately south of Phase V. Phase V heap leach pad provides for approximately 12 million m<sup>3</sup> of ore storage, or 19 million tonnes of ore capacity. The Phase V heap leach pad is considered a first stage of the potential further heap leach facility expansion. Further heap leach expansion may be constructed above or adjacent to the existing heap leach pads in the future.

Gold is recovered through the ADR plant, which has 12 carbon columns that can be configured in a two or three train configuration with a nominal capacity of 500 m<sup>3</sup>/h per train. The assay lab which processes both Mine grade control samples and process plant samples is located in the same complex as the ADR plant. The gold produced at the ADR plant is analyzed prior to



shipment for refining and sale. The ADR plant is being upgraded to couple with expanded capacity. Upgrades include improvements to the carbon handling and elution circuits and the addition of a number of cathodes and anodes to the existing electrowinning cells in the refining portion of the plant.

## **Environmental Considerations**

An environmental management plan was formulated at the request of the government of Honduras and addresses the commitments made within the five EIA's; Water Tank Hill, Expansion Water Tank Hill (East Ledge), Twin Hills Phase II and IV, and Expansion Twin Hills; the Mitigation Contracts and recommendations issued by government agencies.

The plan defines and describes all references to the term "Best Management Practices" used in the EIA's. Overall, the plan allows for the orderly definition of commitments made to the Honduran government and to the Company's stakeholders for the protection of the environment and for mitigation of the potential environmental impacts caused by the construction and operation of the Project.

The management plan includes:

- Compliance with the International Cyanide Management Code, San Andrés is a certified operator;
- Environmental Monitoring Plan updated each year to adapt to new sampling requirements;
- Contingency Plan was updated and reviewed in 2012. This Plan has been discussed with key personnel in the operation to ensure procedures described are appropriate according to any given situation;
- Materials Management Plan, consisting of management of hazardous and nonhazardous materials, construction and management of facilities (i.e., land fill and ancillary facilities), education regarding good housekeeping, and organization of waste recollection and disposal;
- Spilled Soil Management and Remediation Plan, updated in 2004, that includes the development of treatment sites and technologies to decontaminate polluted soils (i.e., bioremediation of oil polluted soils in concrete tanks). Minosa possesses a THC analysis kit to verify THC concentration.
- Erosion Control Plan is updated every year to address yearly priorities;
- Explosives Management Plan, designed to comply with the Honduran and U.S. explosives management regulations;
- Surface and Underground Water Management Plan, updated in 2004;
- Mine Waste Management Plan, updated yearly; main focus to use greater proportion of waste rock as material for contouring former mining areas;
- Wastewater Treatment and Management Plan, updated yearly depending on the quality of the water to be treated and/or managed.
- Health and Safety Plan, updated yearly under the commission of the Safety and Occupational Health Department. This plan consists of six main components; Occupational Clinic, program to assess the working environment, definition of required

personal protection equipment, safety training program, mine health and safety Commission, health and safety surveillance.

- Reforestation Plan, updated in 2009 (the original plan was approved by COHDEFOR), the 2009 plan is pending approval by Forestry Conservation Institute (“ICF”) and its implementation is the responsibility of a forestry engineer.
- A Conceptual Reclamation and Closure Plan is in place together with the International Financial Reporting Standards calculations.
- Plan of Sewage and Potable Water Management implemented in 2002.
- Plan to encapsulate AMD (Acid Mine Drainage) potential with inert waste implemented in 2004 and reviewed periodically.

The communities within the direct area of Mine influence have had a number of minor protests against Minosa and the Mine during late 2013 and early 2014. The protests have been settled through active engagement but have resulted in production stoppages, and or have prevented the delivery of goods and equipment, but have not negatively impacted the Mine’s forecasted production.

### **Economic Considerations**

The principal commodities mined at the Mine are freely traded, at prices that are widely published, so the sale of any production is not a material concern to Aura.

A post-tax cash flow model has been developed by Aura from the LOM production schedule, capital and operating cost estimates, and NSR’s using \$1,300/oz gold price. A review by Aura of the cash flow projections has found the after tax cash flow is positive, supporting the Mineral Reserve designation.

The sensitivity analysis has been completed that examined gold price, capital and operating costs ranging from +10 to -10%. The sensitivity analysis has been reviewed by Aura and it is concluded that when the gold price is reduced by 10%, or operating costs increase by 10%, or the capital costs increase by 10% the net present value remains positive.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Aura has prepared a Report compliant with NI 43-101 on the updated Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves pertaining to its San Andrés Mine, located in the municipality of La Unión, in the Department of Copán, Honduras. The Project’s mineral rights are owned by Minosa, a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Aura. The update became necessary due to the additional Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves in connection with the Mine expansion plan, prepared by Aura.

The reported Mineral Reserve estimate is reasonable for the remaining LOM Plan.

The Authors recommend the following:

- A metallurgical study on the Zona Buffa Mineral Resources to determine leach recovery for inclusion of these resources into reserves. The approximate cost of this study is \$5,000;
- As mining progresses, continued reconciliation needs to be reviewed and if parameters change, an update of the Mine plan should be developed;
- Operating costs should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure operating cut-offs remain valid;
- The recovery rate for oxide, mixed and blends containing these types of ore should continue to be monitored and compared to equivalent column tests. It is also recommended that the on-going program of column tests (performed at site) is expanded for investigations of future production in accordance to the new Mine plan;
- Additional specific gravity measurements should be conducted on mixed zone material to determine an appropriate specific gravity that can be incorporated into the block model. This is estimated to cost \$25,000; and
- That the operation continues with the QA/QC programme on the exploration and the production blast hole sampling to ensure that a comprehensive data set is obtained for future estimates, which yearly is estimated to be \$15,000.
- Exploration of the Aguas Calientes and Banana Ridge areas, where there are a number of high grade intercepts is likely to see significant expansion to the resources and reserves.