

Drilling of High-Grade Silver-Gold Targets Imminent at Sierra Blanca, Santa Cruz, Argentina

- **Drilling scheduled to commence mid-September.**
- **Approximately 19 separate targets to be tested by 3,200m of RC and diamond drilling.**
- **Majority of drilling will test the bonanza silver-gold mineralization discovered by trenching and surface channel sampling at Veta Chala.**

Mariana Resources Ltd (“Mariana”) is pleased to announce that drilling is scheduled to commence next month at the Sierra Blanca Project, Santa Cruz Province, Argentina. A multipurpose rig with both reverse circulation (RC) and diamond drilling has been contracted from Major Drilling. The drilling will test approximately 19 separate target zones. The principal targets are depth extensions of surface bonanza grade silver-gold mineralization that has been discovered by Mariana at the Veta Chala prospect.

Veta Chala

The main focus of the drilling is the Chala Vein target located in the northeastern part of Sierra Blanca. It consists of a swarm of oxidized and brecciated quartz veins up to 16 m wide within an east-west trending corridor. A 41 trench sampling programme indicates a cumulative vein length of **2,300 m** with high to bonanza-grade silver mineralization over **1,690 m**. The vein system is open to the west, with possible extensions under soil cover. The trenching was at intervals ranging from 200 m to 50 m apart, varying in length from 18 m to 74 m. Highlights of the trenching results include:

- **9.4 m @ 2,362 g/t (76 oz/t) silver** and 1.3 g/t gold in Trench 1
- **3.4 m @ 1,238 g/t silver and 10.1 g/t gold** in Trench 3
- **0.5 m @ 5,480 g/t (176 oz/t) silver and 25.7 g/t gold** in Trench 13
- **16.5 m @ 384 g/t silver** and 0.5 g/t gold in Trench 14
- **1 m @ 3,630 g/t (117 oz/t) silver, and 6.5 g/t gold** in Trench 21
- 7.9 m @ 190 grams per tonne (g/t) silver and 0.8 g/t gold in Trench 24, including **1 m @ 756 g/t (24 ounces per tonne {oz/t}) silver and 3.3 g/t gold**
- 4.3 m @ 200 g/t silver and 0.3 g/t gold in Trench 25, including **0.8 m @ 832 g/t (27 oz/t) silver** and 1 g/t gold.
- 0.5 m @ 269 g/t silver and 2.3 g/t gold in Trench 39

The bonanza silver-gold mineralization will be tested by 15 RC drill holes, totalling approximately 1,890 m and up to 6 diamond drill holes, designed to intersect target zones at approximately 25 and 55 m below surface.

Lucila

Lucila is a high level epithermal vein target, 2 km W of Veta Chala which was not effectively tested by the 2007 drilling. It will be drilled by 6 RC drill holes (600 m) to

test the vein projection at 30-50m below surface, possibly with one or two deeper diamond drill holes.

Vetarron

The Vetarron target is located in the southernmost part of the Sierra Blanca property. Mineralization consists of shallowly dipping, N-trending, pervasively silicified rocks and breccia bodies developed within a 100-150 m wide and 1.6 km long area, hosted by andesite breccias and mafic volcanics. Previously announced trenching gave best results of 7 m @ 1.9 g/t gold (incl., **1 m @ 10.6 g/t gold**) in Tv8, and 15 m @ 0.4 g/t gold in Tv15.

At Vetarron, 5 RC drill holes (440m) and up to two diamond drill holes are planned to test anomalous vein breccias and chargeability targets at about 40m below surface.

Commenting today, Managing Director of Mariana Resources Ltd, John Sutcliffe said

“The drilling season in Santa Cruz is about to get underway and I am delighted that we have secured a drill rig to test some exciting targets at Veta Chala, Lucila and Vetarron.”

Sierra Blanca and the nearby Canadon Largo concessions are held in joint venture with IAMGOLD Corporation, whereby Mariana can earn a 70% interest in the two properties by expenditure of US\$2M by October 2009.

Maps showing latest and previous channel sampling results are available on the Mariana website www.marianaresources.com

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

John Sutcliffe
Managing Director

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The exploration programme is being directed by the Argentina Exploration Manager, Dr Gustavo A. Rodriguez under supervision of Managing Director Mr John Sutcliffe.

Exploration information in this announcement has been compiled by John Sutcliffe who is a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Sutcliffe has sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of gold deposit under consideration and to the activity that he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control

All technical information for the Company's Argentina projects is obtained and reported under a quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) program. Rock chip samples in this release are collected as representative rock saw channel cuts. All samples are collected under the supervision of the Company geologists and dispatched via commercial transport to ALS Chemex laboratories in Mendoza, Argentina, and assayed in Santiago de Chile. ALS Chemex's quality system complies with the requirements for the International Standards ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 17025: 1999. Samples returning greater than 10 g/t gold and/or greater than 100 g/t silver are assayed using gravimetric analyses.

Systematic assaying of sample duplicates and commercially prepared standards and blanks is performed for analytical reliability. Mariana independently inserts "in-house" and certified control standards, coarse field blanks, and duplicates into the sample stream to monitor data quality.

Mariana inserts a minimum of 6 % control samples in all sample batches. The results of all data quality controls are carefully reviewed prior to the public release of any data.