

# Mineralization Styles & Metal Zonation in Polymetallic Epithermal Systems Santa Cruz Province, Argentina

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1. Mirasol Resources Ltd.

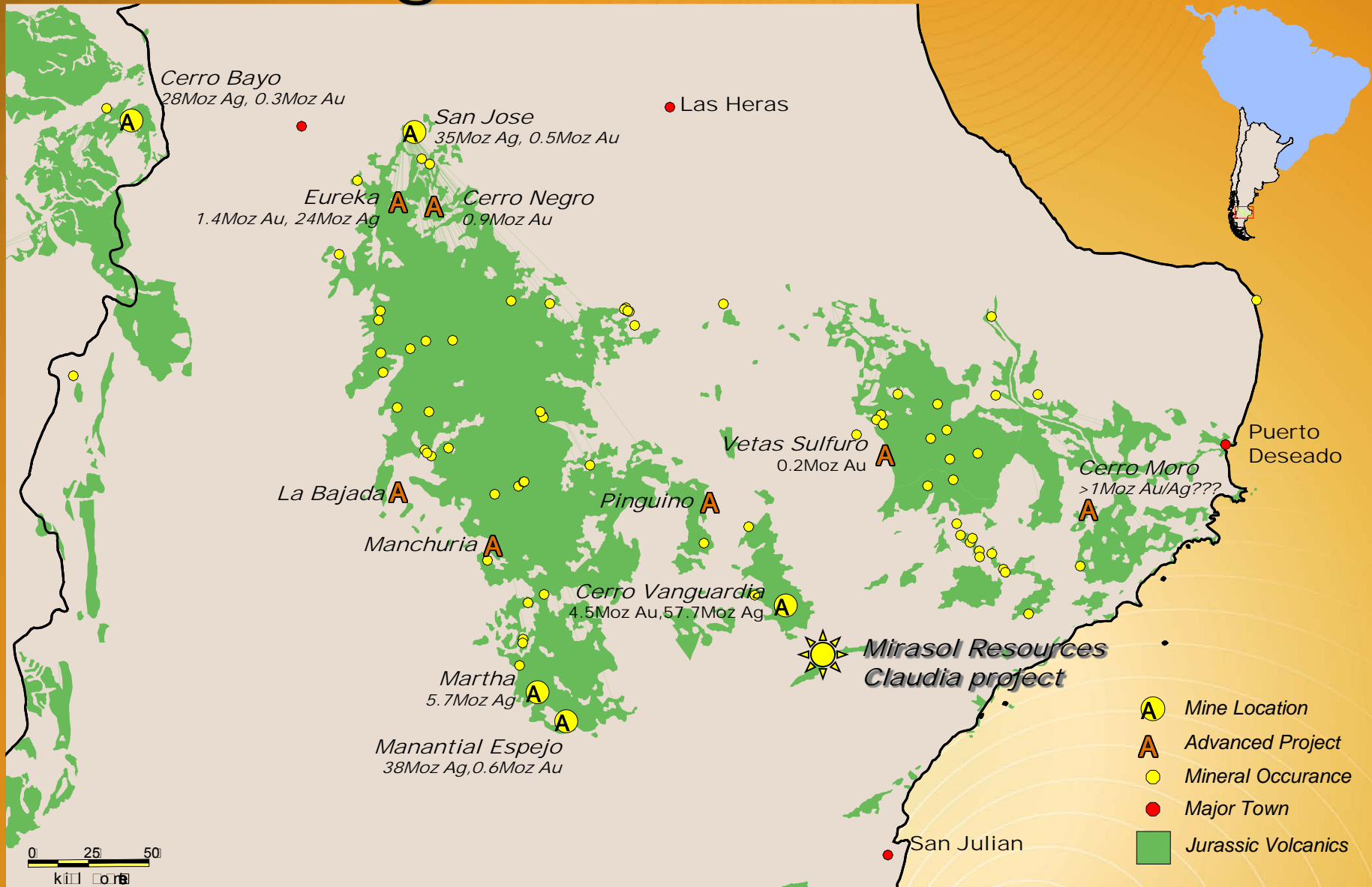
2. Global Ore Discovery Pty. Ltd.

PROEXPLO 2009      Lima, Peru      19-22 May 2009  
V Congreso Internacional de Prospectores y Exploradores

# Patagonia - Southern Argentina & Chile, an Emerging Precious Metals Region

- Exploration discovery history in the last 30 years.
- A significant, new Au + Ag + Base Metal Province.
- Geological Setting – Massive extensional regime hosting many Au Ag epithermal deposits
- Modern deposit discoveries of 0.5 Moz to 5.0 Moz gold equiv.
- Last five years have doubled the number of new mineralized systems.
- New concepts, new technology have contributed to Discovery record : *remote sensing; geophysics; new concepts*
- Potential for future discovery in the geological province

# Regional Overview



# Recent Discovery History

## *First Exploration Stage*

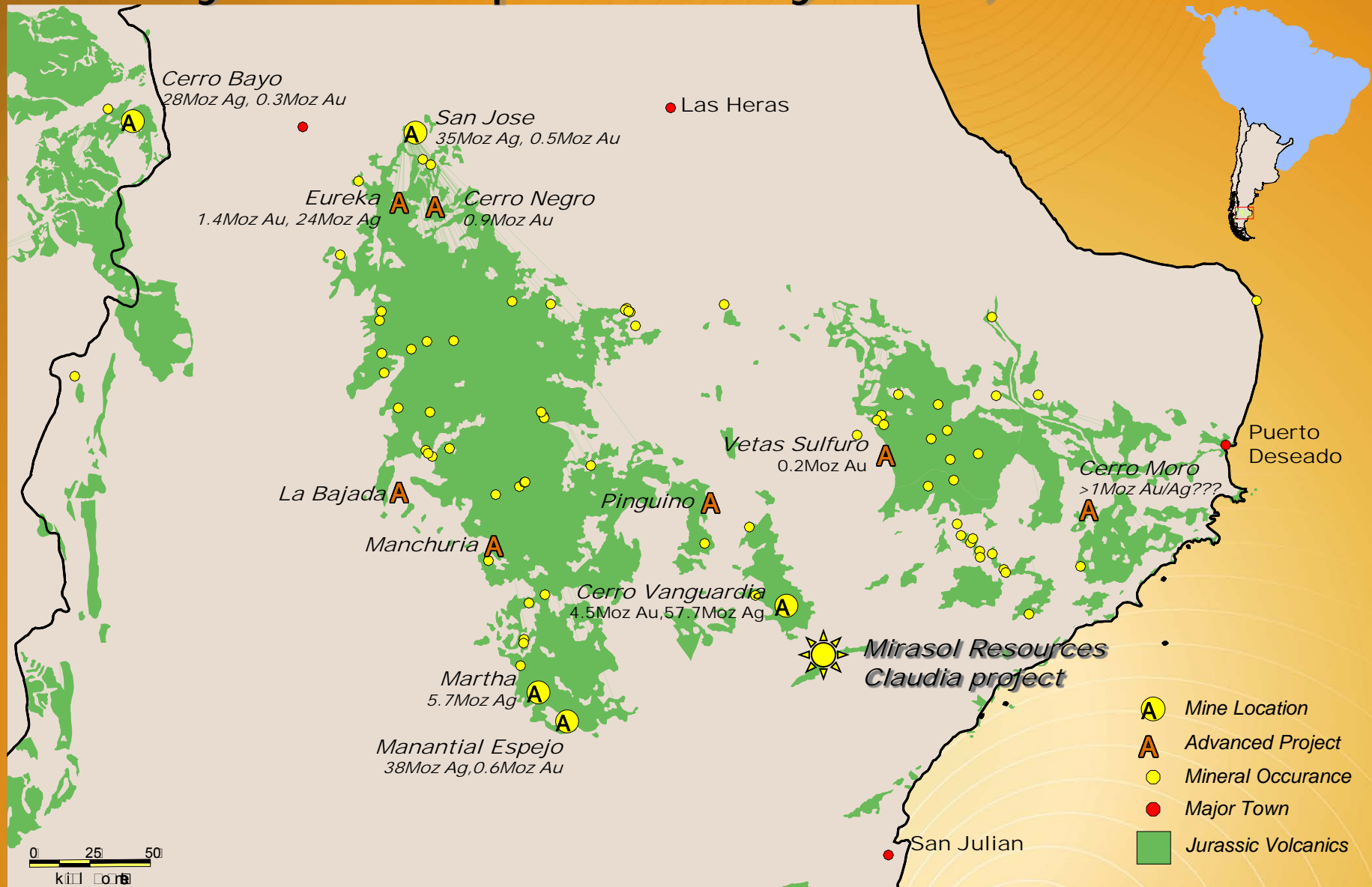
- 1960s-1970s Fabricaciones Militares investigations
- 1980s SEGEMAR identifies and samples Cerro Vanguardia veins (Genini, et.al.), Cerro Moro
- Provincial Mining Reserves formed
- 1989 Freeport discovers Fachinal, Patagonian Chile (Tippett, Cruzat, Nasi, Moya, et.al.)
- 1989 Bond/Lac discover Manantial Espejo
- 1991 Volcan Hudson erupts (Chile) -2 metres of ash
- 1993 Newcrest discovers Eureka-Cerro Negro, La Paloma (Nano, Heenan, Smit)
- 1995 Yamana discovers Martha
- 1996 WMC discovers La Cantera, Tranquilo (Bajada)
- 1997 Minera Andes discovers Cerro Saavedra - Huevos Verdes (San Jose)

## *Second Exploration Stage*

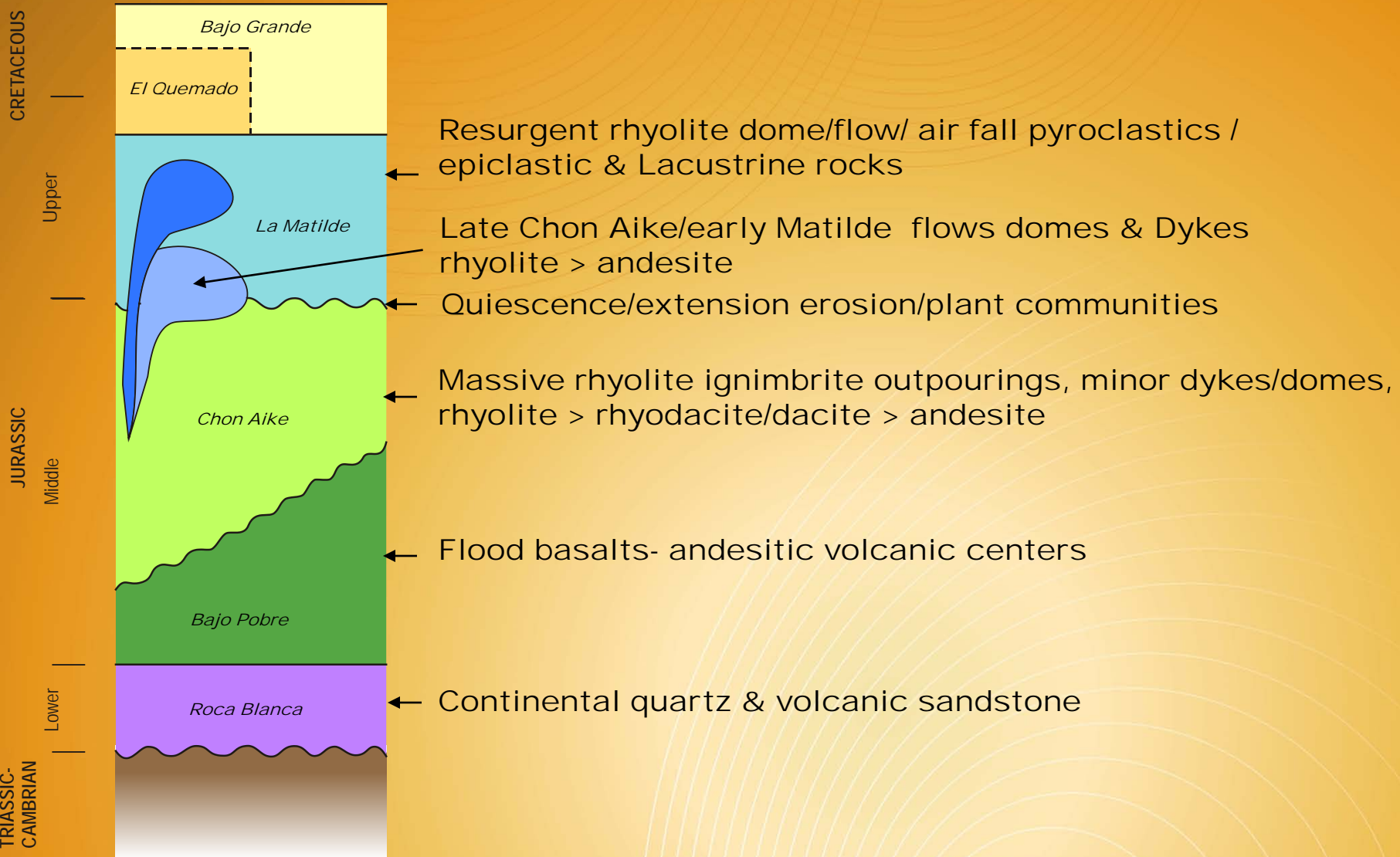
- 1998 MIM drills ore grade at Cerro Negro
- 1998 AngloGoldAshanti production commences at Cerro Vanguardia
- 2006 Freia vein discovered, San Jose
- 2007 Exeter drills ore grade at Cerro Moro
- 2008 Andean Resources drills ore grade at Eureka



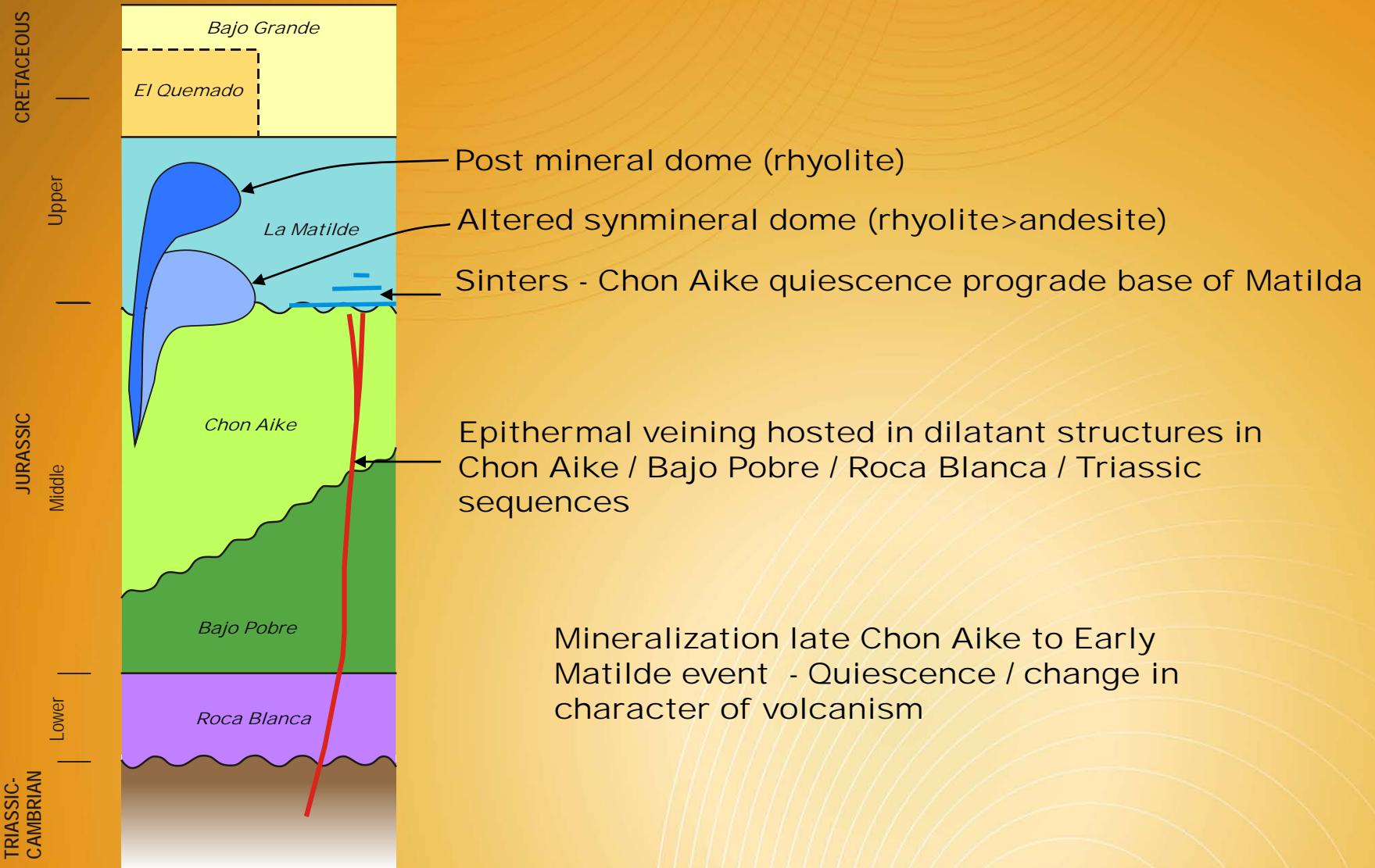
# Mineralization Styles & Metal Zonation in Polymetallic Epithermal Systems, Santa Cruz



# Simplified Volcanic Stratigraphy

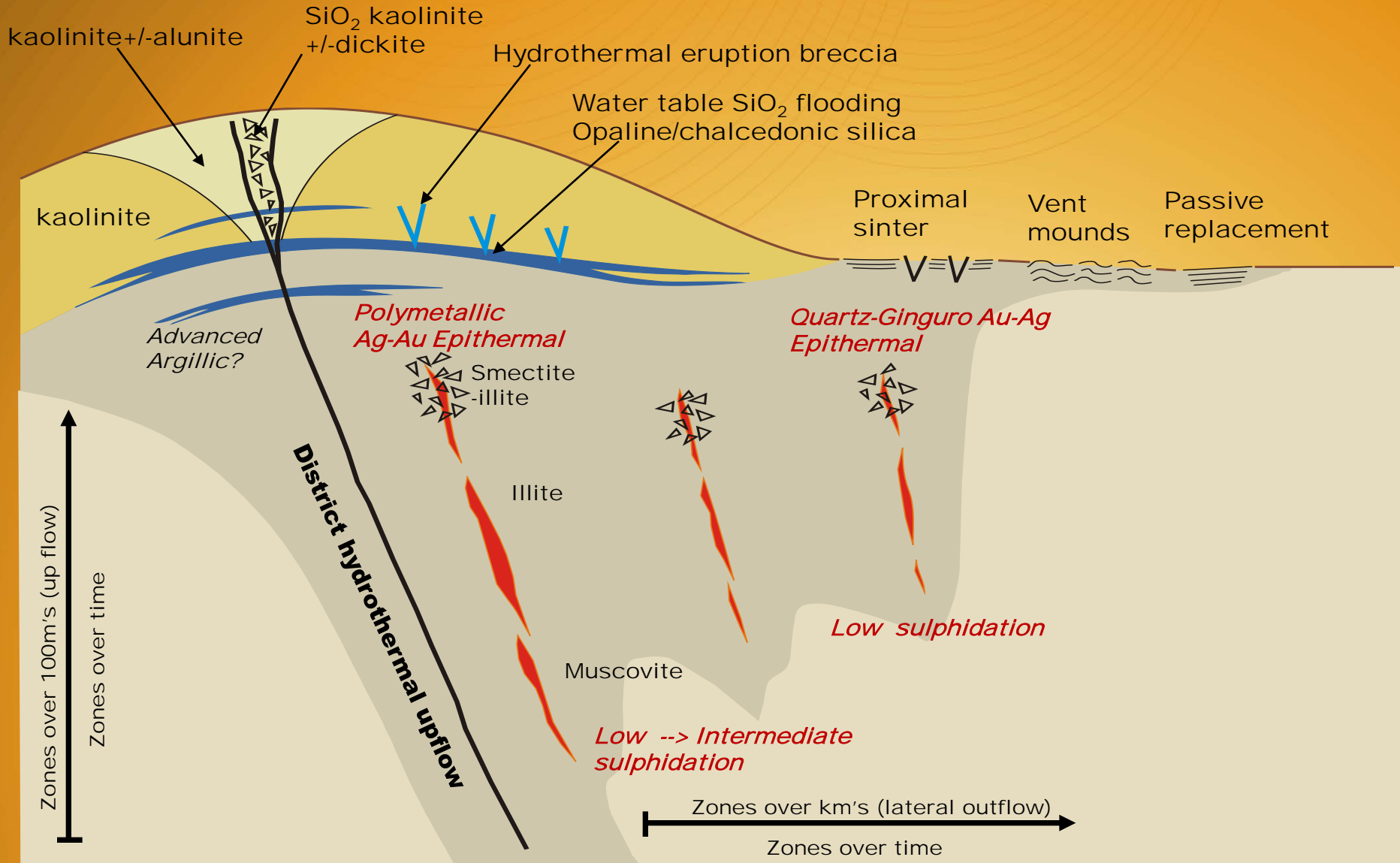


# Stratigraphic timing of mineralization

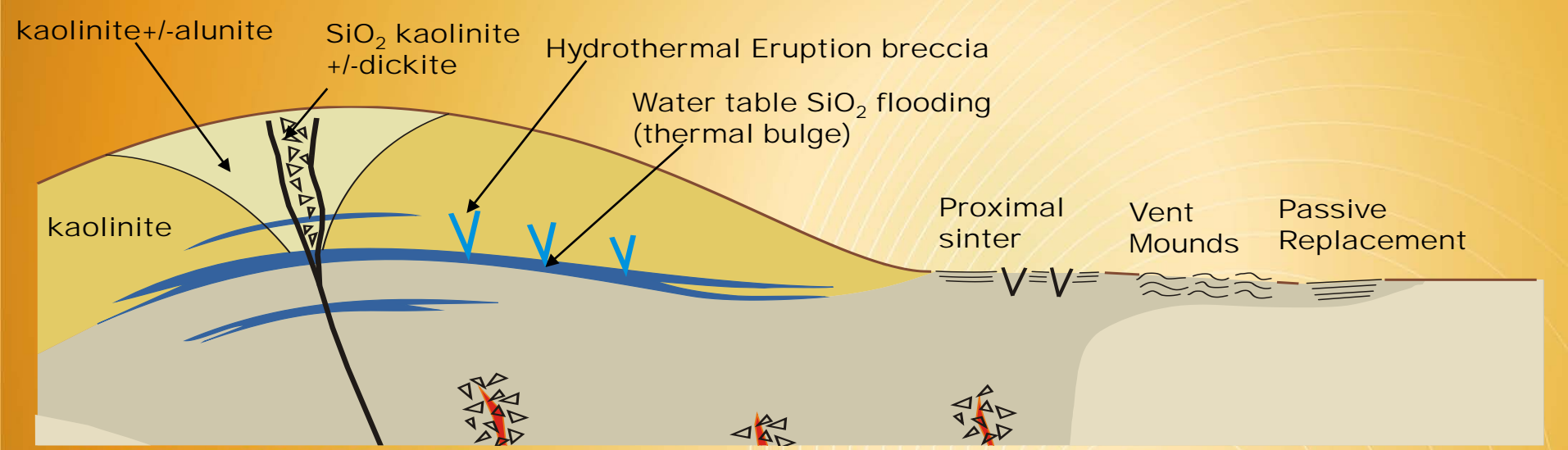


# Santa Cruz epithermal model

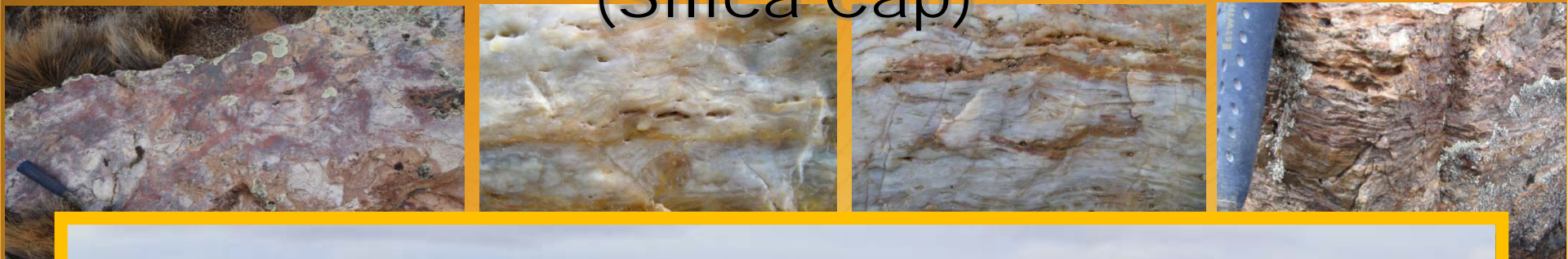
*Polymetallic Ag-Au to quartz-ginguro Au-Ag epithermal*



# Paleosurface Model



# Paleosurface Model - Water table Silica (Silica Cap)



Silica replacement at paleowater table - Extensive areas associated with district hydrothermal up flows



# Paleosurface Model - Water table Silica



Feeder structure - multiphase breccia  
Jasperoidal SiO<sub>2</sub> - hematite



Pervasive replacement -  
chalcedony / opal. Rock textures  
preserved



# Paleosurface Model - Proximal Sinter



Hydrothermal Eruption Breccia

Recrystallised Laminated Silica

kaolinite+/-alu

kaolinite

ement



# Paleosurface Model - Proximal Sinter



Concentric silica layers on ejecta pebbles & Wispy algal silica bands

kaolinite

kaolinite

# Paleosurface Model – Vent mounds environments

Shallow aqueous. Vents mounds & stromatolites



Hummocky ground



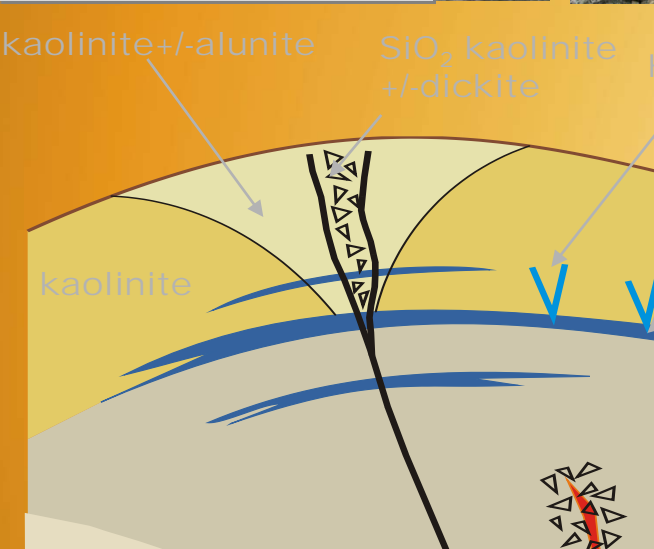
Bioturbation



# Paleosurface Model - Replacement



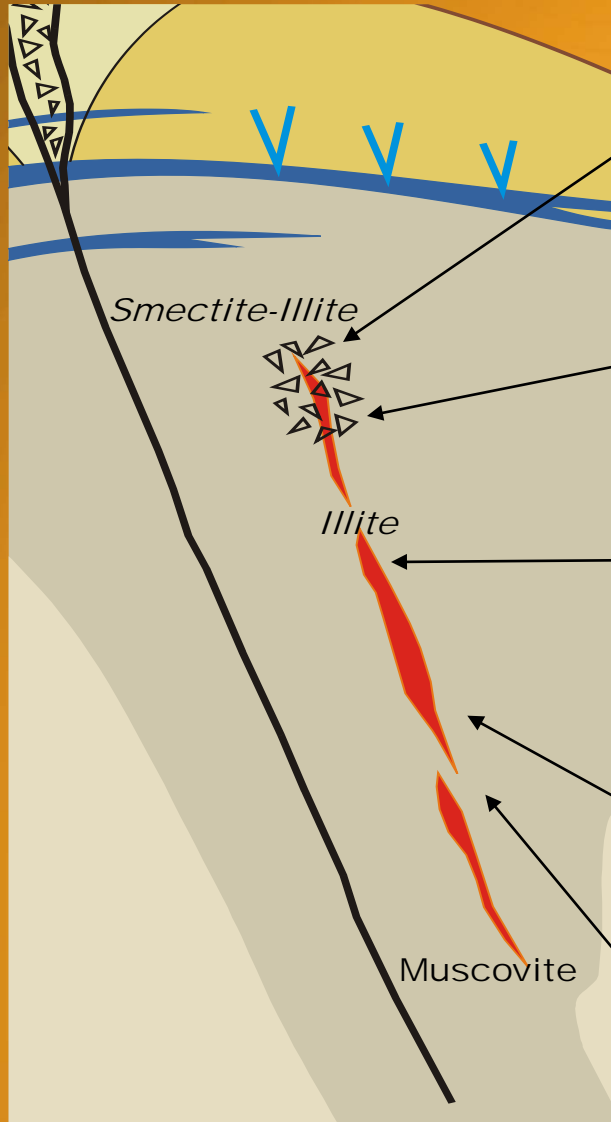
Replacement silica



Desiccation cracks - Ephemeral lakes & shallow outflow zones

# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal

Ag : Au → 100s to 1000s



Wallrock vein breccia - hydrofractured wallrock, chalcedonic silica flooding rare pyrite - Kaolinite alteration of clasts.



Ag-Au chalcedony-adularia sulphide breccias - fine grained pyrite-marcasite-arsenopyrite rare Fe poor sphalerite-acanthite-argentite - Illite alteration



Ag-Au Colloform quartz ginguro veins - Early pyrite. Galena, Fe poor sphalerite, acanthite-argentite, electrum, tetrahedrite. Illite-sericite - Chlorite carbonate gangue



Ag-Au crustiform polymetallic veins - crustiform-colloform sulphide margin largely barren core. Early cubic pyrite. Galena, Fe poor sphalerite, chalcopryite, electrum, polybasite, acanthite-argentite, tetrahedrite.



Ag crustiform polymetallic veins - Early cubic pyrite. Galena, Fe poor sphalerite, chalcopryite, tetrahedrite, proustite pyargyrite, native silver minor electrum.  
Quartz adularia vein - illite smectite overprint



# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal



Wallrock vein breccia

# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal



Ag-Au chalcedony-adularia sulphide breccias

# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal



Ag-Au colloform  
quartz ginguro

# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal

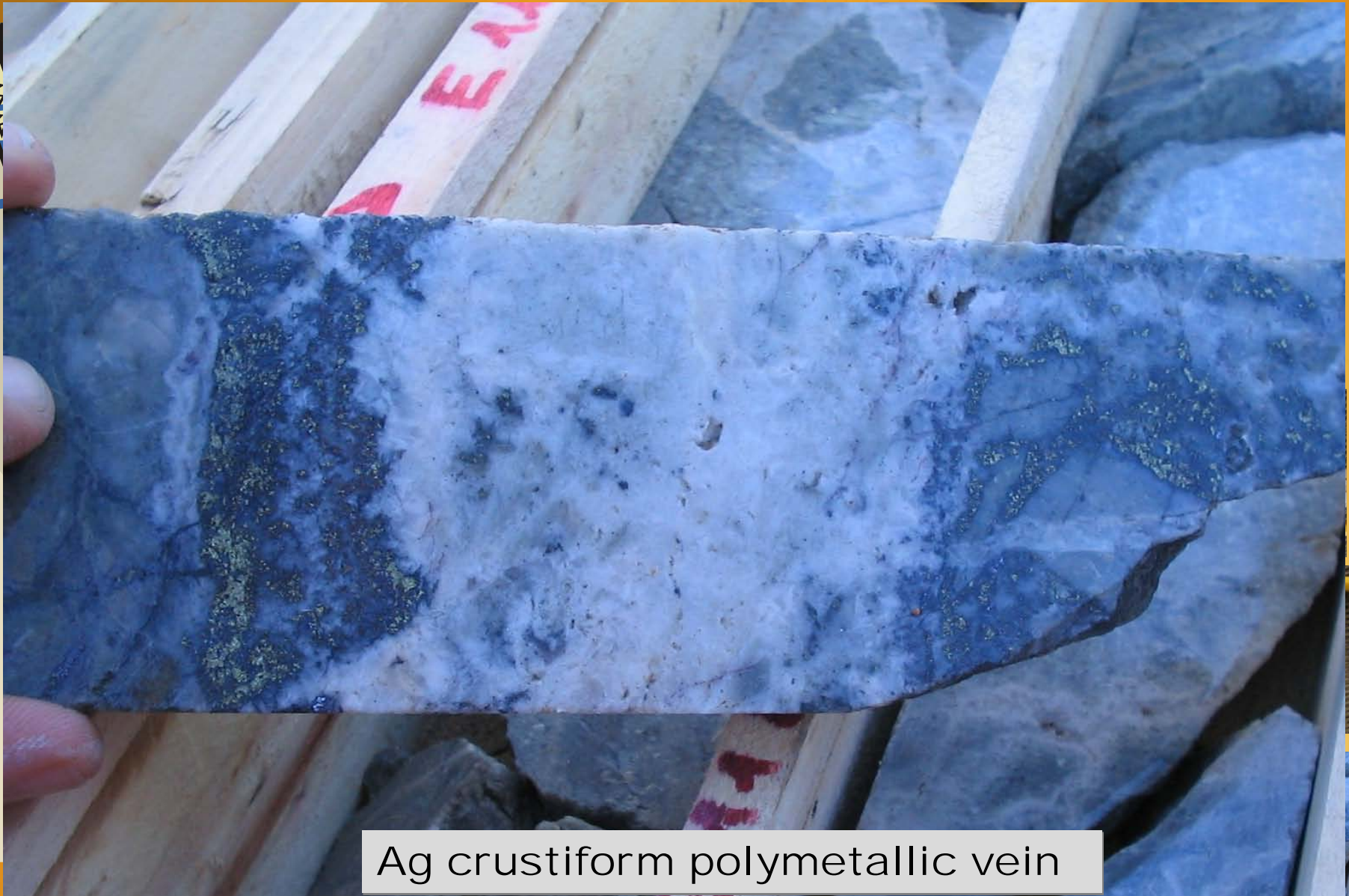


Ag-Au crustiform polymetallic vein

MIRASOL RESC

illit

# Polymetallic Ag-Au Epithermal



Ag crustiform polymetallic vein

# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal

Ag : Au 1 → 100

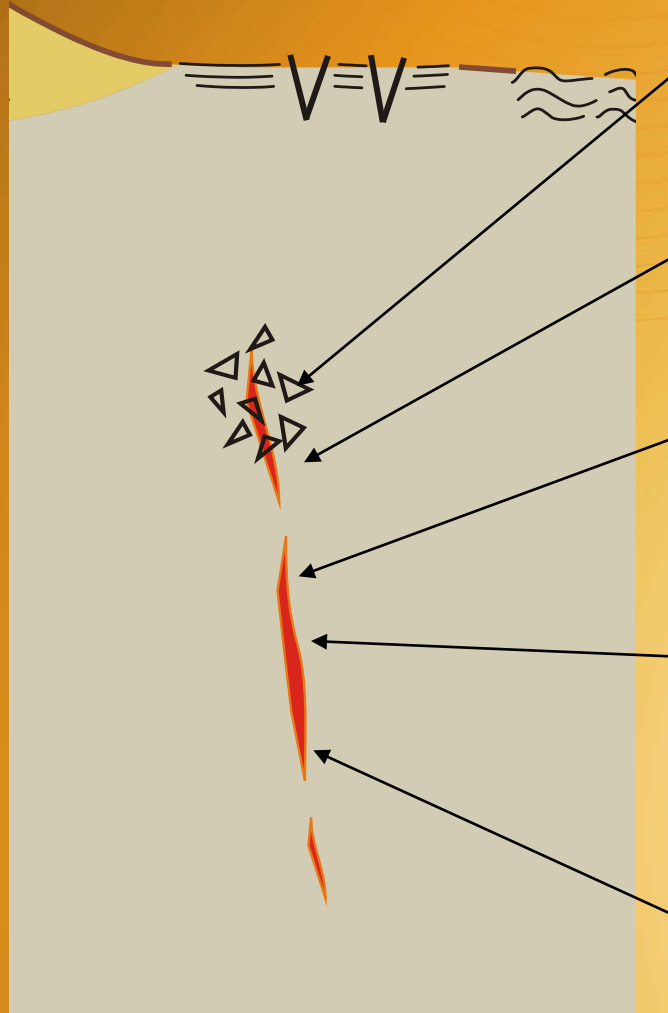
Mixed sulphide oxide facies, jasperoidal silica, fine grained pyrite marcasite phases. Mixing of oxidized meteoric and mineralized reduced fluids in structures

Colloform chalcedony veins with jasperoidal bands. Hematite dominated minor pyrite. Anomalous Au/Ag.

Chalcedonic fine saccharoidal quartz, ghosted wallrock clasts, acanthite-argentite clots - top of ore zone

Felted bladed textures and ginguro, chalcedony > adularia/illite, fine pyrite, acanthite-argentite, electrum and native Ag/Au - main ore zone

Colloform crustiform quartz and coarse bladed textures. Pyrite rare galena & sphalerite, acanthite-argentite, native Au/electrum - typically base of ore zone



# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal



Jasperoidal silica (hypogene hematite) → chalcedony pyrite.  
Mixing oxidized and reduce fluids. 10's ppb Au 1 - 20 ppm Ag

# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal



Banded jasper chalcedony vein. 100's ppb Au & 10 - 30 ppm Ag

# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal



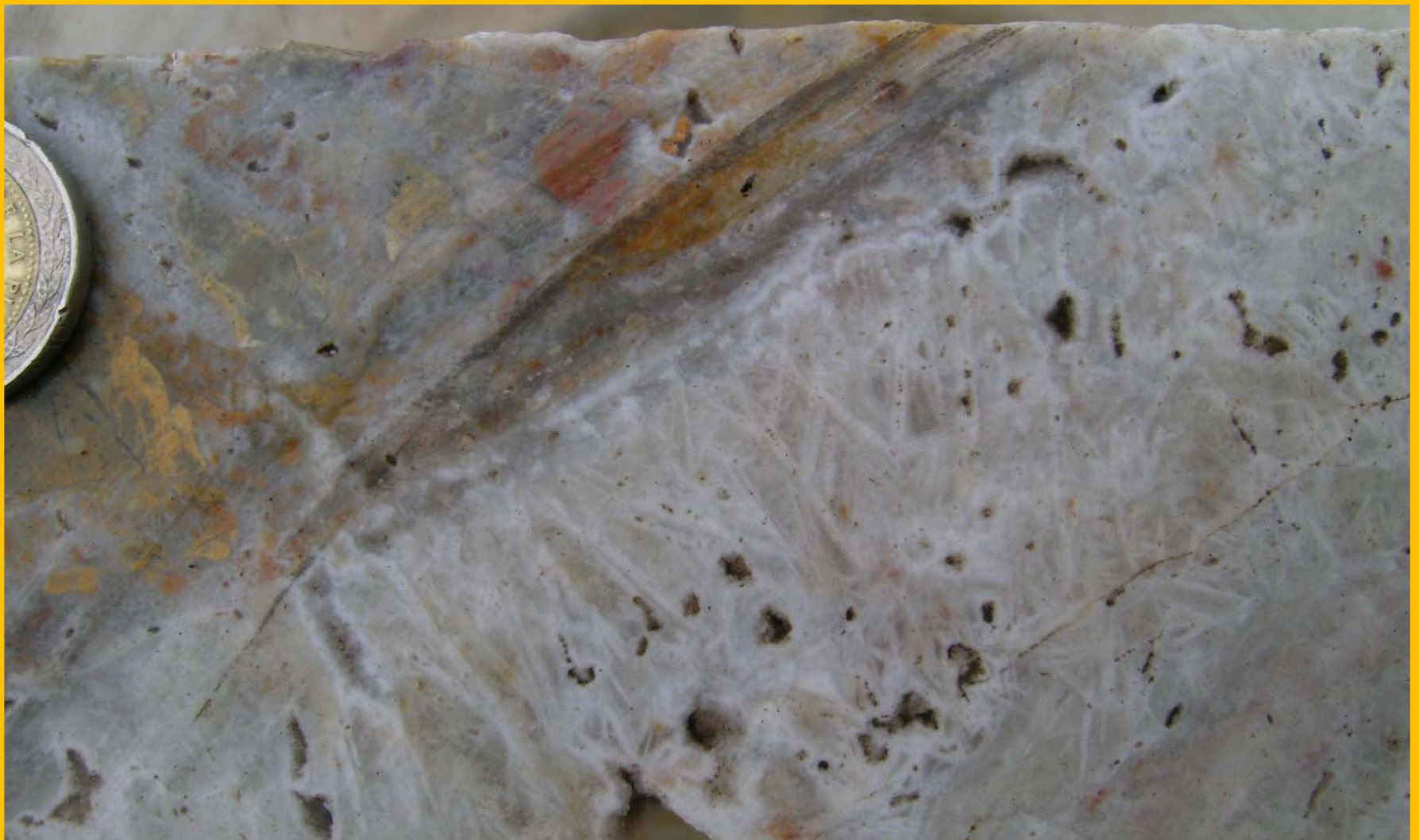
Chalcedonic-fine saccharoidal silica - acanthite clots  
Top of ore zone

# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal



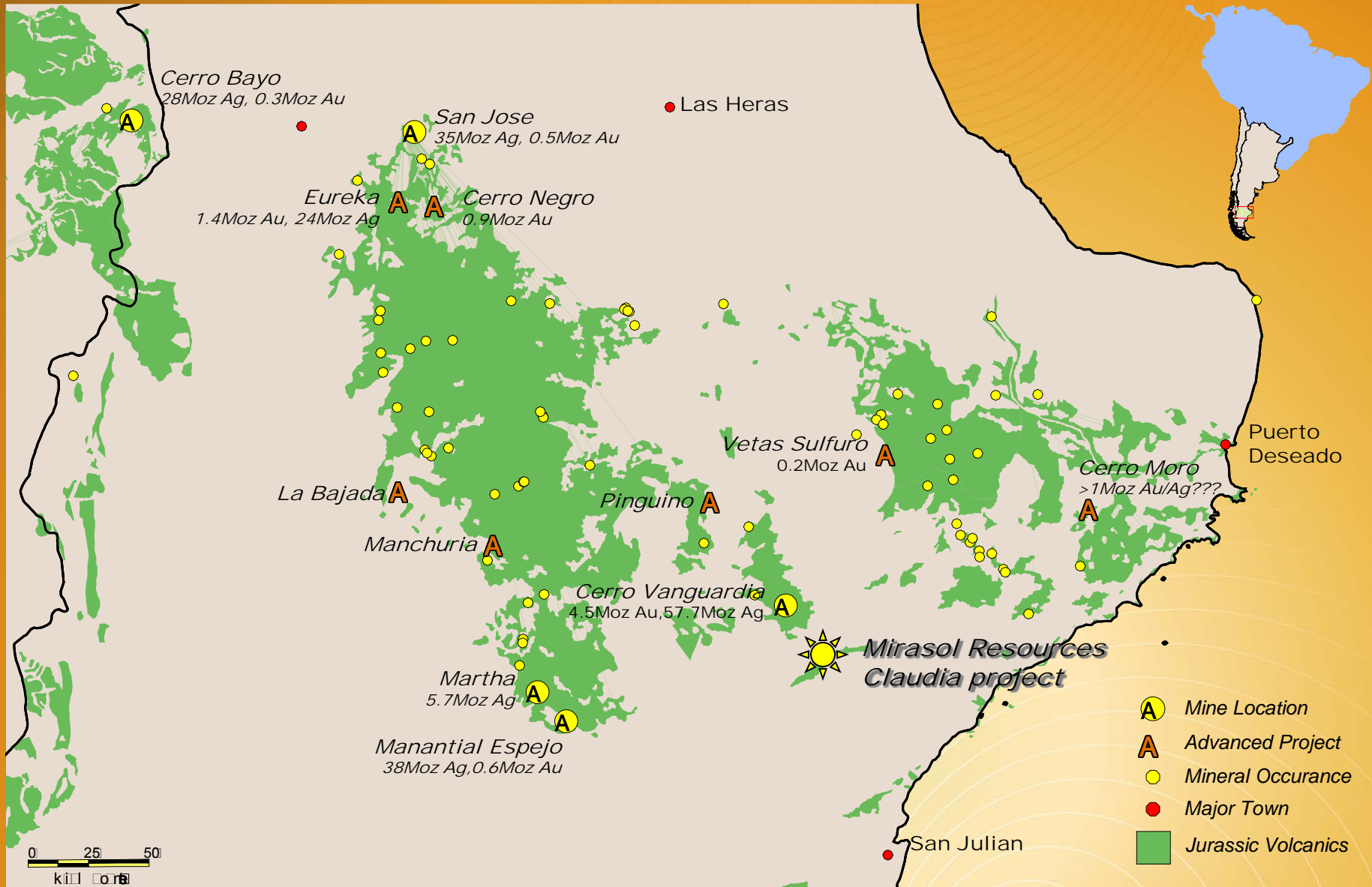
Main Ore Zone - Felted bladed textures Colloform  
Chalcedony with ginguro

# Quartz-Ginguro Epithermal



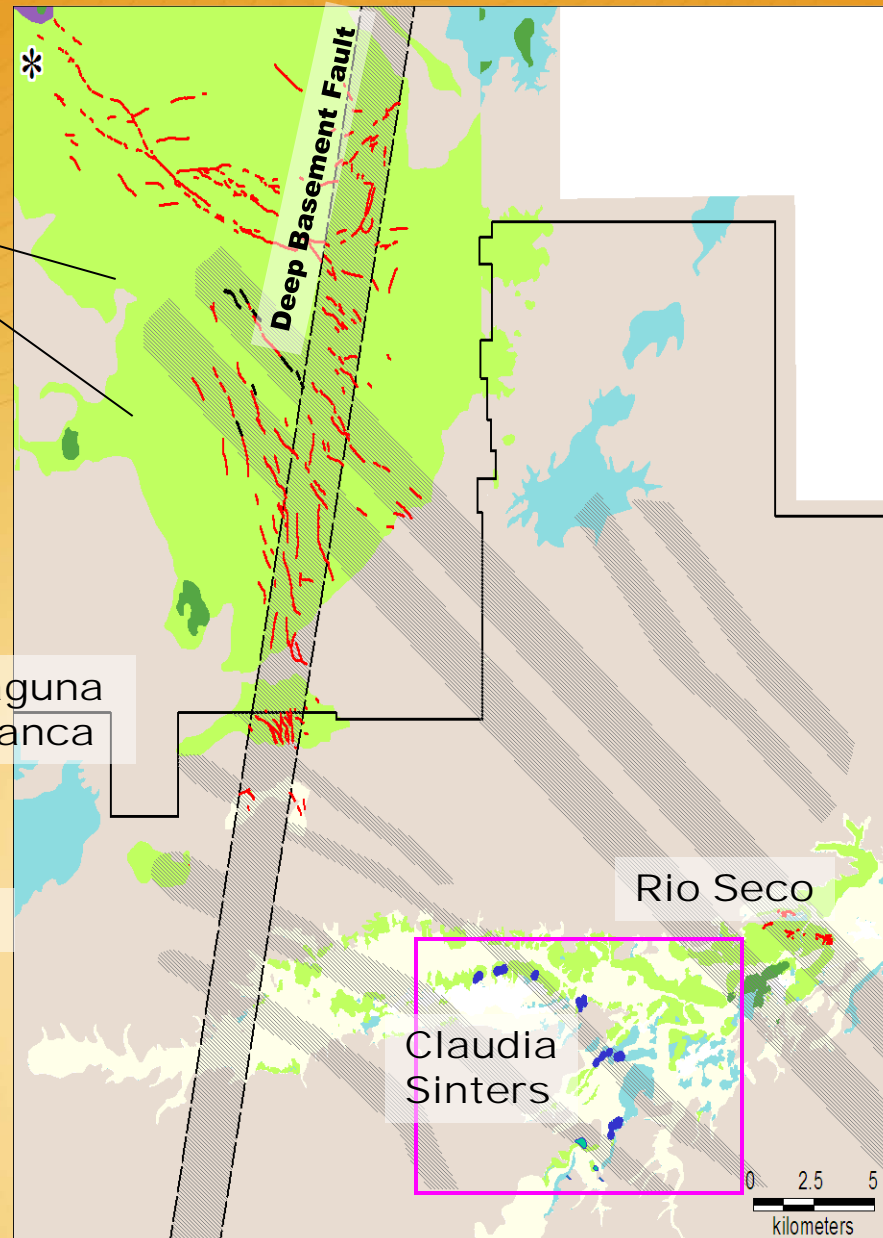
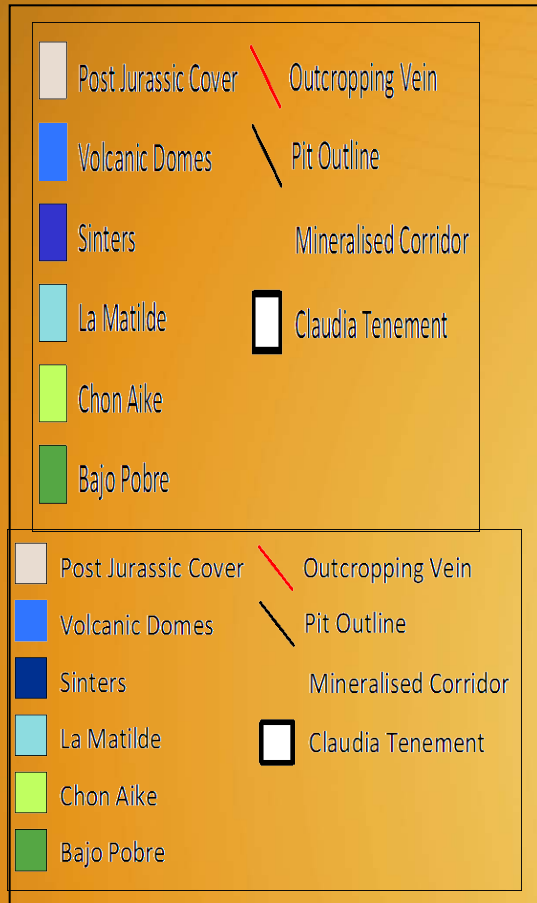
Crystalline & Saccharoidal quartz + coarse bladed textures typically poorly mineralized (may be ore grade in rare cases)

# Cerro Vanguardia - Claudia System



# Cerro Vanguardia – Claudia District

Cerro Vanguardia Pits  
 17.1Mt@8.2g/t Au, 105g/t Ag



# Claudia Sinter System



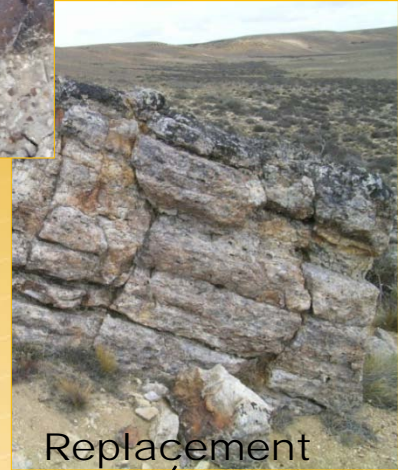
Eruption breccia



Algal Stromatolites



Prograding sinter



Replacement

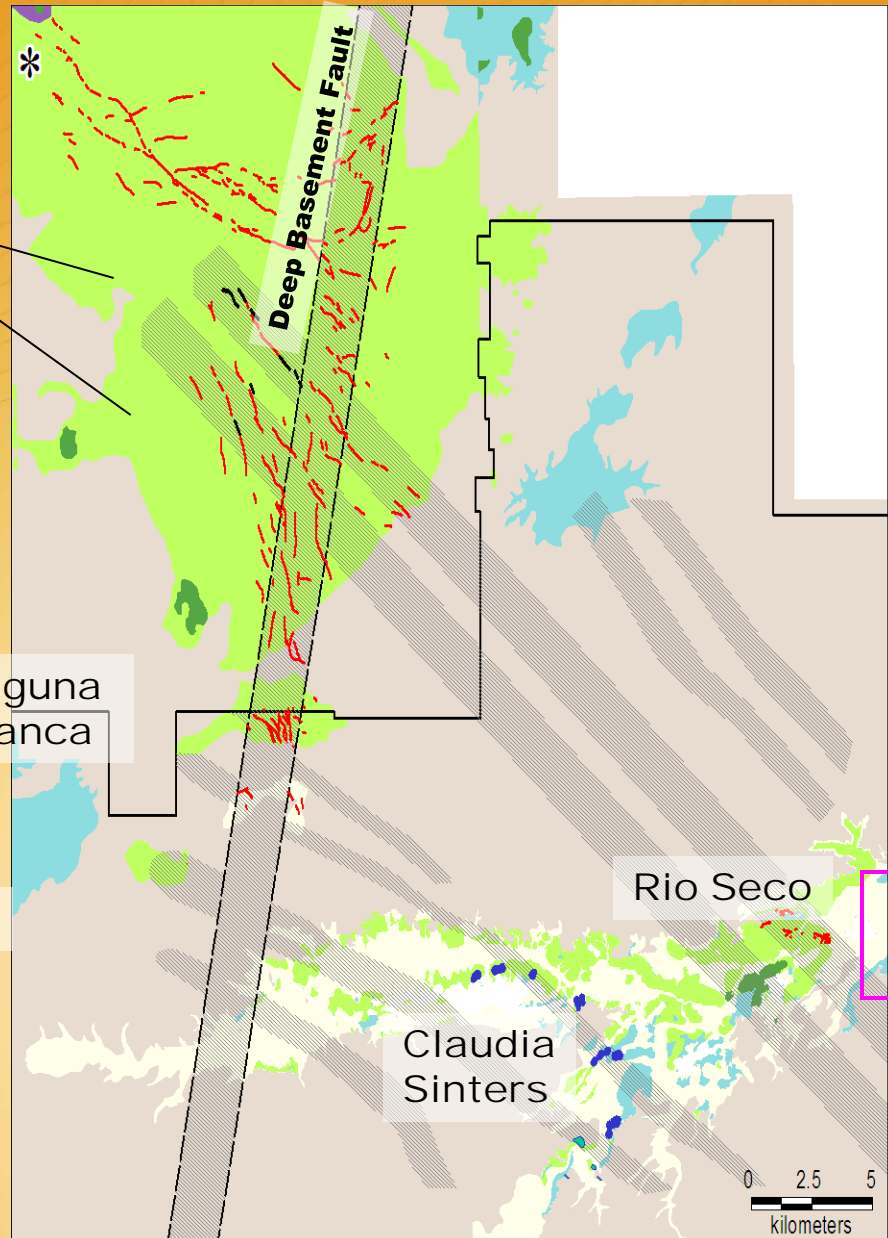
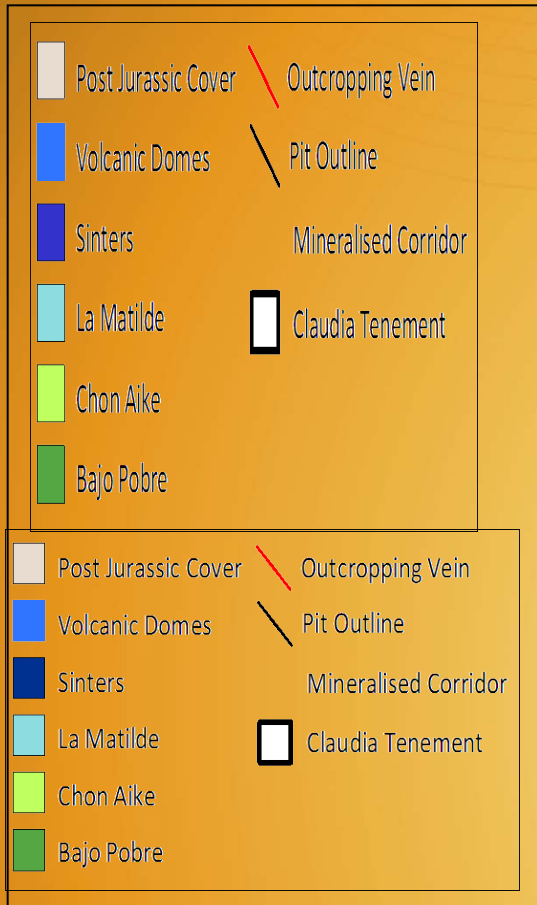


Proximal

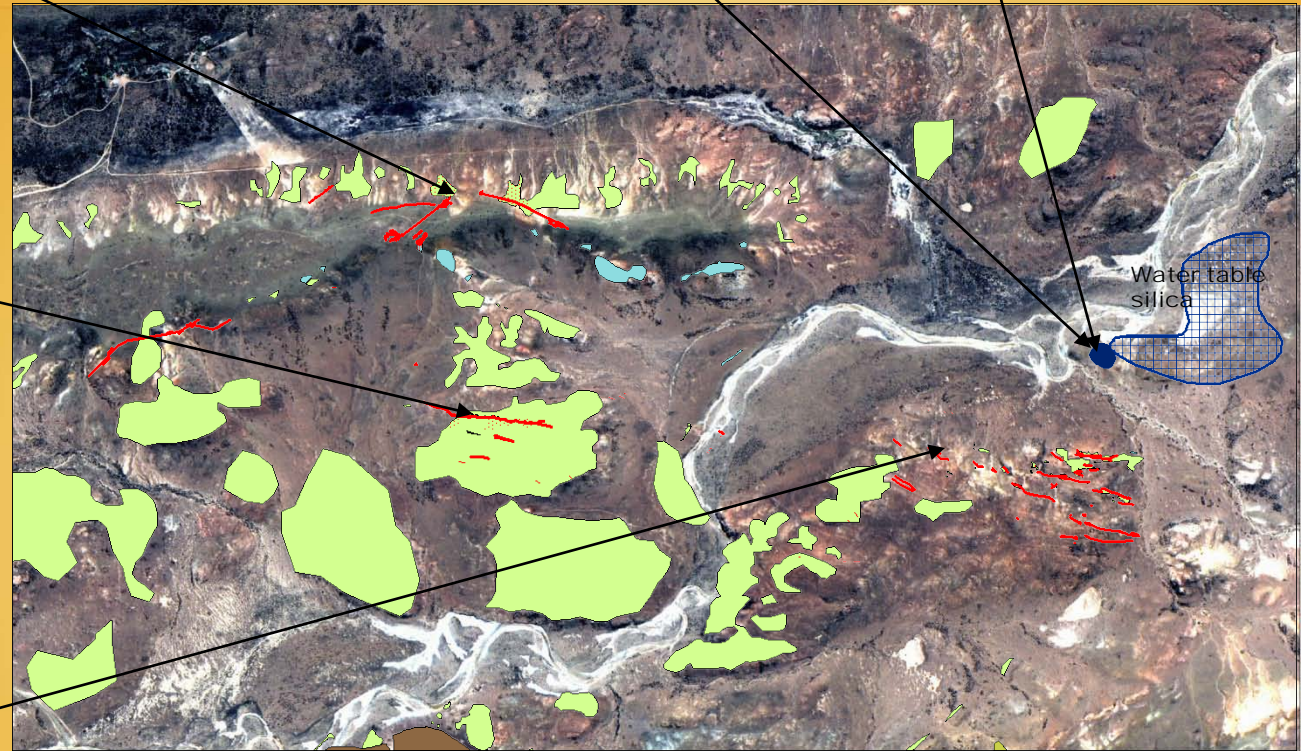
Distal

# Cerro Vanguardia - Claudia District

Cerro Vanguardia Pits  
 17.1Mt@8.2g/t Au, 105g/t Ag

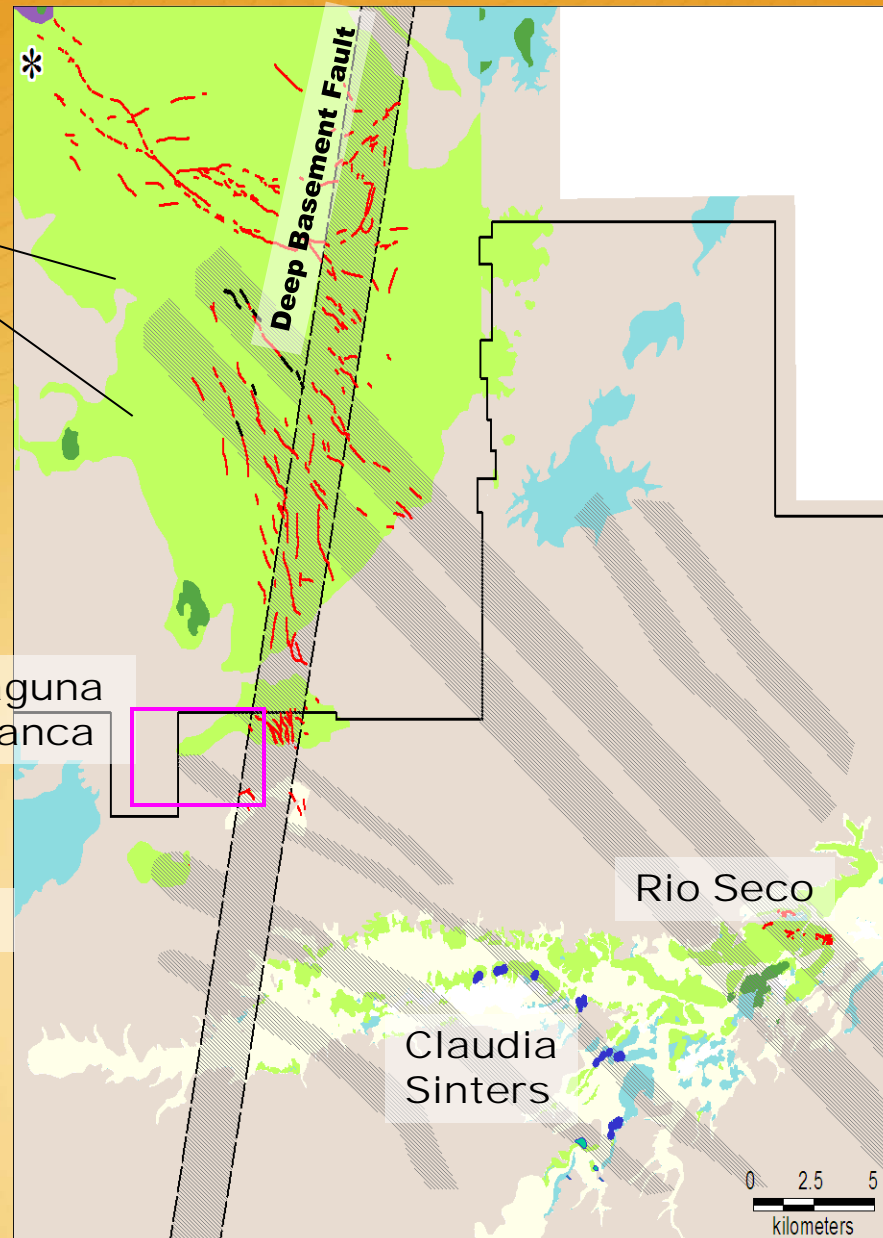
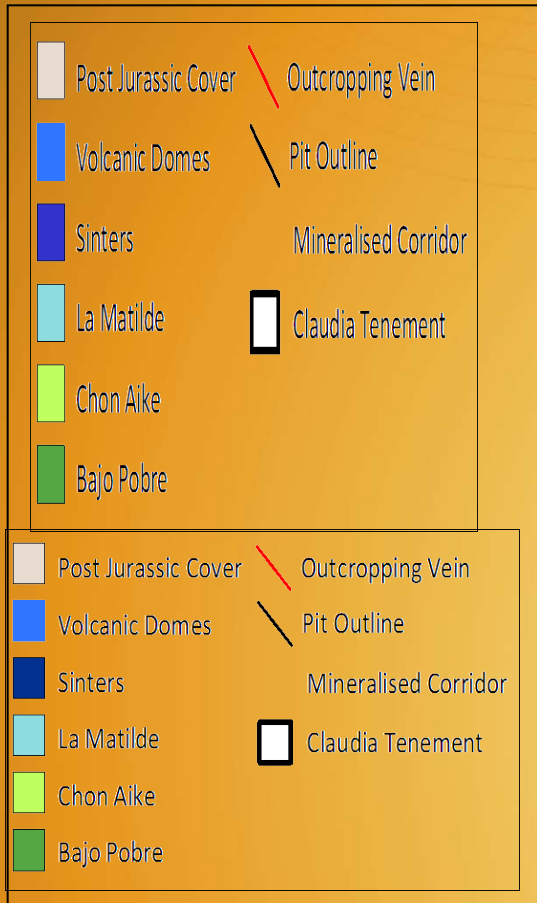


# Rio Seco Qtz-Ginguro zone

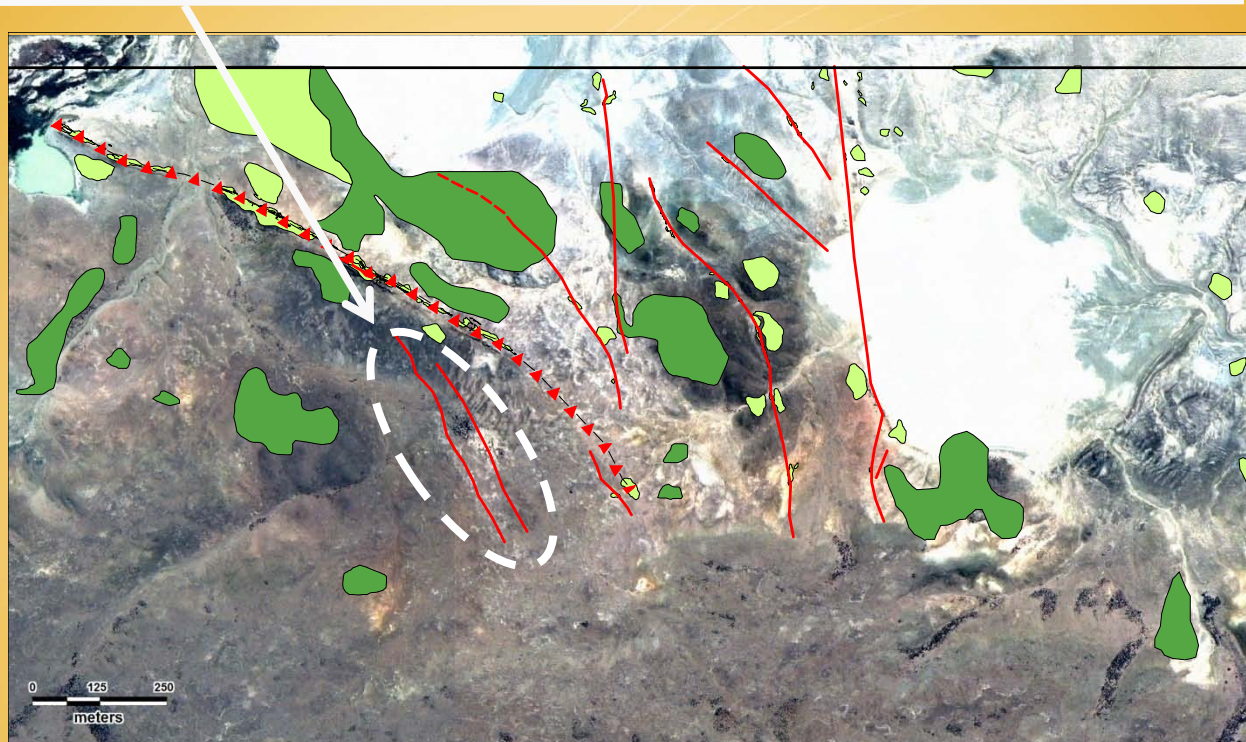
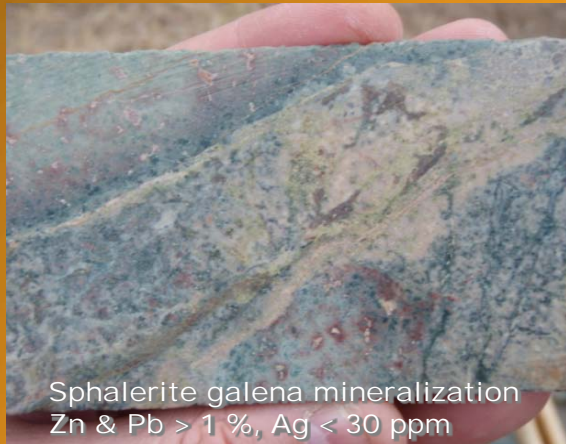


# Cerro Vanguardia – Claudia District

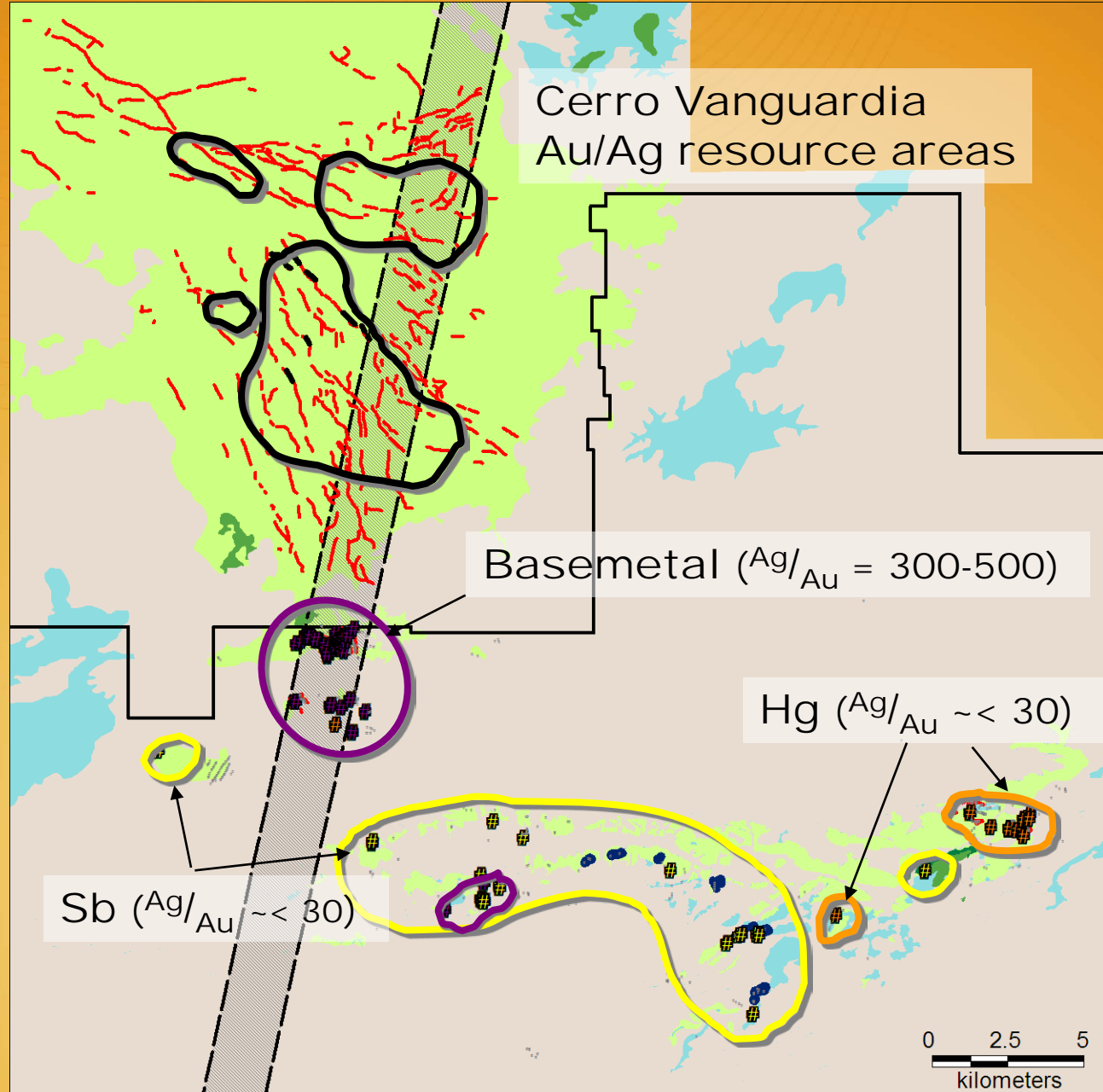
Cerro Vanguardia Pits  
 17.1Mt@8.2g/t Au, 105g/t Ag



# Laguna Blanca – Early Polymetallic to late Au Ag epithermal



# Epithermal Metal Zoning



## Rock Chip Sampling

- # Base metal + Ag/Au 300-500
- # Antimony + Ag/Au  $< 30$  (approx.)
- # Mercury + Ag/Au  $< 30$  (approx.)

- Post Jurassic Cover
- Volcanic Domes
- Sintors
- La Matilde
- Chon Aike
- Bajo Pobre
- Outcropping Vein
- Pit Outline

# Summary

- Mineralization late Chon Aike to early Matilde event .
- Common spatial association with altered rhyolite +/- dacite - andesite dykes & domes
- Polymetallic Ag-Au to Quartz ginguro Au-Ag epithermal (Corbett) with Low to intermediate sulphidation (Hedenquist) character
- Zone vertically over 100s of meters & laterally on a district scale over 10 km's from proximal polymetallic Ag-Au to more distal quartz ginguro Au-Ag
- Mineral district 10's of km's in diameter – Cerro Vanguardia 25kms (Co.Vanguardia-Claudia – 35-40kms)
- Zoning patterns are important exploration tools to help vector in poorly exposed large mineral systems