

## SilverCrest Reports on El Zapote Metallurgy

TSX-V: SVL

For Immediate Release

**VANCOUVER, B.C. April 21, 2006** – SilverCrest Mines Inc. (the “Company”) is pleased to report on the metallurgical test work that has been completed and is currently in progress with respect to the Company’s 100% owned El Zapote Project in El Salvador. The metallurgical testing is a continuation of feasibility related work designed to optimize process parameters and to permit comparison of a conventional mill facility to a possible heap leach operation. The heap leach alternative is being considered as a way to reduce capital and operating costs and shorten the time required to achieve initial production.

During 2005, extensive metallurgical test work was completed on composite samples of oxide, mixed (oxide and sulphide) and sulphide mineralization from the Cerro Colorado III (“CC III”) and San Casimiro (“SC”) deposits. This test work focused on the utilization of a conventional mill circuit with cyanide vat leaching and flotation. Work was supervised by Westcoast Mineral Testing Inc. of Vancouver, BC under the direction of Gary Hawthorn, P.Eng. and completed by International Plasma Labs (IPL) and PRA Labs in Vancouver, B.C. Multiple tests and scenarios were conducted on composite samples selected from core. A summary of results is presented as follows:

Material Type	Deposit	Average Ag Recovery (%)			Average Au Recovery (%)			Average Zinc Recovery (%)
		Cyanide	Flotation	Total	Cyanide	Flotation	Total	Flotation
Oxide	CC III	87	na*	87	66	na	66	na
Mixed	CC III	87	na	87	66	na	66	na
Sulphide	CC III	82	5	87	57	5	62	75
Sulphide	SC	73	4	77	73	4	77	75

\*not amenable

The samples were initially subjected to cyanide leaching and subsequent standard flotation. The oxide and mixed material demonstrated high silver recoveries at 87%. As anticipated, flotation of both oxide and mixed materials produced negligible silver and zinc recoveries. Flotation of the sulphide material demonstrated further recovery for both silver and gold (4 to 5%) and zinc recovery of 75%. Test work yielded an average zinc concentrate of 40% with up to 10% lead which could be further concentrated with subsequent increase in zinc concentrate grade. The average cyanide consumption rate was relatively high at 2.6 kg/t for all material types tested which is a direct result of the presence of zinc.

In order to test the amenability of the El Zapote material to heap leaching, an oxide and sulfide bulk sample composed of surface and core material from CC III was collected from site and transported to Sol & Adobe Ingenieros Asociados, S.A. de C.V. in Hermosillo, Mexico. Sol & Adobe, in association with the University of Sonora, in Hermosillo, carried out standard bottle roll test work in the first quarter of 2006 with the results as follows:

Material Type	Deposit	Average Ag Recovery (%)	Average Au Recovery (%)
Oxide	CC III	69.2	48.4
Sulfide	CC III	53.4	27.5

Cyanide consumption rates over a 72-hour period averaged 2.7 kg/t for oxide materials and 2.2 kg/t for sulfide materials.

As a follow-up to the positive silver recovery results from the bottle roll tests, initial column test work on the oxide materials has been implemented. This work is being completed by Sol & Adobe at the University of Sonora, Hermosillo and consists of 2 column tests using – 1/4” material subjected to a minimum 90 day test period. Final test results from this work are expected during the third quarter of 2006. Once results are received, the Company will be in a position to assess the optimum process that will move the El Zapote Project toward a production decision.

Currently the reported NI 43-101 compliant resources for the project, which includes resources for the Tajado deposit, are presented below.

Resource Category	Tonnes (metric)	Tons (short)	Ag (g/t)	Ag (oz/t)	Au (g/t)	Zn (%)	Contained Ag Ounces	Contained Zn Pounds
Indicated*	1,925,251	2,111,182	177.7	5.2	0.19	1.17	10,941,333	49,401,658
Inferred **	1,086,420	1,197,561	101.6	3.0	0.18	1.22	3,550,565	29,220,488

\*Indicated includes Measured resources which represent a majority of this category. Cut off grade equals 34.0 gm/t Ag. Numbers are rounded.

\*\* The Tajado resource is all in the Inferred resource category.

In the event the Company decided to phase in an initial heap leach operation, there are currently approximately 500,000 tons of oxide material (Measured and Indicated Resource to NI 43-101 standards) grading 203 gpt Ag (5.9 opt) and 0.26 gpt Au (0.007 opt) available at CC III for a potential open pit mining/heap leaching operation with a strip ratio of less than 0.5 to 1. An additional oxide resource of approximately 500,000 tons grading 118 gpt Ag (3.4 opt) and 0.28 gpt (0.008 opt) is present at the nearby Tajado deposit.

Preliminary metallurgical test work indicates that additional silver may be recovered from the sulphide portion of the deposits which could entail a second phase of heap leach production. Alternatively a decision at that time to recover the zinc resources through conventional milling could be made depending upon a number of factors, most significant of which would be the zinc price. Substantial cash flow would be expected to be available from the initial heap leach operation to fund the second phase of operations.

In addition to ongoing metallurgical work at El Zapote, permitting for exploitation continues, further environmental baseline data collection is underway, and exploration reconnaissance of the concession area is in progress. A new exploration target has been generated called "El Plomosa", which is near Cerro Colorado III and was a previous small high-grade lead-zinc-silver producer. Further exploration work in 2006 will include mapping, sampling and geophysics.

J. Scott Drever, President stated; "The preliminary metallurgical results are very encouraging for a potential two phase silver heap leach operation at El Zapote. With successful results from the ongoing column leach tests, we will consider revision of our feasibility study based on this alternative process design with the view to significantly reducing capital cost requirements and accelerating the possibility of early production."

Drilling continues in Mexico with 19 core holes completed at the Santa Elena Project and 7 of 15 planned core holes completed at the Cruz de Mayo Prospect. Mineralization at both properties is consistent with previous observations. After completion of the Cruz de Mayo drilling, a detailed reconnaissance program is planned for both projects during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2006. Technical Reports with resource estimations to NI 43-101 standards is planned for the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006.

The Qualified Person, as defined by National Policy 43-101, responsible for the preparation of the technical information included in this press release and for supervision of field activities related to the Company's projects is N. Eric Fier, CPG, P. Eng., Qualified Person and Chief Operating Officer of the Company.

*This news release contains forward-looking statements, which address future events and conditions, which are subject to various risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results, programs and financial position could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of numerous factors, some of which may be beyond the Company's control. These factors include: the availability of funds; the timing and content of work programs; results of exploration activities and development of mineral properties, the interpretation of drilling results and other geological data, the uncertainties of resource and reserve estimations, receipt and security of mineral property titles; project cost overruns or unanticipated costs and expenses, fluctuations in metal prices; currency fluctuations; and general market and industry conditions.*

*Forward-looking statements are based on the expectations and opinions of the Company's management on the date the statements are made. The assumptions used in the preparation of such statements, although considered reasonable at the time of preparation, may prove to be imprecise and, as such, undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements.*

**On Behalf of the Board of Directors of  
SilverCrest Mines Inc.**

"J. Scott Drever"

**J. Scott Drever, President**

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