



## SQM Files Response to Request from SVS

**Santiago, Chile. March 30, 2015.-** Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) informed that the President of the Company's Board of Directors provided the following information yesterday, in response to a request by the *Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros*, "SVS", (Superintendence of Securities and Insurance):

1. The Company has identified certain expenses associated with payments of fees and for advisory services that may not meet the requirements to be qualified as tax expenses under the Chilean tax code because of insufficient supporting documentation and because such expenses may not meet the requirement of being necessary to generate revenue. The expenses total approximately US\$11 million (an average of US\$1.8 million per year for 2009-2014), representing about 0.15% of the costs of goods sold of SQM S.A. for each of the six years of the period. The payments are associated with invoices issued by companies and persons with tax addresses in Chile.
2. The process of amending the corresponding annual statements began on March 20 of this year. SQM S.A. submitted today the final outstanding filings to the Chilean Internal Revenue Service (*Servicio de Impuestos Internos* or "SII") for its analysis. The Company paid approximately US\$4 million related to expenses that do not qualify as tax expenses (35%) and approximately US\$3 million related to interest (1.5% monthly).
3. The amounts indicated above will be reflected in the Company's interim consolidated financial statements for the first quarter of 2015 and will be charged to net income. The tax authority could also apply a penalty under the Chilean tax code. This potential penalty would be issued in the next few weeks.
4. The Company will send to the SII any supporting documents that it gathers in relation to the expenses and payments described above, in order to request the tax refund for any tax payments that may have been paid in excess.
5. The SII is performing a tax review on SQM S.A. The Company has been and will continue to be reviewed by the competent authorities, just like any other person or company in Chile. The Company cannot guarantee that such reviews will not lead to the identification of further situations that could result in further tax implications.

### SQM

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## About SQM

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine, lithium, potassium-related fertilizers and industrial chemicals. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be a leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 115 countries. SQM's development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the Company's position in each of its businesses.

The leadership strategy is based on the Company's competitive advantages and on the sustainable growth of the different markets in which it participates. SQM's main competitive advantages in its different businesses include:

- Low production costs based on vast and high quality natural resources;
- Know-how and its own technological developments in its various production processes;
- Logistics infrastructure and high production levels that allow SQM to have low distribution costs;
- High market share in all its core products;
- International sales network with offices in 20 countries and sales in over 115 countries;
- Synergies from the production of multiple products that are obtained from the same two natural resources;
- Continuous new product development according to the specific needs of its different customers;
- Conservative and solid financial position.

For further information, contact:

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## Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "plan," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "strategy," "should," "will" and similar references to future periods. Examples of forward-looking statements include, among others, statements we make concerning the Company's business outlook, future economic performance, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, or other financial items, anticipated cost synergies and product or service line growth.

Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are estimates that reflect the best judgment of SQM management based on currently available information. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that are outside of our control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in such statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. Readers are referred to the documents filed by SQM with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically the most recent annual report on Form 20-F, which identifies important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to SQM on the date hereof and SQM assumes no obligation to update such statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.