What opportunities exist for creating a market for gold that is sourced from environmentally sound, economically viable and ethically managed, (E3) legacy mine remediation activities in California?
Characteristics of Gold

- secretive
- controlling
- untransparent
- divisive
- unaccountable
Key Questions

Reclaimed gold –
How much gold can be recovered using environmentally responsible equipment and methods as part of restoring and reclaiming California’s legacy gold mines and related mine debris?
What are the opportunities and obstacles to this activity?
What standards and methods are needed?
What would it take to successfully market this product?

E3 Sourcing –
How can the gold that is recovered through reclamation and restoration of legacy mine lands be used to restore and support the local community, indigenous people, and the ecosystem?
What public health and environmental benefits might accrue from remediation activities?
Who should direct the funds/gold generated by these activities?

Action steps –
What are the obvious and specific next steps in advancing an E3 Gold action agenda?
What else can be done to help move forward?
What sort of collaborative structure can we use to move an agenda forward?
Remediation, Reclamation & Restoration – the 3 Rs

It is important to define the three kinds of activities that happen around mine sites:

**Remediation:** removes toxic and hazardous materials from the ecosystem and from the food chain.

**Reclamation:** restores the land to its approximate original contour or leaves the land graded and suitable for a “higher and better” post-mining land use that has been approved as part of the original mining permit application.

**Restoration:** brings the ecosystem back to its previous conditions. There are sensitive receptors in the food web for which even benign contaminants have great impacts. For example, turbidity: sediment fills in the spaces between the gravels in the streambed, leaving no suitable habitat in which the salmon can lay their eggs, thus preventing breeding ultimately destroying salmon population.
What are the obstacles to developing and marketing E3 Gold?

**Technology**: pilot projects, scientific research and monitoring needed in order to prove Best Available Technology and Protocols standards.

**Underinvestment** – Proving the technology alone is expensive and time-consuming. Many funding sources are remote from the situation and have no understanding of environmental and economic consequences of legacy mines.

**Lack of Data/Facts** – How much of this gold is available? When will it be available?

**Lack of infrastructure for E3 Gold** - No market structure that stretches from the mine to the smelter to the manufacturer to the jeweler and retail stores

**Lack of Definition** – Need to agree upon standards and methods

**Apathy and ignorance disguising fear** – Many people assume that mining is and always will be destructive and damaging but mining is and can be done better if consumers demand that it be so.
Who Decides?

The certification entity needs to include representatives from all of the groups involved, from neighbors of the reclamation site and scientists, to miners and tribes, to jewelers and retailers.

In defining the terms, the beneficiaries should be the ones shaping the definitions, including the voice of the environment.

*Recycled Gold ≠ E3 Gold*

Since 1962, the number of tons of recycled gold has more than doubled, and yet it has not reduced the demand for new mining.

While it is a stepping stone, recycled gold does not meet the test for E3 gold because it is not traceable and transparent. And while consumers understand recycling, nothing is being preserved, protected, or restored with recycled gold.
Possible Summary: What is E3 Gold?

E3 Gold is either a finished gold product or milled gold product that has been ethically produced in an environmentally beneficial and economically viable way.

*Ethically produced* means that the gold was produced with an ethic of restoration, that the land, water, and habitats are not harmed in the process; and that the workers were protected by the appropriate labor laws in California.

*Environmentally beneficial* gold production means that E3 gold was obtained as a by-product of legacy mining restoration efforts under the appropriate regulatory permits in California.

*Economically viable* means that the sale of the gold benefited the local community from which it originated by sustaining local jobs and opportunities instead of extracting wealth and sending it elsewhere.
What a story! Dreaming of a more beautiful world: the salmon are returning to the ecosystem, and the system comes back into balance. Jewelers are bringing the salmon back. Gold contributes to restoration, and the people in the land. When you buy this ring, you are bringing back the salmon, the bears, and the wolves.
Marc Choyt

It took 27 years to end the slave trade in the UK, and it was accomplished through boycotting sugar, and changing the narrative. It happened because all the parties came together, working independently in all different sectors of the economy.
Greg Valerio