



## **HOST CITIES AND RACING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR 2017 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA**

### **WORLD TOUR RACE RETURNS TO BIG BEAR LAKE**

### **CALIFORNIA'S ALL-TIME STAGE LEADER AND TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPION PETER SAGAN SET TO RETURN TO RACE FOR 6TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

**LOS ANGELES** (Nov. 2, 2016) – Peter Sagan, the 2015 overall Amgen Tour of California winner and record holder with 15 stage victories since riding for the first time in 2010, will headline an all-star peloton when America's most prestigious cycling stage race launches the 12th edition in May, 2017. Big Bear Lake has been chosen as the site of Amgen Tour of California's first ever high-altitude Time Trial for its Stage 6 race. This marks the fourth time that Big Bear Lake has been named a host city for the Amgen Tour of California, which reaffirms the mountain resort as a world-class road cycling destination and the "Cycling Capital of Southern California."

The 2017 Amgen Tour of California men's competition is set to begin in Sacramento on May 14, 2017, while the 2017 Amgen Breakaway From Heart Disease Women's Race Empowered with SRAM will begin three days earlier on May 11 in South Lake Tahoe, it was announced today by AEG, owners of the annual event. The women's competition will conclude its four-stage race in Sacramento on May 14 as the men begin their seven-stage, 600-mile event set to conclude in Pasadena on May 20.

Big Bear Lake is excited to again present Big Bear Lake's mountainous terrain and natural assets to recreational outdoor enthusiasts throughout the world. This world tour cycling event includes two hours of live TV coverage on 24 media outlets worldwide, including NBC Sports, which together will broadcast Big Bear Lake to over 11.3 million households in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide.

Since being a host city in 2015, Amgen Tour of California has made major improvements in its positioning of the race on the world cycling stage. It continues as the largest and highest ranked cycling event in North America, but is now organized by ASO, Amaury Sports Organization, the world leader in cycling racing that also includes Tour de France, Vuelta a Espana and Paris Roubaix. With its goal of a world tour cycling event on each of the world's seven continents, Amgen Tour of California is that event in North

America and Big Bear Lake IS the location for the best Time Trial in North America! What this major change will mean to the cycling fan is that the quality of team and riders participating will have much more of an international flavor with many of the same teams and riders racing in Tour de France.

“This race will once again put Big Bear Lake on the international stage with the opportunity to shine to millions of viewers” said City of Big Bear Lake Mayor David Caretto. “This event brings a large number of cycling race fans for the weekend around race day, which supports our athletic outdoor recreational visitor base and our local economy for race weekend and the TV exposure around the world provides for visitors in the years to come.”

Previous events presented by the Amgen Tour of California Big Bear Local Organizing Committee made very strong impressions on the local Big Bear Lake economy. Big Bear Events Resource Office reported the 2010 and 2012 Amgen Tour of California races combined had an immediate \$1.2 million dollar impact toward the local economy and also noted that through its surveys 36 percent of the spectators in 2010 were first-time visitors to Big Bear Valley and 28 percent in 2012. The Big Bear Lake Visitors Bureau also noted an immediate 15% increase in international visitors to Big Bear Lake and that number has increased every year since with no international advertising.

Amgen Tour of California has had a substantial influence on the local community including the birth of both local cycling club, Big Bear Cycling Association, and the annual Tour de Big Bear which attracts almost 2000 riders annually. This success has created many cycling related projects and activities including trail signage within the forest area south of Big Bear, improving the 2.5 mile Alpine Pedal Path along the north shore of Big Bear Lake and weekly community rides and major events such as the Big Bear Triathlon and the Big Bear Cycling Festival, the ONLY week long cycling festival in the United States!

“Hosting the Amgen Tour of California Time Trial is an incredible opportunity for Big Bear Valley,” said Linda Ricchiuti, owner of The Copper Q and Vice President of the Village Business Association. “Having an event of this magnitude, during what is traditionally a slower season, creates a great start to our summer season and the worldwide publicity will have a long lasting economic impact on Big Bear Valley.”

The remaining Host Cities (start and finish destinations for each stage) were also announced and include Modesto, Morro Bay, Mt. Baldy, Mountain High, Ontario, Pismo Beach, San Jose, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita, and first time Host City Elk Grove which will host the Stage 3 women’s competition start.

“The Amgen Tour of California has long been the most esteemed cycling race in America. Its designation as a UCI World Tour event will continue to expand its international exposure and attract the best teams and cyclists yet, giving fans even more to cheer about from the streets of California next spring,” said Kristin Klein, president of the Amgen Tour of California and executive vice president of AEG Sports.

## **THE KING OF CALIFORNIA RETURNS**

Sagan, one of the most popular cyclists ever to compete in the Amgen Tour of California will be racing for his recently launched BORA-hansgrohe team hoping to add on to his current record of 15 stage wins including two in 2016. The 2015 and 2016 (current) World Champion will be racing in the Golden State for the 7th consecutive year.

“Racing in the Amgen Tour of California is always one of my top priorities every year. While spectacular to watch from a scenic standpoint, the route is consistently tough and challenging and one that brings out the best in all of the riders,” said Sagan. “The incredible fans and all of the cities of California that we get to visit truly makes the Amgen Tour of California one of the best experiences of the year for me.”

Also returning to California in 2017 is 2016 Amgen Breakaway From Heart Disease 2017 Amgen Tour of California Host Cities Revealed Women’s Race Empowered with SRAM defending Champion and current UCI Womens World Tour Champion Megan Guarnier racing for the Boels–Dolmans team.

“The Amgen Tour of California has been a superb addition to the Women’s World Tour calendar,” said Guarnier. “As an American, I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to race at the highest level on American soil. The Amgen Breakaway From Heart Disease Women’s Race Empowered with SRAM allows us to create the most professional platform to showcase women’s racing alongside the long-running men’s race, and the organization ensures that there is media coverage surrounding the event further elevating the exposure of our event for our current, and I dare say our future, fan base.

The Amgen Tour of California features a variety of terrains, allowing different types of athletes to shine; with the hilly stages and the sprint stages it allows us to demonstrate our breadth of talent within the women’s peloton. I am personally excited to return to the Amgen Tour of California and the rare opportunity to race on home-soil in my current home-State,” continued Guarnier. “I always love racing in front of the home-crowd. It energizes me and pushes me to top performances.”

The 2017 race will mark the first year the men’s race has been elevated to UCI WorldTour status, making it the only stage race in North America to receive this prestigious classification. The upcoming race will also be the tenth consecutive year that a women’s competition will be held as part of the Amgen Tour of California.

### **Amgen Breakaway from Heart Disease Women’s Race empowered with SRAM**

Thursday, May 11 Stage 1 South Lake Tahoe

Friday, May 12 Stage 2 South Lake Tahoe

Saturday, May 13 Stage 3 Elk Grove to Sacramento

Sunday, May 14 Stage 4 Sacramento

#### **Stage 1 – South Lake Tahoe, May 11, 2017**

The women will start things off with a race around one of the most beautiful race routes in the

USA: the Lake Tahoe Loop. The final climb will lead riders up to the finish at the Heavenly Mountain Resort.

### **Stage 2 – South Lake Tahoe, May 12, 2017**

While the race will have a common start and finish at the Heavenly Mountain Resort, the route is entirely new to the Amgen Tour of California. Given that South Lake Tahoe is surrounded by mountains, this will be a difficult day for the peloton. The riders will face summits in excess of 7,300-feet leading to what promises to be a climatic finish.

### **Stage 3 – Elk Grove to Sacramento, May 13, 2017**

The Amgen Tour of California welcomes the City of Elk Grove as a first-time Host City. The women's penultimate stage will feature one of the most beautiful parks in Elk Grove, before heading south to the California "Delta Region". While this stage is flat and a welcome relief for the tired legs coming out of the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe, the winds in the Delta can be menacing and unpredictable. The Sacramento River will lead the riders into Sacramento for an exciting sprint finish in front of the Capitol building.

### **Stage 4 – Sacramento, May 14, 2017**

A fan and racer favorite, the women will take center stage on the finishing circuits around the State Capitol building in Sacramento. The day of racing will be fast and furious and one to remember. If you love watching the men on these circuits, wait until you see the women tearing up the road as they protect the yellow jersey and deliver their sprinter to win on this final day of racing for the women.

## **Amgen Tour of California (Men's Race)**

Sunday, May 14 Stage 1 Sacramento

Monday, May 15 Stage 2 Modesto to San Jose

Tuesday, May 16 Stage 3 Pismo Beach to Morro Bay

Wednesday, May 17 Stage 4 Santa Barbara to Santa Clarita

Thursday, May 18 Stage 5 Ontario to Mt. Baldy (Summit Finish)

Friday, May 19 Stage 6 Big Bear Lake (Individual Time Trial)

Saturday, May 20 Stage 7 Mountain High to Pasadena

### **Stage 1 – Sacramento, May 14, 2017**

The California State Capital hosted the Amgen Tour of California overall finish in 2016, so it is only fitting that it returns for the overall start in 2017. This will be a flat and fast stage that will conclude with exciting finishing circuits.

### **Stage 2 – Modesto to San Jose, May 15, 2017**

It is great to be returning to Modesto. This will be a difficult mountain stage with six climbs and an uphill finish. Fans can expect all of the race favorites to be in the top 10 on the leader board after the conclusion of this stage.

**Stage 3 – Pismo Beach to Morro Bay, May 16, 2017**

California's Central Coast and San Luis Obispo County have long been race favorites over the years. This stage will feature another start near the ocean in Pismo Beach and a first-time finish near the harbor in Morro Bay. The stage is designed for a craft sprinter who can handle an uphill sprint to the finish.

**Stage 4 – Santa Barbara to Santa Clarita, May 17, 2017**

Stage 4 returns to a favorite race start along the beach in Santa Barbara. This will be a familiar course for many of the riders and will feature a fan favorite – Balcom Canyon – concluding with an expected mass sprint finish in Santa Clarita.

**Stage 5 – Ontario to Mt. Baldy, May 18, 2017**

Mt. Baldy, the Queen Stage! A 26-mile climb to the finish! Switchbacks! Massive crowds! It has been two years since the race rocked the Angeles National Forest and we are back again by popular demand. The fun will start in the City of Ontario setting the riders on a course that will lead the race north up the main artery and a climb will begin and the legs will start to burn. This will also be the site for the amateurs to test their mettle at the annual L'Etape public ride which will precede the professional race.

**Stage 6 – Big Bear Lake Individual Time Trial, May 19, 2017**

The riders will take out their revenge on this technical 15-mile course. While it is flat, the 6,800-foot elevation around Big Bear Lake will certainly sap the strength from many of the riders on this penultimate day.

**Stage 7 – Mountain High to Pasadena, May 20, 2017**

The Amgen Tour of California returns to the Mountain High ski resort for the start of the final stage. While this will be a fast and largely downhill run into Pasadena, the riders will have two significant climbs that will top out at over 7,900 feet. The crowds in Pasadena will be watching the top teams try to deliver their sprinter to the line to claim the finish.

Title sponsor Amgen has been a race partner since it began as a platform for Breakaway from Cancer<sup>®</sup>, its national initiative to increase awareness of important resources available to people affected by cancer – from prevention through survivorship. Last year, Amgen expanded its race role as it launched Breakaway from Heart Disease™, aimed at encouraging Americans to take charge of their heart health by understanding their family's history of heart disease and getting active through cycling. To learn more, visit [breakawayfromcancer.com](http://breakawayfromcancer.com) and [breakawayfromheartdisease.com](http://breakawayfromheartdisease.com).

“At Amgen, our mission is to serve patients, and for more than 35 years we have used science and innovation to dramatically improve lives,” said Raymond C. Jordan, senior vice president of Corporate Affairs at Amgen. “Our sponsorship of the Amgen Tour of California gives us the opportunity to help patients impacted by cardiovascular disease and cancer take charge of their disease. The Breakaway from Heart Disease and Breakaway from Cancer initiatives give patients and their loved ones vital education and resources to help them through their journey.

To experience the race as a VIP from an all-inclusive hospitality tent or through exclusive once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, visit the Amgen Tour of California website at [amgentourofcalifornia.com/vipaccess](http://amgentourofcalifornia.com/vipaccess) or call (213) 742-7145.

### **About the Amgen Tour of California**

The Amgen Tour of California is a Tour de France-style cycling road race featuring both men's and women's competitions created and presented by AEG. America's biggest stage race challenges the World's top professional cycling teams to compete along a demanding course across hundreds of miles of California's iconic highways, byways and coastlines each spring. The teams chosen to participate have included Olympic medalists, Tour de France contenders and World Champions.

The Amgen Tour of California is part of the UCI WorldTour along with the premier races in the world, and awards world-ranking points to top finishers. More information is available at [amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://amgentourofcalifornia.com).

### **About Amgen**

Amgen is committed to unlocking the potential of biology for patients suffering from serious illnesses by discovering, developing, manufacturing and delivering innovative human therapeutics. This approach begins by using tools like advanced human genetics to unravel the complexities of disease and understand the fundamentals of human biology.

Amgen focuses on areas of high unmet medical need and leverages its expertise to strive for solutions that improve health outcomes and dramatically improve people's lives. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen has grown to be one of the world's leading independent biotechnology companies, has reached millions of patients around the world and is developing a pipeline of medicines with breakaway potential.

### **About AEG**

Headquartered in Los Angeles, California, AEG is the world's leading sports and live entertainment company. With offices on five continents, AEG operates in the following business segments: AEG Facilities, which is affiliated with or owns, manages or consults with more than 120 preeminent arenas, stadiums, theaters, clubs and convention centers around the world including The O2 Arena, the Sprint Center and the Mercedes-Benz Arenas; AEG Live, which is dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performances, including producing and promoting global and regional concert tours, music and special events and world-renowned festivals; AEG Real Estate, which develops world-class venues, as well as major sports and entertainment districts like STAPLES Center and L.A. LIVE; AEG Sports, which is the world's largest operator of sports franchises and high-profile sporting events; and AEG Global Partnerships, which oversees worldwide sales and servicing of sponsorships including naming rights, premium seating and other strategic partnerships. Through its worldwide network of venues, portfolio of powerful sports and music brands, AXS.com ticketing platform, AXS cable television channel and its integrated entertainment districts, AEG entertains more than 100 million guests annually. More information about AEG can be found at [www.aegworldwide.com](http://www.aegworldwide.com).

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Media Contacts:

Cassandra Zebisch, AEG

213-763- 7712

[czebisch@aegworldwide.com](mailto:czebisch@aegworldwide.com)

Josh Levitt, Canvas Blue

213-335- 5671

[JLevitt@canvasblue.com](mailto:JLevitt@canvasblue.com)

Radha Khalsa, Big Bear Lake

909 - 486-6531

[pr@bigbeartimetrial.com](mailto:pr@bigbeartimetrial.com)

