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SOLVANG & SANTA BARBARA CHOSEN AS HOST CITIES FOR 2008 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

~World-Class Cycling Field Returns to Compete Across 700 Miles of California Roadway in Eight-Day Stage Race

LOS ANGELES (July 25, 2007) – The 2008 **Amgen Tour of California** professional cycling road race will take place February 17-24, 2008, as confirmed today by AEG, presenters of the record-setting 'Tour de France-style' cycling road race staged across many of California's most scenic state highways, roadways and coastline drives. Already considered cycling's most important and successful road race held in the United States, the event's third running will cover more than 700 miles (increased from 650 miles in 2007) over the eight days.

Race organizers also announced the 12 official stage start and finish cities that have been selected for the 2008 race, including three new locales – Modesto, Palo Alto and Pasadena – that will join Sacramento, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clarita, Santa Rosa, Sausalito, Seaside and Solvang as host cities along the route.

Solvang was once again selected to host the **Stage 5 Time Trial** (Friday, February 22, 2008); reprising its exciting role in the 2007 Amgen Tour of California. Back for a third year, **Santa Barbara** was selected as the **Stage 6 Start** (Saturday, February 23, 2008). Santa Barbara hosted both a Finish and Start during the 2006 inaugural race and a Start in 2007. These **two Santa Barbara County cities** and surrounding Santa Ynez Valley wine country will be showcased during this thrilling race, which drew thousands of spectators each day and created more than \$1 million dollars of positive economic impact each year.

Solvang Mayor Ken Palmer said, "Velkommen! A hearty welcome back to Solvang! I would like to express our great delight that our fine city has once again been chosen for a time trial stage. We hope you will enjoy the hospitality here in the Danish Capital of America." Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau Executive Director Tracy Farhad remarked, "What an honor to host such a pivotal stage of this spectacular race two years in a row. It is a joy to roll out the red carpet- Solvang-style! Mange tak!" For more information, visit www.SolvangUSA.com.

Santa Barbara Mayor Mary Blum indicated, "I am excited for our residents and visitors to see world-class cycling and for the cyclists to enjoy the beauty of Santa Barbara again." Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau and Film Commission CEO/President, Kathy Janega-Dykes, commented, "We are thrilled to have the world's top professional cyclists, their entourages, spectators and media from around the world return to Santa Barbara County." For more information, visit www.SantaBarbaraCA.com

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"We are committed to making the **Amgen Tour of California** bigger and better every year, continuing to raise the bar for what it means to be the largest, most important cycling race in America," said Shawn Hunter, managing director, **Amgen Tour of California**. "From the world-class riders and aggressive and challenging competition, to the tremendous amount of support from the fans and host cities, the **Amgen Tour of California** has grown to become a highly anticipated event within the international cycling community in only two years. Now in our third year, fans can expect the best race yet."

In just two years, the **Amgen Tour of California** has become the most successful race in the United States, both in attendance and economic growth. With more than 3 million spectators over the past two years, the 2007 race drew more than 1.6 million spectators, setting records for a single sporting event in the state of California, as well as any cycling event ever held on U.S. soil. The race also has generated \$100 million in economic growth for the state each year.

Returning for a third year as the title sponsor of the **2008 Amgen Tour of California**, Amgen, the world's leading biotechnology company, will continue to leverage the race to raise awareness and support for people affected by cancer through the *Breakaway from Cancer*[™] education and fundraising initiative. Based in Thousand Oaks, Calif., Amgen's invaluable support of the **Amgen Tour of California** has helped to ensure its continued success and impact beyond the sporting arena.

"Amgen is excited to join AEG for a third year as the title sponsor of the **Amgen Tour of California**," said Jim Daly, senior vice president of North America Commercial Operations at Amgen. "We look forward to another great race week and the opportunity to again lead the *Breakaway from Cancer* initiative to increase awareness of the support and educational resources available to help people living with cancer."

In the past two years of the **Amgen Tour of California**, through the *Breakaway from Cancer*[™] initiative, Amgen has raised more than \$1 million to support vital non-profit services and programs for the millions of Americans affected by the disease.

In its first two years, the **Amgen Tour of California** attracted some of the world's most renowned and respected riders, creating action-packed competition with non-stop excitement. As the winner of the 2007 **Amgen Tour of California**, California resident Levi Leipheimer (USA) of the Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team already has gone on to win two stages in the Tour of Georgia and is currently racing in fourth place in this year's Tour de France. "After only two years, the **Amgen Tour of California** is a great race and is one of the greatest races in the world," Levi Leipheimer, general classification winner of the 2007 **Amgen Tour of California** and member of the Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team, said this week from France where he is competing. "I think it has a good place on the calendar. More and more of the world's best want to come. I think next year we will see an even better field. I think it will just continue to grow like that."

Sanctioned by the UCI (Union Cycliste International) and USA Cycling, the **Amgen Tour of California** has drawn the attention of everyone from cycling enthusiasts to first-time spectators, making it one of the most anticipated events on the international cycling calendar.

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Beginning with the Prologue in Palo Alto through the grand finale in Pasadena, the 2008 race will visit 12 host cities for official stage starts and finishes, while cities along the route also will have the opportunity to witness the excitement of elite professional cycling. Stages for the **2008 Amgen Tour of California** include:

- Prologue: Sunday, Feb. 17 - Palo Alto
- Stage 1: Monday, Feb. 18 - Sausalito to Santa Rosa
- Stage 2: Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Santa Rosa to Sacramento
- Stage 3: Wednesday, Feb. 20 - Modesto to San Jose
- Stage 4: Thursday, Feb. 21 - Seaside to San Luis Obispo
- **Stage 5: Friday, Feb. 22 - Solvang time trial**
- **Stage 6: Saturday, Feb. 23 - Santa Barbara to Santa Clarita**
- Stage 7: Sunday, Feb. 24 - Santa Clarita to Pasadena road race, concluding with a circuit race in Pasadena

***For further information on the 2008 Amgen Tour of California, please visit www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.**

ABOUT AMGEN

Amgen discovers, develops and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing safe and effective medicines from lab, to manufacturing plant, to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other serious illnesses. With a broad and deep pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about our pioneering science and our vital medicines, visit www.amgen.com.

ABOUT AEG

AEG is one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world. AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Anschutz Company, owns or controls a collection of companies including facilities such as STAPLES Center, The Home Depot Center, Toyota Park, and NOKIA Theatre Times Square; sports franchises including the Los Angeles Kings (NHL), four Major League Soccer franchises, a Major League Lacrosse team, two hockey franchises operated in Europe, management of privately held shares of the Los Angeles Lakers (NBA) and Los Angeles Sparks (WNBA), the ING Bay to Breakers foot race and the **Amgen Tour of California** cycling road race; AEG LIVE, the organization's live-entertainment division, is a collection of companies dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performance, touring and a variety of programming and multi-media production. Additionally, the company has begun fully developing London's 28-acre Millennium Dome which includes a 23,000-seat arena, the O2 and over 650,000sf of leisure and entertainment use within the 'Dome' and additional arenas, The O2 World on a 45-acre site in the heart of Berlin and in Ontario, California as well as a soccer stadium in Harrison, New Jersey. For more information, visit AEG today at www.aegworldwide.com

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