



Press Release

Date: February 8, 2018
Contact: Steven Adams, City Manager, (831) 386-5925
Subject: Amgen Tour of California Route Announcement

The full 2018 [Amgen Tour of California](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/2018-route-overview) route was announced today by AEG, owner and presenter of the 13th annual race. America's premier cycling stage race will cover 645 miles of roadways, highways and coastlines during seven stages from Long Beach to Sacramento May 13-19. The May 15th stage start will take place in downtown King City and will later loop back through King City at full speed along Airport Drive and then north on Metz Road. Presented by Visit California, a visual overview of the men's and women's courses is viewable at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/2018-route-overview.

King City sponsorship opportunities are still available to local businesses for only \$250 and \$500, which will provide extensive local and international exposure. See the Spotlight section of the King City website at www.kingcity.com for more information. The City also has a number of volunteer positions to fill for various duties along the course. Volunteer registration is open at amgentourofcalifornia.com.

Three of the sport's greatest are confirmed to race this year: **Mark Cavendish** (Team Dimension Data), **Marcel Kittel** (Team KATUSHA ALPECIN) and "King of California" **Peter Sagan** (BORA-hansgrohe), cycling's first three-time consecutive World Champion, who also holds the California race record for most stage wins (16).

Sagan, who recently won his 2018 season opener, will come into the Amgen Tour of California defending his seventh California Green Jersey for dominating the race's overall Sprint competition. "Building up to the Tour de France with a strong performance at the Amgen Tour of California is always an important goal. The race is one of my favorite competitions every year – always challenging competition and such beautiful scenery – and I'm excited to return and try for more stage wins this year!" said **Sagan**.

"I'm excited about the season ahead and will be working hard to make the 2018 season a hugely successful one. The Amgen Tour of California has always been an incredibly special race for me, and will once again be a priority in my race calendar this year in the lead-up to the Tour de France," said race veteran **Mark Cavendish**, who with 30 Tour de France stage wins is approaching the all-time record (34).

With seven new courses between them, the annual professional cycling events are the only U.S. races on the [UCI WorldTour calendar](http://www.uciworldtour.com) and attract some of the most renowned cyclists and teams in the world. The Amgen Tour of California is designed to cover a variety of terrain, allowing different types of specialists among the field of the world's greatest cyclists to shine throughout the week. 2018 will mark the third time the race will run south to north.

"I like racing as well as training in California – I can see the beach and do altitude training all in one place. I've always had a really good time at the Amgen Tour of California and am excited to compete this year," said **Marcel Kittel**, who claimed the opening stage last year.

Signed apparel from these all-star sprinters, along with other past Amgen Tour of California favorites, will soon be available through an Amgen Tour of California online [auction benefitting American Red Cross Disaster Relief](#) in light of the devastation brought on by wildfires and mudslides throughout the state. Race fans – and California fans – will be able bid on exclusive items from merchandise to behind-the-scenes race experiences to help people affected by disasters. 100 percent of the proceeds from the Amgen Tour of California auction organized by STAPLES Center Foundation support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. More details soon at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

With parts of the state still impacted by wildfires and subsequent mudslides, affected portions of the route will be inspected up until race time, and race routes are subject to change to ensure fan and rider safety. Below is an overview of the full Men's Route:

2018 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA ROUTE ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESENTED BY VISIT CALIFORNIA

MEN'S ROUTE: 645.4 miles

STAGE 1 PRESENTED BY AMGEN'S *BREAKAWAY FROM CANCER*®

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

LONG BEACH CIRCUIT RACE

83 miles / 133 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Field Sprint

Long Beach hosted the overall race finish in 2007 and will stage an epic return with the overall start of the 2018 Amgen Tour of California. The city joins an elite group that includes Santa Rosa, Sacramento and San Diego in having hosted both a race overall start and overall finish.

The 7-mile circuit will start and finish on Shoreline Drive near Shoreline Village and the Long Beach Convention Center. The 11 laps of the circuit will utilize portions of Shoreline Drive, Ocean Avenue and Pine Street. Several Long Beach neighborhoods will get a ring-side seat as the peloton races through Bixby Park and Bluff Park, as well as Franklin, Hellman East Village and Downtown.

STAGE 2 PRESENTED BY LEXUS

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018

VENTURA TO GIBRALTAR ROAD

96.3 miles / 155 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Select group of 2-3 riders

Gibraltar Road has been the most requested mountaintop finish since the race began. After the mountain road was paved and therefore able to be contested in the 2016 race, it became an instant fan favorite. The moment the race finished, the chant began for “more...more...more!” In 2018, Gibraltar is back!

The City of Ventura warmly welcomed the race in 2016 as the peloton bid a quick hello passing through to Gibraltar. This year, Ventura will host its first stage – the start of the “Queen Stage” just a few feet from the Pacific Ocean near the Ventura Pier. Will the riders be relaxing and taking in the sun at the start? Probably not. Most will be thinking about the coming assault of Gibraltar Road.

After a neutral parade route through downtown Ventura, the race will head through Oxnard, Santa Paula and Ojai. The riders will climb out of Santa Paula to the first of three King of the Mountain climbs (KOMs) on the day. The 96.3-mile stage has 7,700' of elevation gain, with the journey to the top of Gibraltar featuring a 3,100' climb over the final eight miles of the stage.

As with any of the race stages, routes are subject to change due road damage. With the recent fires and flooding in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, there will likely be changes to a section of the Stage 2 route that passes through Camarillo and Montecito as several bridges are being assessed for repair or replacement.

STAGE 3 PRESENTED BY LEXUS

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

KING CITY TO LAGUNA SECA RECREATION AREA (MONTEREY COUNTY)

122.4 miles / 197 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Mass sprint of 15-20 riders

The Amgen Tour of California welcomes King City to the race family as a first-time host to kick off Stage 3. Featured prominently in Steinbeck's epic novel “East of Eden,” King City is well positioned to be a pivotal part of this grueling stage. Many of the riders will be looking for an easy day of racing after the finish the day before on top of Gibraltar Road. They will have to look elsewhere.

For the second time in race history, the peloton will streak to a fast and technical finish on the racetrack at the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, one of the most revered motor racing venues in the world. The stage will feature six KOMs over 123 miles and 8,300' of elevation gain. The final KOM will overlook the finish. After a descent down Laureles Grade to the perimeter to the racetrack, the racers will face a .6-mile, 16% climb to the track entrance, then two challenges on the track that will play a factor in the finish: the final climb of the day up to Turn 6 and “The

Corkscrew.” The Corkscrew is a one-of-a-kind turn in motorsports, featuring an 18% descent that drops 5 ½ stories in just 450 feet!

STAGE 4 PRESENTED BY TAG Heuer

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

SAN JOSE/MORGAN HILL INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL

21.6 miles / 34.7 kilometers

This will be the race’s third Time Trial contested on the outskirts of Silicon Valley. First-time race city Morgan Hill will host the start and finish of the “Race of Truth” where riders take off individually in a race against the clock. The 21-mile route will feature one moderate climb with the start and finish within a few feet of each other on Monterey Road. As always, wind could be a factor on the route. The course will head out of Morgan Hill on Dunne Road and then pick up Oak Glen Road around the north side of Chebro Reservoir to McKean to Bailey to Santa Teresa Blvd. From there, riders will head due south onto Hale and the finish on Monterey Road.

This is a valuable day where the leader board can see dramatic changes – every second counts. Riders with top times coming out of the day will still have to defend their positions over the next three stages, including the grueling Stage 6 and the HC climb up Kingsbury Grade.

STAGE 5 PRESENTED BY VISIT CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

STOCKTON TO ELK GROVE

109.4 miles / 176 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Field Sprint

For the next three stages, the men will share the spotlight with the Women’s WorldTour event. About an hour after the women kick off their Stage 1 start in Elk Grove, the men will be at the start line near the waterfront sports arena in Stockton, which returns to the race for the first time since 2007. The race will head northeast into the historic gold mine area around Amador County, Buena Vista and the town of Lone. With just one small climb on the 110-mile stage, the peloton will be looking forward to a flat and fast day that will most certainly see the teams positioning their sprinters for an exciting finish in Elk Grove at the new Aquatic Center.

STAGE 6 PRESENTED BY VISIT CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018

FOLSOM TO SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

122 miles / 196.5 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Mass Sprint of 10-15 riders

The City of Folsom hosted Time Trials in 2014 and 2016. For 2018, this daunting stage will start with a pass of Folsom’s newly completed the Johnny Cash Trail, a unique 3-mile trail that honors the memory of the singer and his historic performance at the Folsom prison in 1968.

Then the fun begins – 123 miles featuring more than 16,000 feet of climbing, four KOMs (including Kingsbury Grade for the first time) and an uphill finish. The elevation in Folsom is just 275'. The racers will see 8,600' as they crest Carson Pass and will finish in South Lake Tahoe at Heavenly at 6,600'.

STAGE 7 PRESENTED BY AMGEN'S *BREAKAWAY FROM HEART DISEASE™*

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

SACRAMENTO

90.7 miles / 146 kilometers

Expected Outcome: Field Sprint

Regarded as one of the most sports-friendly cities in the country, Sacramento welcomes the Amgen Tour of California for the ninth time. The festivities start with the men rolling across the iconic Tower Bridge into race-friendly West Sacramento. An hour later, the women will begin their final stage of a three-day race on the Capitol circuit.

After passing through West Sacramento, the men will follow the Sacramento River into the city of Woodland then traverse several rural roads in Yolo County. A quick sprint in Winters will see the race turn east and toward the final finish to Sacramento. This 90-mile stage is a sprinter's paradise – no KOMs and virtually no elevation gains. Race fans will be rewarded with the peloton barreling down L Street to the finish line and the start of three loops around the infamous Capitol circuit to conclude the 2018 event in the shadow of the State Capitol Building. Sacramento has never failed to deliver one of the most exciting race finishes on the WorldTour Calendar, and the week's big winners will be recognized in a special ceremony immediately following the race.

Title sponsor Amgen has been a race partner since race inception. In 2005, Amgen launched Breakaway from Cancer®, its national initiative to increase awareness of important resources available to people affected by cancer – from prevention through survivorship. Amgen expanded its platform in 2016 to launch Breakaway from Heart Disease™, aimed at encouraging Americans to have a game plan to tackle heart disease by understanding their risk through diagnostic screening and by taking charge of their heart health through diet, exercise and appropriate treatment options. To learn more, visit breakawayfromcancer.com and breakawayfromheartdisease.com.

In addition to lining the racecourse for free, true cycling fans will once again have the opportunity to experience the race as a VIP from an all-inclusive hospitality tent or through once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. To learn about the exclusive opportunities, visit amgentourofcalifornia.com/vip-passes or call 213-742-7145.

About the Amgen Tour of California

The Amgen Tour of California and the Amgen Women's Race empowered with SRAM are Tour de France-style cycling road races created and presented by AEG. Running concurrently, the races challenges the world's top professional cycling teams to compete along demanding courses that traverses 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, and award important, world-ranking points to the top finishers. More information is available at 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.

For more information, visit www.amgen.com and follow us on www.twitter.com/amgen.

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 STAPLES Center, 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.

Media Contacts:

Michael Roth, AEG

213-742-7155

mroth@aegworldwide.com

Josh Levitt, Canvas Blue

213-335-5671

JLevitt@canvasblue.com

For more information on local activities, you may also contact City Hall at 385-3281.



Steven Adams, City Manager