

## San Jose to host 2 key stages of Tour of California cycling race

**For Immediate Release**

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**SAN JOSE (Nov. 2, 2005)** – Racers and fans of the inaugural Amgen Tour of California professional cycling race – a nationally televised event modeled on the Tour de France – will spend two days of the eight-day competition in and around San Jose this winter.

Race presenter AEG announced the Feb. 19-26, 2006 race earlier today at a San Francisco news conference. Organizers predict more than one million spectators will line 700 miles of California roadway in the race from San Francisco to Redondo Beach. Amgen, the world's leading biotechnology company based in Thousand Oaks, is the title sponsor, and ESPN2 is the official broadcast partner, with a one-hour race broadcast each day.

San Jose will be the finish of the race's third leg on Tuesday, Feb. 21, which begins in Martinez. On Wednesday, Feb. 22, San Jose will be the site of the fourth-leg time trial, making San Jose the only city to host finishes of two stages. Race teams will move to Monterey for the Feb. 23 start of the tour's longest leg to San Luis Obispo.

"The Amgen Tour of California will build on San Jose's growing reputation as a great city for staging outstanding sporting events," said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales.

Six world-class teams, including the Discovery Channel Pro Cycling Team (United States), Gerolsteiner (Germany), Davitamon-Lotto (Belgium), Phonak Hearing Systems (Switzerland), Saunier Duval Prodir (Spain), Credit Agricole (France) and the T-Mobile Team (Switzerland) have been confirmed to race in the Amgen Tour of California.

"We are proud to present the Amgen Tour of California," said Timothy J. Leiweke, CEO and president of AEG. "The event will celebrate not only the athleticism and grace of cycling, but also the beauty of the state of California, which will be on display for everyone to see – both on television and in person along the route. The Amgen Tour of California will soon take its place among the sport's best, most respected races."

In addition to the core race, the Amgen Tour of California will extend the cycling experience to the communities it touches with a unique weeklong "rolling festival." Seven finish-line cities, including San Jose, will offer health and wellness festival-style expos including health screenings, information and entertainment.

The Amgen Tour of California and the recently announced Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon, scheduled for Oct. 8, 2006, bring the current total of major annual sports events in downtown to six. They also include the Taylor Woodrow Grand Prix of San José, Dew Action Sports Tour, State Farm Pacific-10 Conference Women's Basketball Tournament and the USA Wrestling California Divisional Championships.

The San Jose Sports Authority is the sports marketing agency for the City of San José. Since its creation in 1991, the Sports Authority has brought more 150 events to the city including six NCAA Championships, the NHL and MLS All Star Games and the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Visit us on the Web at [www.sjsa.org](http://www.sjsa.org).