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## **Amgen Tour of California Host Cities Announced**

Los Angeles, CA – Today AEG, organizer of the Amgen Tour of California professional cycling road race, announced the host cities for the 2010 race, complete with new dates and other exciting changes. Two large changes to the race include new dates, May 16-23, and new route elements that include more intense mountain stages.

“Every year we strive to improve the Amgen Tour of California by incorporating feedback from riders and fans,” said Andrew Messick, president of AEG Sports. “We are looking forward to another exciting race and the added elements in 2010 should provide just that.”

Route changes are taking the race away from the Central Coast in 2010. This means that Paso Robles will not be a host city for the 2010 Amgen Tour of California. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), led by Chairperson Lisa Solomon, is disappointed about the change in the route, but understanding of the need to keep the Amgen Tour of California route fresh. Quote from Lisa Solomon, “We are proud of how well Paso Robles supported the race as a community and of the fantastic job the LOC did hosting the race in 2009. The LOC is looking forward to the day when Paso Robles will again host the race. In the meantime, all of the new Paso Robles cycling fans will enjoy watching the new and improved 2010 Amgen Tour of California.”

The organizers of the Amgen Tour of California are highly complimentary of the level of competency and hospitality Paso Robles displayed as a host city in 2009 and are also looking forward to the route returning here in the future. “The enthusiasm and professionalism shown by the City of Paso Robles and the support of the local cycling fans was unparalleled. We look forward to partnering again with Paso Robles and bringing the Amgen Tour of California back to the Central Coast in the years to come,” added Messick.

Paso Robles successfully hosted Stage 5 of the 2009 Amgen Tour of California on February 19, 2009. Mark Cavendish of Team Columbia, based in San Luis Obispo, won the Paso Robles stage and went on to win 5 stages of the 2009 Tour de France (an all-time record for a British rider).

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