

Daleiden named interim director of First 5 Yolo

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy From page A1 | September 10, 2015

Former Davis school board trustee Gina Daleiden has been appointed interim executive director of the First 5 Yolo Commission.

The move is expected to save the commission nearly \$30,000 during the search for a permanent executive director as Daleiden is a county employee — she is deputy to Supervisor Jim Provenza of Davis — and will take the interim position as a collateral assignment.



Meanwhile, the commission will continue its search for a permanent executive director to replace Julie Gallelo, who accepted the position of executive director of First 5 Sacramento earlier this summer. Daleiden will take over as First 5 Yolo's interim executive director on Monday.

“Gina has exceptional government organization, interpersonal and alliance-building skills with a well-documented passion for children’s issues,” Provenza said Wednesday.

“By appointing (Daleiden), a county employee, to this interim role, First 5 Yolo will benefit from a cost savings of nearly \$30,000 during the approximately three months it will take to recruit a new full-time executive director,” Provenza said.

Managing two jobs temporarily is not likely to be a problem, Daleiden noted Wednesday, as she spent six years working as a full-time deputy to Provenza while also serving on the Davis school board, an elected position she held for nine years.

Daleiden also has worked closely with First 5 Yolo over the past year, following Provenza's appointment as commission chair in December.

First 5 Commissioner Nichole Arnold said that involvement will "provide a seamless transition while we seek a permanent director."

"No one is more qualified or ready to lead First 5 Yolo on an interim basis than Gina," Arnold said. "At Yolo County, she has been engaged in First 5 activities, including this year's adoption of the three-year strategic plan. She is a tested public servant with an outstanding reputation."

Daleiden said Wednesday she was honored by the commission's confidence in her and also lauded predecessor Gallelo as an "incredible and well-respected executive director for First 5 Yolo."

Gallelo had been with First 5 Yolo for more than a decade, helping steer the agency through numerous challenges, including a move by the state to appropriate reserve funds from all First 5 commissions throughout California — a move that later was overturned by a judge — as well as declining tobacco tax revenues, which are a primary funding source for First 5 programs.

"First 5 Yolo has been very fortunate to have Julie Gallelo as its executive director," Provenza said earlier this year. "During her 11-year tenure, nearly \$30 million was invested in improving the health, early learning and family functioning for thousands of children."

Of Daleiden's appointment to temporarily fill those shoes, Provenza said, "we are very fortunate to have someone of this caliber who is both familiar with First 5 Yolo programs and is willing to take on additional responsibility to help the commission through this transition period."

— Reach Anne Ternus-Bellamy at aternus@davisenterprise.net or 530-747-8051. Follow her on Twitter at [@ATernusBellamy](https://twitter.com/ATernusBellamy)