

Hillary Gitelman departing county post for Palo Alto

[Register staff](#)

Napa County Planning Director Hillary Gitelman will be taking a new job as the director of planning for the city of Palo Alto.

Gitelman, who informed her staff of the move Tuesday, will be departing Oct. 18 and starting her new job on Oct. 28. She will earn \$197,500 in her new position.

She's worked as planning director since 2005, and spearheaded the drive to update the county's General Plan in 2008. She also oversaw the Napa Pipe project's development application as it wound through the Planning Department from 2007 to this year, when the Board of Supervisors approved the project's land-use changes in June.

"I have enjoyed every minute in Napa County, and have great respect for the county's elected and appointed leaders, and staff," Gitelman said in a statement. "I always knew it would take a special professional challenge to lure me away from Napa County, where land-use principles like the Agricultural Preserve have such widespread support."

Palo Alto City Manager James Keene said in a news release that Gitelman was the city's top pick for the planning director.

"Hillary was our top candidate and we are fortunate to have someone with her breadth of experience join the city in this critical leadership position as we address the very complex planning and development issues facing us today and in the future," Keene said.

Prior to coming to Napa County, Gitelman worked as the environmental review officer for the San Francisco Planning Department, ensuring the city of San Francisco and San Francisco County remained compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act and other environmental regulations.

She graduated from Yale University with a bachelor of arts degree in the history of art, and from Columbia University with a master's degree in historic preservation.