



COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE

SIXTH DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

September 25, 2018

Sheila Tomas
Vice President for Corporate Planning
Philippine Airlines
5757 W Century Boulevard, Suite 751
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Ms. Tomas:

As the Councilmember of the Sixth District for the City of San Diego, I strongly advocate that Philippine Airlines (PAL) offer non-stop air service from San Diego, California to Manila, Philippines.

San Diego has one of the largest concentrations of Filipino Americans in the United States and, with that, there is a need and demand for direct flights to the Philippines. The Filipino-American community is 150,000 plus strong and supports over 128,000 passenger trips to the Philippines annually. As such, San Diego has the numbers to back such a flight.

Without a direct flight, San Diego passengers are frequently made to endure the inconvenience of lengthy drives to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). There are 694 flights a year between LAX and Manila, averaging two daily non-stop flights. Often, heavy traffic is encountered on this drive. A direct flight out of San Diego would dramatically reduce the travel time and hassle of going to LAX.

Another common option is to book a connecting flight to LAX, the world's busiest O&D airport and the largest international hub on the west coast of the U.S. Between San Diego and Manila there are 98,076 passengers annually, averaging 134 individuals both ways per day. This option not only adds additional expense to a trip, it can be quite burdensome and challenging for elderly and disabled travelers.

For the above reasons, I urge PAL to consider adding regular air service flying out of San Diego directly to the Philippines.

Sincerely,

Chris Cate
Councilmember- Sixth District
City of San Diego