

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check box if no longer subject to Section 16.  
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).  
 ( ) Form 3 Holdings Reported  
 ( ) Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Maffie, Michael O.  
  
 5241 Spring Mountain Road  
 Las Vegas, NV 89102  
 USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Southwest Gas Corporation  
 SWX

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year

December 1997

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

(X) Director ( ) 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check Applicable Line)

(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 ( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock						12,289 (3)	I	401(k) Plan
Common Stock						35,512 (4)	D	
Common Stock						37 (5)	I	Custodian for child
Common Stock						2,919 (6)	I	By wife owned by wife.

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$15	7/15/96	A	90,000	A	(1) 7/14/06	Common Stock 90,000				
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$19.125	7/15/97	A	25,000	A	(2) 7/14/07	Common Stock 25,000		115,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 36,000 shares in 1997, 27,000 shares in 1998, and 27,000 shares in 1999, beginning on July 15, 1997.

(2) The option vests in three annual installments of 10,000 shares in 1998, 7,500 shares in 1999, and 7,500 shares in 2000, beginning July 15, 1998.

(3) Includes 379 shares acquired June through December 1997 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment feature of the SWX 401(k) plan.

(4) Includes 827 shares acquired June through December 1997 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment feature of SWX restricted stock plan.

(5) Includes 2 shares acquired June through December 1997 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan.

(6) Includes 90 shares acquired June through December 1997 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment feature of the SWX 401(k) plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/Michael O. Maffie by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact

DATE

1/30/98