

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Kropid, James J

5241 Spring Mountain Road
Las Vegas, NV 89103
USA

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)

7/15/97

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

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4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Southwest Gas Corporation
SWX

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

(X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
(specify below)

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

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

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

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned	3. Ownership Form: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock	549	D	
Preferred Stock (2)	1500	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Stock Option (right to buy)	(1) 7/14/07	Common Stock	1660 \$19.125	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 664 in 1998, 498 shares in 1999 and 498 shares in 2000, beginning July 15 1998.

(2) Southwest Gas Capital I - Trust Originated Preferred Securities.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ James J. Kropid by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact

DATE

7/24/97