

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 1996

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. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/D	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year Price	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Common Stock					11,779	I	401(k) Plan
Common Stock					23,641	D	
Common Stock					35	I	Custodian for child

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date 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		90,000	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.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 /s/Michael O. Maffie by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact  
 DATE  
 2/5/97