

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
 Cortez, Manuel J.

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
 12/31/00

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)

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)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D Price			
Common Stock					12,092 (2)	D	

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)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	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
				Amount	A/D	Exercisable Date	Expiration Date					
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$18.8750	5/11/00	A	2,000	A	(1)	5/10/10	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:
 (1) The option vests in three annual installments of 800 shares in 2001, 600 shares in 2002, and 600 shares in 2003, beginning on May 11, 2001.
 (2) Includes 87 shares acquired in 2000 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 /s/ Manuel J. Cortez by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact
 DATE
 1/31/01