

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 5

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

12/31/99

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			
Common Stock					2005 (5)	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						
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$15	7/15/96	A	3,000	A	(1) 7/14/06	Common Stock	3,000	3,000	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$17	5/8/97	A	2,000	A	(2) 5/7/07	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$22.9375	5/14/98	A	2,000	A	(3) 5/13/08	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$28.75	8/10/99	A	2,000	A	(4) 8/9/09	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The option vests in three annual installments of 1,200 shares in 1997, 900 shares in 1998, and 900 shares in 1999, beginning on July 15, 1997.

(2) The option vests in three annual installments of 800 shares in 1998, 600 shares in 1999, and 600 shares in 2000, beginning on May 8, 1998.

(3) The option vests in three annual installments of 800 shares in 1999, 600 shares in 2000, and 600 shares in 2001, beginning on May 14, 1999.

(4) The option vests in three annual installments of 800 shares in 2000, 600 shares in 2001, and 600 shares in 2002, beginning on August 10, 2000.

(5) Includes 60 shares acquired in 1999 pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Manuel J. Cortez by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in fact

