

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Hartley, Thomas Y.

 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)

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4. Statement for Month/Year

July 1997

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 Filing (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)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Common Stock	7/18/97	S (3)	2000	D	18.8125			
Common Stock	7/18/97	P (3)V	2000	A	18.8125	12,762	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. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
				Amount	A/D	Price	Month/Day/Year	Month/Day/Year					
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$15	7/15/96	A	V	3000	A	(1)	7/14/06	Common Stock	3,000	3,000	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$17	5/8/97	A	V	2,000	A	(2)	5/7/07	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) Transaction done to satisfy IRS requirements and limit "short-swing" profit liability under Sec. 16(b) of Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 in the "transfer of 2,000 shares" into a tax deferred compensation plan.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Thomas Y. Hartley, by Faye J. Ringler, Attorney in Fact

DATE

8/7/97